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The President's Perspective

The Patient's Perspective

The President's Perspective
Richard P. Marvel, MD

The International Pelvic Pain Society has multiple goals, which can easily be reviewed on the website at www.pelvicpain.org. If you review the goals of the society, in the end, they all revolve around patient care, directly treating patients, teaching others to treat patients, informing patients with pelvic pain, and research to better understand the condition and find truly effective therapies. Most of us set out on a course of study to care for patients and hopefully improve their quality of life.

In my journey through medicine, I have been heavily involved in all of the disciplines listed above. I was on the faculty of two medical schools over a 10-year period, taught medical students and residents and even participated as an investigator in a couple of randomized controlled trials. Over the past six years, my focus has changed to almost exclusively patient care, managing men and women with chronic pain conditions. Many clinicians shy away from caring for these patients. Some feel it is too complicated. Others feel they aren't competent to care for such a difficult population. But if you are reading this article, you are likely to be up to the task.

When patients come in to our office, what is their perspective? What do they want, and what do they expect? What are they entitled to? What do they fear? What do they not want, or don't want to hear? Understanding the patient's perspective can make anyone a better clinician.

Patients generally want:

- A clinician that will take on their case
- A clinician that believes they have real pain
- Improvement in their pain

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- Improvement in their quality of life
- The ability to lead a normal life
- Someone who is willing to try to help them
- To be treated like a person
- Someone who "gets it"

Patients generally don't want:

- To be told they are crazy
- To hear that you have no idea what is going on
- To be sent away, yet again, with no help
- To be labeled a drug seeker
- Someone that won't listen
- To be seen and not even examined

As you can see, it is not difficult to be successful in treating patients with chronic pelvic pain. If you see them, they will come. Patients' expectations can easily be met. First and foremost, patients want someone to care about their issues and do the best that they can to help them. They don't expect perfection, all the answers, or miracle cures. As I learned from Fred Howard, the more patients you see, the more you will learn from them. Each patient is different and has a unique presentation, but in a short period of time you will recognize the patterns of presentation and successful treatment strategies. You don't have to be an expert to start, but with a little work you can be one in the end. You won't be able to "cure" them all, but the ones you do will be forever grateful. It can be a very rewarding journey.

Message from the Program Co-Chairs

Georgine Lamvu, MD, MPH, FACOG

Frank Tu, MD, MPH

IPPS Annual Meeting Program Co-Chairs

Chicago is a great place to be this fall and we are looking forward to hosting the 18th Annual Scientific Meeting on Chronic Pelvic Pain: ***Re-Thinking Chronic Pelvic Pain Evaluation and Management***, at the Palmer House Hilton October 21 - 24th. This is a fantastic location for anyone who likes being in a big, vibrant city. But first, let me boast about a really diverse and expert lineup for the expanded program this year.

Our first-ever allied health professional and resident course is a hard-hitting half-day basics course on Thursday, October 21 featuring many of the most experienced members of IPPS

addressing tips and tricks for management of the whole gamut of pelvic pain presentations. Although focused on less experienced clinicians, the breadth of material is complementary to the main program and will be attractive to many veteran attendees who are looking for that extra clinical pearl.

For Friday and Saturday's main program, we have outstanding state-of-the-art lecturers lined. Topics cover a wide array of pelvic pain etiologies including in-depth talks on the role of early neonatal influences on pain sensitivity as well as the James Carter lecture on the role of the brainstem in pelvic pain disorders. These are balanced by clinical talks, including the C. Paul Perry Lecture on surgical management of peripheral nerve disorders; an update on male pelvic pain; hypnosis for visceral pain; the latest in endometriosis management; and a critical look at physical therapy modalities. And don't forget to stick around for the networking reception on Friday where you can catch up with old acquaintances and meet new friends!

Sunday will once again feature a physical therapy workshop with a focus on visceral manipulation, presented by Dee Hartmann, DPT, just a few blocks away at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Chicago's offerings outside the meeting will make you want to come early and stay late. I strongly recommend an afternoon at the museums, especially the Art Institute of Chicago, which recently opened its brand new Modern Art Wing. Attached to this is an impressive walkway/bridge that will lead you straight down into the incredible Millennium Park, which needs to be seen to be believed. Also to add to your itinerary: the walking and boat cruise tours through the heart of downtown's architectural treasures; a little shopping at the Mag Mile (bring a big checkbook); dinner at any of our world class restaurants (including my favorite, Alinea, but book early); and outstanding Broadway and local theater.

So sign up today online at www.pelvicpain.org for the IPPS Fall Meeting - you'll be glad you did! See you in October!

PLAN TO ATTEND!

***October 21, 2010 - October 24,
2010***

***2010 IPPS Annual Scientific
Meeting***

***Palmer House Hilton
Chicago, Illinois***

[Click Here](#) to Register Now!

[Click Here](#) for the scientific
program schedule



2010 Call For Abstracts - Deadline EXTENDED

[Click Here](#) for 2010 Abstract Submissions!

Deadline to submit: **Extended to September 2, 2010** at 12 p.m.
NOON CST

Find a Provider

Are you currently listed in the Find a Provider feature on the IPPS website? If you would like to be included or want to update your information, please email IPPS at **info@pelvicpain.org**.

Call for IPPS VISION E-Newsletter Contributions

If you wish to contribute an article or column to the newsletter, would like to submit information regarding job prospects, pelvic pain announcements or have comments about the newsletter, please email Lisa Oesterreicher at **lisao@wjweiser.com**.