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On the Cover: *Allodynia* by Stephen Spagnoli. This painting in iodine and acrylics is an actual imprint of the artist's body.

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LENNIE DUENSING
Editor-in-Chief

CRPS Special Edition

BY LENNIE DUENSING, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
AND DEBRA NELSON-HOGAN, CO-EDITOR, SPECIAL CRPS EDITION



DEBRA NELSON-HOGAN
Co-Editor

“Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) is a perplexing condition that has been relatively ignored and misunderstood by the medical community because it is so unusual.”

— BRADLEY S. GALER, MD

THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT AND THE REFLEX SYMPATHETIC DYSTROPHY SYNDROME ASSOCIATION have joined together to produce this special spring edition of *The Pain Practitioner*. Entitled, “CRPS: Grappling with the Mysteries,” the issue explores the most current thinking about Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) from a variety of perspectives.

Why an Issue on CRPS?

WE TOOK ON THIS JOINT PROJECT because CRPS is a condition that creates a host of treatment nightmares for clinicians. Unfortunately, most healthcare professionals lack education about the condition and often delay diagnosis and treatment. Worse yet, some healthcare professionals and insurance providers still don't believe the syndrome exists. The McGill Pain Scale, however, ranks CRPS pain higher than cancer pain, and for many of those living with CRPS, the constant and burning pain creates nothing short of a living hell. This is well illustrated in the paintings of CRPS sufferer Stephen Spagnoli, which appear throughout this issue. (See story on page 22.)

In this Issue

James Giordano, PhD, the publication's new Medicine and Humanities Editor, opens the issue with a commentary entitled, “*Dolor, Morbus, Patiens: Maldynia, Pain as Illness and Suffering.*” Giordano addresses the need to comprehend the complexity of pain and suffering, and says that, “... scientific and humanistic inquiry is fundamental to the provision of technically right and morally good care.”

James W. Broatch, MSW, RSDSA Executive Director, in “RSDSA: Expanding Research, Education, and Awareness of CRPS,” describes that organization's work discusses the particular challenges that people who have CRPS face, and how the 22-year-old organization meets them. There is also a brief overview of the new third edition CRPS Clinical Practice Guidelines.

In his article, “Complex Regional Pain Syndrome: New Hope After a Decade of Dispelling Myths,” **Bradley S. Galer, MD**, addresses many facets of this generally misunderstood and confusing syndrome. Galer looks at the causes of CRPS and highlights some of the advances made in recent years that have led to a better understanding of this syndrome, dispels myths and misconceptions, and describes treatments.

Edward C. Covington, MD, Director of the Chronic Pain Rehabilitation Program at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, discusses the psycho-social issues in CRPS. Covington addresses CRPS in relation to personality and cognition, the value of



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