

President's Message

Greetings!

GET INVOLVED NOW
FOR THE SAKE OF OUR PROFESSION!



As the first quarter of 2007 wraps up, there are many things to announce. First and foremost, do not forget your taxes!! As you complete your tax paperwork, take a close look at your income. With impending Medicare cuts targeting both physicians' professional fees and ASC reimbursement, this may be the last year you see those numbers. At the present time we may be facing up to 40% cuts in pain management.

Now is the time to get serious about defending our profession. You know as well as I do that as Interventional Pain Management Physicians we provide an invaluable service to our patients. Access to Pain Management is seriously threatened. Get involved today. If you have not already joined your state and national associations (FSIPP, ASIPP), do so today. I urge you to contribute to ASIPP's PAC. Attend ASIPP's 9th Annual Meeting, June 23-27 and participate in ASIPP's Capitol Hill Lobby Days in Washington, DC. ASIPP is actively fighting, lobbying in Washington to preserve our profession.



NOW, more than ever you need to loosen your purse strings and support these efforts. NOW, more than ever it is time to get involved. NOW, is a defining moment for Interventional Pain Management doctors and patients. I challenge you to get more involved!!!!

2007 ANNUAL FSIPP MEETING

I am very excited to announce that KEN M. ALO', MD, of the Houston Texas Pain Management Center will be FSIPP's Dinner Keynote Speaker on Saturday, July 28. His presentation will focus on new clinical developments in interventional pain medicine. The evening dinner event is open to all conference attendees and their spouses and is being graciously sponsored by ANS (Advanced Neuromodulation Systems, Inc.). FSIPP's Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Florida Academy of Pain Medicine's Annual Meeting, July 27 - 29, 2007, at The Gaylord Palms in Orlando.

Dr Alo' is in private practice in Houston and has served as president of the Houston Texas Pain Management Center. He is on the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine, University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston, and many other hospitals in the Houston area as well as internationally. He received his medical degree from Texas A&M University College of Medicine and served as chief resident in anesthesiology at Baylor College of Medicine Affiliated Hospitals in the Texas Medical Center. Dr. Alo' also completed a specialized interventional pain management/pain medicine fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine Affiliated Hospitals and The Methodist Hospital. He has published numerous journal articles, chapters, and reviews regarding new techniques and treatment advances in pain management, including failed back surgery syndrome, intractable headache including transformed migraine, urge incontinence, pelvic floor dysfunction, pelvic pain and discogenic back pain. Dr. Alo' serves on the governing and editorial boards of the International Neuromodulation Society and the American Neuromodulation Society.

See you at the ASIPP and FSIPP events!

Lora L. Brown, M.D., FIPP

FAPM/FSIPP Program For July 27-29, 2007, Orlando Meeting

The continuing education program for the meeting to be held at The Gaylord Palms, is in the CME application process. Following are the topics and speakers, not necessarily in the order they will appear at the conference. Please continue to watch <http://fsipp.org> and <http://fapmmed.net> for final details. You can go on the websites now to reserve your hotel room at the conference rate.

Friday, July 27, Workshops:

1. Vertebroplasty – Dr Deborah Tracy
2. Regenerative Injection Therapy – Dr Felix Linetsky
3. Legal Side of Pain – Attorney Jennifer Bolen

Saturday and Sunday, July 28-29, Lectures:

1. Keynote Address on Anatomy – Dr Frank Wheeler
2. History of Pain Medicine – Dr K Shams
3. Workers' Compensation in Florida
 - a. Evidence Based Medicine – Dr Sanford Silverman
 - b. Evidence Base for Pain Management of Cervical and Low Back Pain – Dr Andrew Sherman
 - c. Behavioral Aspects of Pain Management – Dr Albert Ray
 - d. Evidence Base for Manual Medicine – Dr Ronald Tolchin
 - e. Early, Aggressive Pain Management and Parallel Care – Dr Silverman
4. Opioids: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly – Dr Andrea Trescot
5. A New Look at Whiplash Syndrome – Dr Tolchin
6. Spinal Cord Stimulation – Dr Todd Jaffee
7. Tumor Coblation with Vertebroplasty – Dr Lora Brown
8. Uncommon Causes of Low Back Pain – Dr Susanti Chowdhury

ASIPP Controlled Substances Review Course

Per Dr Lora Brown, FSIPP President – "This is an opportunity for Florida pain physicians to sit for this course/exam without incurring out-of-state traveling expenses....."

April 12 – 17, 2007

Comprehensive Certification Review Course in Controlled Substance Management and Competency Certification Exam
Comprehensive Certification Review Course in Coding, Compliance and Practice Management and Competency Certification Exam

[Physicians Online Registration](#)
[Non-Physicians Online Registration](#)
[Brochure](#)
[Caribe Royale Orlando](#)
Orlando, FL

Working to Prevent ASC Cuts

Continue to communicate with your Congressional Representation about the proposed changes to the Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) payment system currently under review by CMS. As is, the proposed payment system will have a negative effect on patients needing access to interventional pain services, and a negative effect on physicians practicing interventional pain management. Please take the time to let your Congressional Representative know that you want him/her to support the reevaluation of the ASC cuts.

**WE'RE ON
THE WEB!
FLSIPP.ORG**

Andrea M. Trescot, M.D., next ASIPP President Director, Pain Fellowship Program, University of Florida

Dr. Andrea Trescot, past president of FSIPP, will ascend to the presidency of ASIPP this June. She has been a member of ASIPP since its beginning in 1998, and served as its first treasurer. "Being involved with ASIPP has been one of the most exciting and rewarding roles of my career. Rarely has a single organization accomplished so much in so little time. Thanks to Dr. Manchikanti's leadership and vision, ASIPP has become the leading voice in pain management, through its lobbying efforts to establish CPT codes and protect reimbursements, its national guidelines and textbooks, its training courses and now board certification."

In addition, Dr. Trescot has accepted the position of Director of the Pain Fellowship Program at the University of Florida, leaving nearly 20 years of private pain practice. She will be responsible for the training of four pain fellows and 80 anesthesia residents, as well as medical students, PM&R residents, and family practice residents.

Congratulations, Dr Trescot! We are indeed lucky to have Dr. Trescot in Florida.

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ASIPP 2007
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[http://asipp.org/
meetings.htm](http://asipp.org/meetings.htm)

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SYRINGOMYELIA INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Rugby, United Kingdom, 23 – 26 October, 2007
ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

*Dr. Felix Linetsky Appointed to the
Pain Clinic Editorial Board*

Dr. Felix Linetsky Appointed to the Pain Clinic Editorial Board

Published by Maney Publishing, a UK company which specializes in journals for professional institutes and academic societies (www.maney.co.uk), *The Pain Clinic* is now an international journal widely circulated in Europe and is the magazine for the World Society of Pain Clinicians. Dr Lloyd Saberski, Yale New-Haven at Longwharf, is its Editor-in-Chief.

Congratulations to Dr Felix Linetsky, FSIPP member, who has been appointed to *The Pain Clinic's* Editorial Board, specifically for the Anatomy panel. Dr Linetsky will be able to commission scholarly work from colleagues and is encouraged toward a themed issue

Deborah H Tracy, MD, Appointed To ABIPP Board Of Directors

Congratulations to Dr Tracy for this appointment! The American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians (ABIPP) is a Specialty Board providing Board Certification in Interventional Pain Management and Competency Certification in Controlled Substance Management, Competency Certification in Coding, Compliance, and Practice Man-

agement and other areas. The eligibility requirements and examination materials for ABIPP certification programs have been developed based on substantial review and analysis of the current state of medical and scientific knowledge of the treatment of pain, as reflected in the medical literature. The ABIPP Board of Directors, with the assis-

tance and advice of the professionals in relevant fields, has developed certification programs that recognize accepted levels of knowledge and expertise in the profession, with the goal of improved patient care.



Support Florida's NASPER Legislation!

Dr. Charles M Grudem, FSIPP Board Member, encourages you to contact your Florida Senator and Representative, in support of SB 518 (Saunders, Bennett, Deutch) and 520 (Saunders, Deutch), and HB 895 (Harrell). Each state must enact its own legislation to provide for NASPER (National All Schedule Prescription Electronic Record) implementation. NASPER was put through Congress with a unanimous vote, largely through ASIPP's efforts. These Florida bills provide for creation of a statewide monitoring of the writing and dispensing of scheduled medications. Dr Grudem states that "these bills will do more to make prescription drug abuse AND ILLEGAL Drug Diversion more controllable than

any other measure we have thought of or enacted to date (since the Controlled Substances Act). We must join the other 30 states that have followed the US Congress' lead in passing NASPER."

Dr. Rafael Miguel, FSIPP member, writes that he did attend the initial Senate Health Care Committee meeting where the "FLASPER" bill was presented, unanimously approved. Dr Miguel "lobbied several Representatives and Senators before and after on behalf of anesthesiology and pain medicine...the Senate seems secure (the bills sailed through last year through all Committees, without a dissenting vote) but the

House is a completely different story...those in the SE Florida area can be an enormous help by lobbying Rene Garcia (big opposition who delayed it enough to kill it last year), JC Planas (told me personally he didn't like it), Mari-Tere Flores, Marcelo Llorente and of course, Marco Rubio, who will be very influential when it comes for all these to vote...Ellen Bogdanoff seems to be very supportive and if anyone knows Aaron Bean, Health Council Committee Chair, who makes the committee bill assignments to keep the bill out of Rep Garcia's committee (Health Care Innovation) and into Rep Harrell's Committee (Health Quality)..."

The FDA And Wasting Controlled Substances

Federal Government Issues New Guidelines for Proper Disposal of Prescription Drugs

In the face of rising trends in prescription drug abuse, the Federal government today issued new guidelines for the proper disposal of unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs. The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) jointly released the new guidelines, which are designed to reduce the diversion of prescription drugs, while also protecting the environment.

[Read more in the News and Public Affairs](#)

[Federal Guidelines](#)

CPT Codes 64470, 64472, 64475, 64476

First Coast Options of Jacksonville, Florida's Medicare carrier, has asked FSIPP for a position statement regarding CPT codes 64470, 64472, 64475, and 64476 (paravertebral blocks, facet joint injections, and medial branch blocks are all included in this code). Dr Lora Brown, FSIPP President, in conjunction with the FSIPP Board of Directors, is developing it. Please watch FSIPP's website, <http://fsipp.org> for this Position Statement.

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This issue is highlighted on ASIPP's website, <http://asipp.org>. Capwiz links can be accessed at <http://asipp.org/cms-asc/>.

Encourage your Congresssional Representatives to contact Robert Clark of Congressman Frank Pallone's office at 202 225 4671, Robert.Clark@mail.house.gov; or Jeff Mortier of Congressman Ed Whitfield's office at 202 225 3115, Jeff.Mortier@mail.house.gov. Have your Representative support the reevaluation of the ASC cuts.

Highlight On Vertebroplasty Workshop

Friday, July 27, 2007, in conjunction with the FAPM/ FSIPP Annual Meetings The Gaylord Palms, Orlando

Vertebral compression fractures (VCFs) are associated with significant disability, chronic pain and impaired quality of life. Increased morbidity associated with pulmonary compromise, deep venous thrombosis and failure to thrive have increased mortality rates. It is estimated that up to 25% of people over the age of 50 experience one or more VCFs and of these one third become symptomatic. In the United States alone the annual cost of treating the sequelae of osteoporosis is estimated to be \$13 billion as compared with \$7.5 billion for heart failure. VCFs require, on average, a 10-day hospital stay and the rate of fracture is expected to double within the next 15 years.

In 1984 the first vertebroplasty procedure was provided to a patient with a severe collapse of the C2 vertebral body by Dr. Herve Deramond in Amiens, France. In 1993 a group of radiologists from the University of Virginia, including Drs. Mathis, Jensen, Dion and DeNardo went to France and introduced the procedure to the United States. In 1997 the first

erature. Since then Vertebroplasty has progressively become an important treatment for patients with VCFs who do not respond to conservative therapy.

Initially, Vertebroplasty was a procedure contained in the domain of radiologists. However, over time the procedure and become part of the armamentarium of neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons and most recently Pain Management Interventionalists. Data on the benefits and successes of this procedure have accumulated rapidly and are published internationally, with a consensus of opinion documenting a decrease in morbidity and mortality. In the hands of well trained physicians the complication rate is small and averages less than ~1%. The most serious complications include paralysis, pulmonary embolism, shock and death. More common complications include minuscule extravasations of cement and radicular pain.

The 2007 Florida Academy of Pain Medicine (FAPM) Meeting at the Gaylord Palms in Orlando, Florida, July 27 - 29, in conjunction with the Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (FSIPP) will present a Cadavar Workshop on Vertebroplasty. This course is designed to expose the

tions in providing vertebroplasty with hands on cadaver participation. After completing this intensive 4 hour course the participant will have advanced cognitive skills in recognizing patients who would benefit from vertebroplasty, ordering and interpreting appropriate imaging studies, and recognize complications. For the non-interventionalist the course will enhance the physician's ability to recognize appropriate referrals and understand the challenges and architecture of the procedure. Live proctoring subsequent to this course can be arranged for the interventional physician seeking credentialing. The course will be presented by Dr. Deborah H. Tracy, a Florida Pain Management Interventionalist, who has now accomplished 1,000 vertebroplasties. Dr. Tracy is Board Certified and subspecialty certified in Pain Management by the American Board of Anesthesiology, a Fellow of Interventional Pain Practice by the World Institute of Pain, and Certified by American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians.

For Questions regarding this course or the FAPM Meeting please contact Lorry Davis at lorry4@earthlink.net.

France and introduced the procedure to the United States. In 1997 the first journal article appeared in the American Medical Lit-

a Cadaver workshop on Vertebroplasty. This course is designed to expose the participant to the diagnostic and technical considera-

Compliance Events in 2006 Affecting Chronic Pain

(This article is reprinted with permission from David M. Vaughn, Attorney and Certified Professional Coder, Vaughn & Associates LLC, Baton Rouge LA. You may contact him at david@lalawfirm.net.)

I thought it would be a helpful reminder to go over some of the more important compliance events affecting chronic pain in 2006. Accordingly, the following constitutes a list of approximately 20 issues that affected chronic pain compliance in 2006.
[For the remainder of this article, please click here.](#)

FSIPP NEWSLETTER