



# THE PAIN PRACTITIONER

KATHRYN A. WEINER, PhD, EDITOR

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## resident's Message

*Thomas J. Romano, MD, PhD, FACP, FACR*

When I was elected President of the Academy's Board of Directors this past September 5th, I realized that it was an honor and a privilege to serve and that it was also going to be a great challenge. However, little did I or anyone else know how challenging the ensuing months would be, not only as a pain practitioner but also as a citizen. Who could have foretold the tragic events of September 11th? Once again terrorism reared its ugly head—but this time our homeland was its target. The real horror of terrorism is that it is unexpected, often random and tends to punish the innocent as a matter of course. Americans have been accustomed to viewing terrorism from afar. We have learned about these horrible acts of violence in far off places like Rwanda and Israel, but typically in the comfort of one's home or office, never having to experience it firsthand. I know I speak for all the members of the Academy in expressing heartfelt sympathy and support for those many victims of the September 11th attack, as well as surviving family and friends.

I first heard of the American Academy of Pain Management from a neurologist friend who thought it was an interesting organization that showed great promise. Ten years ago we traveled together to the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California to what was to become the Academy's first annual meeting to check it out personally. We were skeptical but curious.

Could practitioners from many disciplines actually work together and learn from one another without their egos getting in the way? Could the multidisciplinary approach work in my practice setting? After the meeting, I came back to my office in Wheeling, West Virginia somewhat dazed and confused—but pleasantly so! My first encounter with the Academy's Board members and staff was incredibly positive. For the first time in quite a while, I felt that I was in a stimulating environment that was totally supportive and non-threatening, almost nurturing. Instead of the "doom and gloom" I was hearing at other meetings, the atmosphere was decidedly upbeat and positive. I had found an ally, and sought to renew my contact with this very special entity.

When asked to serve on the Board of Advisors in 1995 I jumped at the chance. I was happy to serve on the Academy's examination committee as a member in 1991 and eventually became its chairman starting in 1997.

It seemed that the more I associated with the Academy and its various projects, the better clinician I became. I eagerly accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of Directors in 1997 and now as its president. Needless to say, the Academy has gotten under my skin. It does very good work, not for its own aggrandizement, but for the good of the chronic pain sufferers. After all, isn't

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(President's Message, continued)

that what it is about?

At this point in time there is a great need for the Academy. There is a need for an organization that stands for competence and ethics, that can provide professional education, that can help practitioners take better care of their patients and that can interject some sanity into the confusion and chaos that have plagued health care delivery of late. The Academy, with its educational programs, Second Opinion Utilization Review service, newly organized University of Integrated Studies, Pain Accreditation Programs, National Pain Data Bank, is that very organization. It is a beacon which can guide practitioners in providing the best care possible while remaining an enduring symbol

of quality and excellence. Our patients deserve no less.

We pain practitioners treat individuals who are truly suffering greatly. Many of them exhibit exceptional courage in the face of physical suffering, emotional upheaval and financial strain. They place great trust in us. I have been in solo, private practice for almost twenty years and have attempted to perform my duty to my patients to the best of my ability. I plan to serve the Academy in the same spirit and will strive to be worthy of the trust that the membership and Board of Directors have placed in me. Good luck to all. We are truly living in exciting and interesting times!

## Academy Appreciation

Scott Denny, DC, PhD, MS(Ac), LAc has now completed his tenure as President of the Board of Directors. The American Academy of Pain Management appreciates his tireless efforts in supporting and expanding the many programs that the Academy offers to its

membership. I am sure that the Academy will continue to enjoy Dr. Denny's support in guiding its efforts to provide quality services for pain management clinicians and their clients.

# Thank You

to the following members  
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