

In keeping with its mission to promulgate pain management standards, education and advocacy with the purpose of advancing the field of pain management and reducing human suffering, the American Academy of Pain Management has been actively creating programs and opportunities for pain clinicians and for those who suffer pain. It is important for our members to be aware of the many ways that the Academy improves the lives of pain management clinicians and pain patients through advocacy, education and elevation of standards. The following is a highlight of a few of the important activities that have occurred during the past few months.

The Academy has been engaged in an 8 year legal case with the state of California to defend the right of physicians to use the term "board certification" when referring to their Academy affiliation. The basis of this case was the right of free association and commercial speech as it relates to the First Amendment. On January 2nd the Ninth Circuit court ruled in favor of the State of California saying that Section 651(h)(5)(B) of the California Business and Professions Code that prohibits medical doctors from advertising that they are "Board Certified" by a non American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) board or their equivalent was indeed lawful. This means that California physicians may not advertise they are "Board Certified" in Pain Management by the American Academy of Pain Management. The Academy's genuine strength is its unique multidisciplinary membership, a fact that is not understood by the State of California and others. Any attempts to categorize the Academy through the use of a strict allopathic paradigm such as the ABMS, is destined for problems because we represent a very different way of thinking and affiliating. Rather than being stalled by the "system's" inability to understand the unique nature of our multidisciplinary membership, the American Academy of Pain Management has shifted from the use of the term "Board Certified" to the use of the term "Credentialed". Therefore, when referring to your affiliation with the American Academy of Pain Management, print your credentials as "Diplomate, American Academy of Pain Management" or "Credentialed by the American Academy of Pain Management."

On February 4th the California Senate held a hearing to highlight issues related to Women in Pain. I was asked to be one of nine panelists to discuss the salient issues that effect both clinicians and those who suffer pain. My testimony included information about the Academy, the magnitude of the under-treatment of pain, the social and emotional issues pain



patients face, and the troubling issues surrounding the prescription of opioids for chronic pain. The other panelists were a blend of professionals and pain patients. They all delivered their messages with passion and sincerity. The Senators in attendance listened attentively and asked many incisive questions, and I am pleased to report that this hearing was considered important enough to be videotaped and broadcasted into all Senate and Assembly offices and on the Government Channel for the public. To further accentuate the importance of this topic, California Senators Soto, Figueroa and Ortiz have passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 42 to declare February as Women In Pain Awareness Month in the State of California.

On February 10th Dr. Cole and I provided an on camera interview to the Patient Channel for a documentary on pain management. In doing their research for the pain management topic, The Patient Channel was so impressed with the Academy's website that they contacted us to participate in their documentary. The award winning production company, ITV, was sent to Sonora to do the taping. Dr. Cole and I discussed the magnitude of pain, treatment strategies, definitions, reimbursement and many other important topics.

On February 11th Dr. Cole was interviewed by the radio station WMUB, a National Public Radio affiliate, in Ohio for a program called "Sound Health." Dr. Cole provided an excellent overview of pain management and its importance to the reduction of human suffering. You may access a transcript of this interview by going to [www.wmub.org](http://www.wmub.org).

The Academy continues to participate in many interviews and publications. Dr. Cole has written an article for the FDA Consumer magazine entitled, "The State of Pain Management." In this article he discusses the challenges that confront people in pain. Dr. Cole has also been invited to submit an article titled, "Successful Pain Management in Your Everyday Practice: The Physician's Role from a Pain Specialist Perspective" in a publication by the California Board of Pharmacy. The purpose of this article is to help readers identify the differences between the management of acute versus chronic pain, to describe common approaches in the management of acute pain, to discuss the role of opioids as one option for the management of chronic pain, and the utilization of resources and internet for further education related to the management of pain. The February issue of *Alternative Medicine* has featured the Academy's website and Pain Program Accreditation. In an article titled, "Overcoming Pain" author Catherine Guthrie features comments made by Dr. Campbell regarding the importance of accreditation. Dr. Cole has provided review assistance for two protocols

developed by the Health Sciences Group at the Cochrane Collaboration: Oral Health Group. Dr. Cole's contribution will be acknowledged in The Cochrane Library within the Oral Health Group details.

The Academy is actively participating in advocacy activities to advance standards and policies for quality pain management. We are working with all stakeholders, including regulators, legislators, payors and community groups. The Academy is currently working with New York State to craft legislation requiring pain education and mental health parity. We are also working with the State of Oklahoma on their "Chronic Intractable Pain Treatment Act" (HB2566) to assure that pain treatment standards are addressed. The Academy has sent a letter of support for the Pain Care Policy Act of 2003 (H.R. 1863).

The Academy has been active in the creation of the Northern California Pain Initiative (NCPI), which is a subdivision of the California Division of the American Cancer Society. The NCPI has begun to address the pain management deficits in northern California. Drs. Cole and Padgett attended the first steering committee meeting in August and have continued to be active in the process of forming NCPI. Dr. Cole served as the interim chair for the steering committee, and he is now serving as one of the trainers for SB 151, which has been designated as the first project of NCPI.

Drs. Mark Boswell and Barry Cole are working diligently on the 7th edition of the Academy textbook, *Pain Management: A Practical Guide for Clinicians*. This is going to be a very comprehensive, scholarly and evidence based textbook. Drs. Boswell and Cole are organized and demanding editors who will assure that only the best quality information is presented in this textbook. This edition will no doubt become the definitive reference for multidisciplinary pain management education.

Dr. Alexandra Campbell has completed her work on the Pain Outcomes Profile (POP). The POP is a useful tool designed to measure treatment outcomes quickly and easily in a clinical setting. The ability to verify treatment outcomes may be useful when working with insurance companies. I urge you to take time to read the article in this newsletter regarding the POP, its development and future refinements.

The American Academy of Pain Management continues to be a vital, confident organization working to raise the standards of excellence in multidisciplinary pain management. Your membership in the American Academy of Pain Management demonstrates your commitment to increasing your knowledge regarding how to best assist those who suffer complex, painful conditions. The Academy values you as a member and will continue to work on your behalf.