



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2005

Volume 8, Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NEPA'S MEETING REVIEWS

Dear NEPA Members and Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to welcome you to embrace the innovative 2005-2006 NEPA calendar. NEPA is a vibrant meaningful organization interested in the challenges associated with pain.

The Board's objective for 2005-2006 is to provide more exposure and increase our membership. To that end, we will be presenting three dinner meetings held in the Boston area. Dates and details of these three dinner meetings will follow shortly.

In addition, we will be instituting a quarterly newsletter. We are delighted that our colleagues from Brigham and Women's, Ed Michna, MD and Ajay Wasan, MD, have agreed to edit the 2nd and 3rd quarter editions respectively. Lisa Cohen and I will edit the 4th quarter edition. Please e-mail me any information that you think might be helpful. (crobinson@elliott-hs.org).

Your board members are committed to a deliberate effort to individually sign up three new members. We encourage each of you to do the same. In addition to the colleagues with whom we work, we will be seeking out primary care physicians, rehabilitation providers and other allied health professionals, to make them aware of the meaningful work being done by NEPA.

Most recently, in early February, we had our Annual Winter Conference at the picturesque Woodstock Inn and Resort in Woodstock, Vermont. About 50 of your colleagues enjoyed the wide range of presentations from spinal cord stimulation for angina pain to the role of innovative technology in the assessment of pain. Poignant lectures ranging from Pain in Multiple Sclerosis to the benefits of acupuncture were offered. Joel Weintraub provided levity with his humorous talk on pain and stress. Program evaluations were quite favorable and everyone seemed to enjoy their time at Woodstock.

An upcoming event that you do not want to miss is the



NEPA Innovations 2004 & Woodstock 2005

The New England Pain Association along with the generous gifts of Endo Pharmaceuticals, Ligand Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer Incorporated, Advanced Neuromodulation Systems, and Alpharma, and the Elliot Hospital in Manchester, NH, provided the opportunity to explore in our Innovations in Pain Management conference a full range of developmental concerns associated with pain management. Over 65 pain professionals from New England met to hear the likes of national and international scholars and pain experts, such as Andrew Block, PhD, Joseph Cravero, MD, Perry Fine, MD, Jeffrey Fuden, PharmD, Constance Houck, MD, Robert Jamison, PhD, Arthur Lipman, PharmD, Jay Shaw, MD, A. Reed Thompson, MD, and Peter Vincente PhD, AVPP. The topics touched on many aspects of pain management including concerns associated with pediatric analgesia to opioid use in the elderly, and refractory pain and suffering. The topics provided information for nurses and physicians, along with psychologists represented by Andrew Block, PhD, with his research associated with presurgical psychological evaluation.

The attendees met in the Conference Center at the Elliot Hospital, and particularly found enticing the dinner provided from the premier Italian Restaurant in Manchester, Piccola's. Most notable during the luncheon, Peter Vincente, Past President of the American Pain Society, presented his work of explaining how in Ohio a commission is attempting to influence public policy associated with providing compassionate care in pain management.

In February 2005, approximately 50 pain professionals attended the two-day annual conference at the rustic and picturesque Woodstock Inn in Woodstock, VT. The topics addressed included acupuncture and pain management by Yuang-Chi Lin MD, Brian McGeeny MD discussing pain and multiple sclerosis, and the role of innovative technology and the assessment of pain by Robert Jamison, PhD. Srdjan Nedeljkovic, MD spoke on the challenges of prescribing opiates for chronic non-cancer pain. Concerns associated with spinal cord stimulation for angina pain was presented by Edgar Ross MD. George Pasquarelo, DO, presented an osteopathic perspective to radicular pain. George Miljanich,

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24th annual Scientific Meeting of the American Pain Society. It is being held at the John T. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center on March 30, 2005 to April 2, 2005, in Boston. The program will include the 5th annual Pediatric Pain Forum. NEPA will have a presence at the conference, so please look for our booth and make yourself known. Additional information can be found on the American Pain Society's website: www.AMPainSoc.org

We are looking forward to a productive new year. Please contact me with any ideas you may have for increasing exposure and membership in NEPA. I can be reached directly at 603-663-2737. In addition, feel free to contact Kay Holmes at NEPA headquarters at 804-282-4011 or via email at Kay@SocietyHQ.com.

Again, I look forward to working with you to make this year a meaningful and successful year for NEPA.

Sincerely,

F. Cal Robinson, PsyD, FICPP
President

MD, discussed the novel treatment for chronic pain. Peter Gener provided in depth information regarding tricyclic antidepressants, basic science and clinical implications. Lisa Sharp, PhD, discussed the history and current use of hypnosis in pain management.

The conferences were both rated quite highly by the participants and attendees and offered comments and ideas for future meetings.

The current NEPA Board has determined that we will continue to sponsor the Woodstock Conference and regional dinner meetings throughout New England for the upcoming year.

Don't miss out.....

F. Cal Robinson, PsyD, FICPP
President

**Elliot Hospital Receives
CARF Certification
for Three Years**

Elliot Hospital is the first and only hospital in New Hampshire to receive Certification by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) as an Interdisciplinary Pain Rehabilitation Program.

NEPA would like to thank the following supporters for the
Innovations in Pain Management

“Pain Management Across the Life Span”

Elliot Hospital, Manchester, NH

October 16, 2004

PLATINUM:

**ENDO Pharmaceuticals
Janssen Pharmaceutica**

GOLD:

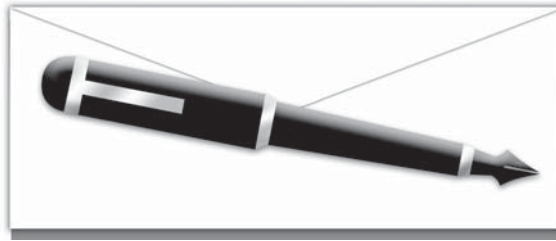
**Advanced Neuromodulation Systems
Ligand Pharmaceuticals
Pfizer Inc.**

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American Chronic Pain Association (ACPA)**

NEPA Responds to DEA Action

March 21, 2005
Karen P. Tandy
Administrator
Drug Enforcement Administration
Alexandria, VA 22301
Regarding: Docket #DEA-261



Dear Administrator Tandy:

The New England Pain Association (NEPA) is a regional chapter of the American Pain Society and the International Association for the Study of Pain. This not-for-profit educational and scientific organization is comprised of scientists and clinicians representing many disciplines who serve people in pain by advancing research, education, treatment and professional practice.

NEPA is upset by the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA's) sudden withdrawal of the *Prescription Pain Medications: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers for Health Care Professionals and Law Enforcement Personnel (FAQ)*. We are compelled to respond to your request for comments and respectfully request that the DEA reverse its action and craft another statement, in collaboration with the scientific and medical communities, to stop the needless suffering of so many citizens inadvertently harmed by your action.

The withdrawal of the FAQ coerces prescribers to replace the best scientific evidence with fear of reprisal as the basis of their decision making. The DEA's Interim Statement in the Federal Register has already had a chilling effect on the prescriptions written by our physician colleagues. This statement undermines years of work with the professional community, including the landmark joint consensus statement, *Promoting Pain Relief and Preventing Abuse of Pain Medications: A Critical Balancing Act*. That work established the need to balance two major health concerns affecting our

country: (1) prescription drug abuse or diversion and (2) the widespread undertreatment of pain.

The collaborative work to create the FAQs was an essential first step in educating both prescribing clinicians and law enforcement agents about the need to provide legitimate, medically necessary pain management, along with an equally important vigilance to prevent prescription drug abuse and diversion. As partners in this endeavor, health professionals in the pain community have stepped up efforts to identify and halt diversion or abuse in their practice. The DEA has fallen short of its commitment to support this delicate "balance" by the content of the Interim Policy Statement in the Federal Register November 16, 2004, which, perhaps, unintentionally, suggests culpability for patients and prescribers until proven otherwise by DEA agents not trained in medical decision making.

As if second guessing highly trained physicians is not, going far enough, the DEA more recently seemed to have again overstepped their bounds with the January 18, 2004 *Federal Register* notice discussing the dispensing of controlled substances for the treatment of pain.

We have strong concerns regarding Sec. 110 and Sec. 111 under the funding provisions for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), that were inserted into the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2005 without the benefit of notice, hearing, or discussion. This in essence circumvents FDA authority to review and approve drugs after a substantial burden of scientific evidence deems them safe and effective. The DEA should not be allowed to "veto" medicines that have passed the rigors of an FDA review, thereby impeding access to medically necessary treatments, nor should the DEA be allowed to hire agents to do what has long been the job of the FDA.

We ask you to intervene and make sure that the DEA does not cause a disruption in the supply of these important medicines that assist millions of Americans in living with their pain. NEPA members respectfully request that the DEA consider our concerns and convey their desire to partner with law enforcement agencies, healthcare practitioners, and patient advocates to establish drug abuse prevention as an important societal goal in as much as it does not hinder legitimate access to care and medications for pain.

Sincerely,

F. Cal Robinson, PsyD, FICPP
President

NEPA would like to thank the following
supporters for the Annual Winter Conference
Woodstock, VT
February 4-6, 2005

GOLD:

Advanced Neuromodulation Systems
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