



Richard and I co-founded the American Academy of Pain Management fourteen years ago. We firmly believed that the time had come to offer clinicians an organization that would affirm the concept of multidisciplinary pain management and provide an open forum for information exchange among these diverse disciplines. During his last days, Richard and I would often marvel at what we had wrought. Through the fruits of our labor and the unique blend of synergistic skills that we possessed, the Academy has taken on a life of its own. It has become a vibrant, growing organization that is indeed fulfilling our original dream. It is an organization that multidisciplinary pain professionals find valuable and meaningful. Furthermore, it is helping to open channels of communication among the multidisciplines so that the individuals suffering pain may be better served.

I am delighted that the Board of Directors has appointed me as the Academy's Executive Director. I will continue to develop our shared dream of multidisciplinary pain management. I am certain that The Academy will continue to flourish and to carry the baton forward for all multidisciplinary pain management clinicians. There are many new and continuing projects that the very competent Academy staff is working on. Here are details regarding some of these exciting Academy projects.

Barry Cole, MD, MPA has graciously accepted the task of creating a viable Continuing Education Department. He has filled Richard's very large shoes in organizing the Annual Clinical meeting in Reno, NV. Dr. Cole has also overseen the creation of a dynamic video tape series dealing with the issues related to end-of-life care. He is in the process of creating a Speakers Bureau and has created a detailed lecture series on a large variety of pain management topics. Lois Baker, the Education Coordinator, works in tandem with Dr. Cole to assure that all continuing education details are attended to. Furthermore, she is responsible for obtaining and maintaining the CME/CEU for the many disciplines represented in the Academy. Keep your eye on the Continuing Education Department. I am sure you will be pleased with the many high quality programs and products that are being created.

Karen Lipnicki, our new Sales and Marketing Director, is creating a Corporate Membership program. She has created many opportunities for Corporations to work conjointly with the Academy to develop meaningful educational programs. Contact Karen if you would like more information regarding the new Corporate programs that are being developed.

The American Journal of Pain Management has an exciting new look. Dr. Robert Supernaw, Editor of the Journal, continues to provide many quality, peer-reviewed multidisciplinary articles in this publication. Do not miss your

opportunity to submit an article or research findings to the journal so that important, emerging multidisciplinary pain management information may be shared.

Joy McCurry and Marcella Mateo continue to enroll new Certificants and General Members. Under the watchful eye of these two employees, the Academy numbers continue to grow. Marcella and Joy will be pleased to assist you with your membership needs.

Our MIS department is abuzz with activity as well. Scott Raven has just completed his PhD in educational technology, and he will be able to use these skills in creating cutting edge computer based continuing education programs. He is also rewriting the Academy's proprietary software. Rodger Pflingsten is working on a new web design. He should have the new web page up by the end of October. Be sure to log on to www.aapainmanage.org to see the new Academy web site!

The University of Integrated Studies continues to enroll students. The Deans and Faculty will be meeting at the end of the year to review and update the curriculum. There are plans to increase the research requirements and to add several classes to the PhD program. I will share this information with you as it becomes available.

The National Pain Data Bank short form is a wonderful option for pain practitioners to track their patient's progress over many visits. This form provides valuable information about return to function and pain status. You may order this valuable tool by contacting Lonna Brown at the Academy offices. Lonna is also helping with the Richard S. Weiner Pain Education Fund which continues to grow. This fund is specifically dedicated to the creation of high quality, enduring educational materials (i.e. video tapes, monographs) in the field of pain management and will provide a meaningful tribute to Richard's legacy in the field of pain management.

The Academy remains fiscally solid with the assistance of Connie Mulalley, the new Chief Financial Officer. She is in the process of creating the budget for the 2003 fiscal year for the Board of Directors' review. This budget renews the Academy's commitment to the membership to provide quality educational programs, practice management tools, networking opportunities and advocacy. We are committed to providing you tools to make your daily clinical pain practice as effective as possible.

I greatly appreciate the calls and letters that I receive from the membership. Your input, suggestions and offers of assistance help to create a more viable and vibrant Academy. Together, we genuinely make a difference for those who suffer pain – together, we are the American Academy of Pain Management.