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LENNIE DUENSING
Editor-in-Chief

EDITOR'S CORNER

Wishes for the New Year

We, at the American Academy of Pain Management (the Academy), wish you and your loved ones a joyful and healthy new year. For the field of pain management, our wish is that 2007 brings a greater awareness of the pain problem and the need to address it in balanced and effective ways. Our organization's 2007 goals and beyond are to: educate and inform clinicians about pain and its management; provide the skills and tools needed to manage pain effectively; and further interdisciplinary pain management as the standard of care for people with pain.

IN THIS ISSUE

Feature Articles

THE WINTER ISSUE of *The Pain Practitioner* celebrates the work of our organization and the 17th Annual Meeting, which may have been the best Academy meeting ever! Held in Orlando, from September 7-10, the information-packed meeting was attended by close to 1,000 people representing a variety of disciplines. For this issue of the magazine, we've invited five speakers to write articles based on their presentations.

In an article by Jennifer Schneider, MD, entitled "Opioids, Pain Management, and Addiction." Dr. Schneider provides practical guidelines for clinicians who prescribe opioids for pain management and covers topics such as *assessment for appropriateness of opioid therapy, prescribing opioids, and providing structure and follow-up* with patients.

This is followed by an interview with June L. Dahl, PhD, called "The Impact of Legislative and Regulatory Policies on the Practice of Pain Management in the United States," she describes: federal and state laws and regulations (particularly as they relate to opioid analgesics); what they mean; how they have created barriers to effective pain management and the work that is being done to remove them.

In his article, "What's Different and What's New about the Ethics of Pain Management," Jay Jacobson, MD examines some of "the commonly cited principles of medical ethics in the context of pain management." The article examines the principles of *autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, and justice*.

Roger B. Fillingim, PhD, discusses the experience of pain as "...characterized by tremendous individual differences and...influenced by multiple biopsychosocial variables, including both ethnicity and sex/gender. Dr. Fillingim says that: "This has profound implications for the management of chronic pain."

Also included is an article called "Naturopathic Medicine: Update 2006," by Rick Marinelli, ND, MAcOM. The article updates the role of nutrition, nutritional supplements, prolotherapy, and herbal medicine for today's practitioners.

Departments

The issue opens with an interview with Pierre LeRoy, MD, by Debra Nelson-Hogan. Dr. LeRoy, a neurosurgeon, played a key role in the founding of most of the professional pain management organizations. He says, "Richard [Weiner, the Academy's co-founder] surrounded himself with really good people and he grew the largest pain society in the US."

In her article, Anne Marie Kelly, BSN, RN,C, BC, CHPN, "The Value of Pain Program Accreditation for the Diocesan Health Facilities: A Long-Term Care System," describes the benefits of accreditation by the Academy.

While in at the meeting in Orlando, I had the opportunity to interview two performers and one of the physical therapists at La Nouba to find out how people, who take their bodies to extreme limits, deal with injuries and pain. Find out what they had to say in the article, "Caring for Bodies Pushed Beyond the Limit: Behind the Scenes at Cirque du Soleil."

Finally, in the Academy section, we say goodbye to Kathryn Padgett, PhD. Kathryn was the co-founder of the organization with her late husband, Richard Weiner, PhD. Kathryn served as Executive Director since 2002. The staff and Board of Directors will miss her and wish her the very best.

Letters to the Editor

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS about articles in this issue, or about the magazine itself. Selected letters are published in the next issue. Please send to: lduensing@yahoo.com, or Lennie Duensing, American Academy of Pain Management, 13947 Mono Way, Suite #A, Sonoma, CA 95370.



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