

THE EVOLUTION OF THE JOURNAL “PAIN PHYSICIAN”

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We are pleased to announce that *Pain Physician* will be listed on Index Medicus/Medline/PubMed. The growth and success of *Pain Physician* reflects the outstanding work of a large number of physicians and scientists dedicated to the advancement of interventional pain management.

The first issue of *Pain Physician* was published in October 1999, prior to the first annual meeting of the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, then called the Association of Pain Management Anesthesiologists, held in Washington, DC, in November 1999. The idea of establishing a Journal devoted to interventional pain management arose soon after the society was founded.

The purpose of the *Journal* was to create a forum for scientific and clinical developments in interventional pain management and to play an active role in promoting regulatory changes, compliance, and practice management in an increasingly complex healthcare environment.

Bert Fellows, MA was the first Editor-in-Chief and there were approximately 20 members on the Editorial Advisory Board. In the inaugural issue, Fellows (1) wrote “We need to be

compassionate and humane (especially in this sometimes cold and calculating world of managed care), but we need also to be competent and on the cutting edge of the latest technology and newest innovations.” Since the first issue, the *Journal* has continued to bridge the gap between academic and clinical practice, scientific and practical topics, and regulatory and compliance issues that are of concern to interventional pain management.

Today, interventional pain management is a recognized medical specialty with its own identity and representation at state and national levels. Physicians practicing interventional pain management are referred to as interventional pain physicians regardless of their primary medical specialty (e.g., pain management anesthesiologist, pain management neurologist, pain management physiatrist, or pain management neurosurgeon). This spirit of unity amongst the various component specialties has helped foster an environment conducive to promoting scientific and clinical innovations.

Many individuals, including Laxmaiah Manchikanti, MD, founder of ASIPP and *Pain Physician*, and members of the Board-of-Directors and Officers of ASIPP have contributed to the success of the *Journal*.

In April 2002, Curtis W. Slipman, MD, Director of the Pennsylvania Spine Center and Associate Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, became Editor-in-Chief. Bert Fellows, MA continued as Managing Editor (2).

The format of the *Journal* changed in January 2003 with publication of *Evi-*

dence-Based Practice Guidelines for Interventional Techniques in the Management of Chronic Spinal Pain (3). The guidelines were a huge step forward for interventional pain management. The *Journal* was on solid footing and was growing and maturing. When the *Journal* entered its fourth year, Dr. Slipman stepped down to pursue academic and clinical interests and I had the honor of taking over as Editor-in-Chief in October 2003 (4). We have continued to pursue the original goals of *Pain Physician* to provide a forum for scientific, clinical and practice management issues crucial to interventional pain management.

The success of the *Journal* depends not only on the editorial team, but the support of our readers and contributors. We look forward to your continuing support and commitment to *Pain Physician*.

Pain Physician is available free, online in electronic format :

www.painphysicianjournal.org

REFERENCES

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