



## ***FSIPP President's Message***

It is hard to believe that it has already been 2 months since I took over as President of FSIPP. Our immediate Past-President Lora Brown did an incredible job of getting our young organization up and running and we owe her a great deal of gratitude for the hard work and accomplishments. For me FSIPP is much like a ship. We have built it, assembled a crew, started the engines and have departed from port. We have accomplished a lot, but our journey and mission have just begun. As I take the helm of this great ship I am excited about the journey facing us for the next 2 years.

Fortunately, we have an incredibly dedicated and talented Board of Directors, which will help guide and run the ship to help FSIPP realize its goals: Deborah Tracy, Sandy Silverman, Charles Grudem, Jonathan Daitch, Lora Brown, Rafael Miguel, Jesse Lipnick, Osman Latif, and James Worden for 2008. Unfortunately, we lost Andrea Trescot and Marshall Bedder, two of the most dedicated and tireless advocates of our specialty, as they accepted positions outside of the state of Florida. We wish them well in their endeavors and they will be dearly missed.

We have several goals in this coming year, the most important of which is to increase our membership. It is vital that if we are to stay afloat, we need to increase our membership. Presently we have about 115 members and my goal is to double the membership in 2009. If every member can recruit just *one* physician, we would accomplish that goal and my challenge to all of you is to go out and get your partners, colleagues or even competitors to join FSIPP. They need to understand what is in it for them and how FSIPP has been the only organization that has fought for them insure patient access to pain management and fair reimbursement. They cannot afford NOT to join us. To help in this regard, we have established regional membership directors who will help in the recruitment effort. We have had great success in hosting regional dinners illustrating to pain physicians what FSIPP has done for them and the immense challenges that we are about to face. With more members we have a stronger presence, voice and financial standing.

Interventional Pain Management as a specialty is under intense scrutiny and we are at serious risk of declining reimbursement. Medicare and other Carriers have determined many of our procedures are "investigational" or are denying authorization for payment. This month CMS, (Medicare) ruled nationally that Thermal Intradiscal Disc Decompression will not be a covered procedure. This is just the beginning. It is our responsibility and resolve to fight through this war, but there will be plenty of battles along the way. We need to stand strong together to fight, but I firmly believe we will prevail.

Two other goals we have made for the upcoming year are to get a prescription drug monitoring bill passed in Florida as well as host an annual FSIPP meeting. The FSIPP Board is in the midst of planning our annual meeting and with the success of last years Best Practices Seminar and lectures, this years will be even better. We have made great progress this year getting a monitoring bill recognized with legislative and FMA sponsorship and encouraged contributions to this cause. Hopefully it will pass this year, but I will ask for your financial support and letters when the bill is introduced. As the incidence of drug diversion increases in our country we need this bill for better patient care, enhanced confidentiality and to protect our children.

I welcome anyone who wants to help or needs our help to contact me at anytime. My door (or e-mailbox) is always open. It is truly my honor and privilege to serve as your President and look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Harold Cordner, MD  
FSIPP President