

Florida Society of Physical
Medicine & Rehabilitation

FSPMR

Issue 1

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2010



President's Message

Mitchell J Freed MD

Fellow FSPMR Members,

There are four important matters affecting you, your Florida Society of PMR, and our patients, that I wish to discuss with you.

“First of all, ***this is FSPMR's first electronic newsletter!!!*** Many thanks to Millennium Laboratories for providing FSPMR newsletter and website support! I hope it will serve to better communicate our efforts and issues.

Second, thank you for ***maintaining your FSPMR membership***. It is of great importance to the continuing practice of physiatry in Florida as well as to our patients. If you haven't joined or renewed yet, please go to <http://fspmr.org/OnlinPymt.htm> where you can pay online. (Dues are a very worthwhile \$125.00/year. New memberships processed in the last quarter of 2010 will be credited through calendar year 2011.)

Third, at the annual meeting in July, the FSPMR ***membership agreed to support a combined lobbying effort with the Florida Society of Neurology relating to scope of practice for electrodiagnostic testing***. We seek to insure that ONLY physicians are licensed to perform and interpret needle electromyographic tests. We voted for a \$250.00 assessment, which is less than the reimbursement for one study we perform. The same link, <http://fspmr.org/OnlinPymt.htm> may be used to pay the membership assessment. I am sure you will agree this is money well spent to support the lobbying effort to protect physician autonomy in this regard. This newsletter contains an update letter from Dr. Robert Dehgan, as well as a list of those physicians who have already paid the assessment.

Last, to the matter of ***pain clinic regulation.....***

Pain clinic regulation issues continue to press upon many physiatrists, our patients, and numerous other medical specialties. Representatives from the FSPMR Board of Directors have been present and active in all the Board of Medicine/Board of Osteo-



Thank You
Millennium Laboratories
for Support of this Newsletter

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pathic Medicine Rule Hearings and Workshops regarding pain clinics. On Thursday, October 14, the Florida Medical Association will convene a teleconference with the Presidents and Executive Directors of the medical specialties within the House of Medicine that are affected by pain clinic regulation. At the last FMA annual meeting, the House of Delegates voted that this issue would be of legislative priority for the FMA in the 2011 session. At Thursday's teleconference, all specialty societies and organizations with concerns about the new legislation will have the opportunity to voice their issues to the FMA leadership. The FMA will then develop a plan of action to enact change in the legislation. The leadership of the FSPMR has been working closely with the FMA, the AAPMR, and other specialty societies to reduce some of the unintended consequences of the current proposed pain legislation.

Many of you are aware that one of our members, Dr Jeffrey Zipper, through his company, the National Pain Institute (NPI), has filed a lawsuit against the pain clinic regulations. We are supportive of those efforts. The FSPMR Board of Directors has been in active communication with Dr Zipper and AAPM&R concerning the pain clinic regulation issues as well as NPI's lawsuit. At this time, the FSPMR Board has chosen to seek legislative relief rather than push our views through the court system. In the face of healthcare reform, for longer term political and economic success, the FSPMR Board feels that its best path is to join forces with the FMA.

Below is the FSPMR Consensus Statement developed to give to the FMA in preparation for Thursday night's teleconference. The FMA will provide a summary following the teleconference, and that summary will be forwarded to you.

I wish to thank the FSPMR Board for the time and effort they have given on our behalf!

Mitchell J Freed MD
President, FSPMR

Save the Date!
August 18-20
2011 Annual Meeting
Conference and Trade Show

FSPMR Pain Clinic Regulation Consensus

The FSPMR is in favor of laws and regulations that govern controlled substances and professional conduct in order to protect the public. We want to work closely with legislators and other medical societies to address the growing problem associated with “pill mills.” At the same time, a balance must be reached so as not to interfere with the appropriate medical use of controlled medications for pain relief for legitimate patients and medical practices. We want to ensure that Floridians have access to affordable and effective pain management, properly trained physicians have the option to treat chronic pain with controlled medications when needed, and physicians and facilities operate in a safe and responsible manner.

In preparation for the October 14 conference call, the FSPMR Board of Directors met and reached a consensus on certain areas of the pain clinic regulations that we felt were most problematic. The areas:

1. **The Vague Definition of Pain Management Clinics**
2. **Advertising**
3. **PAs and the Work Force**
4. **Due Process**
5. **Fellowship Training**
6. **Medical Records**

Following are the reasons why we feel these areas are problematic.

[Please click here to read entire statement](#)

Lobbying for Physicians ONLY in Electrodiagnostics

As you read in the President’s Letter, FSPMR is joining lobbying forces with the Florida Neurological Society to limit the scope of practice of electrodiagnostic medicine to physicians ONLY. Thank you to Dr Robert Dehgan, FSPMR Immediate Past President, who has been consistently advocating this position within the FMA for the past few years. Here is a letter he recently wrote to the FMA President, Madelyn E Butler MD. THANK YOU to those members who have paid their lobby assessment, listed following the letter.

Dear Dr. Butler,

Let me congratulate you as the new President of the Florida Medical Association.

I was honored to be on the stage with you during the installation

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(Lobbying, continued from page 3)

ceremonies. I serve as the President of the Putnam County Medical Society. I

also represent the Florida Society of PM&R on the specialty society committee of the FMA. I am Fellowship trained in Neurology and Electrodiagnostic Medicine. A good part of my practice in Duval, St. John, and Putnam counties is performing nerve conduction studies and EMGs.

About four years ago, while you were the Speaker, I submitted a resolution on behalf of the Florida Society of PM&R and the Florida Neurological Society. The purpose of this resolution was to deter others such as Physical Therapists, Podiatrists, Chiropractors, Family Practice, Internist and mobile units from performing these studies.

As you recall, this resolution was fully approved two years ago. As of now and after several modifications, no action has been taken to make this a law. I am respectfully seeking your assistance to bring this up for approval. It should be obvious that Electro-diagnostic Medicine is a specialty. It requires thorough knowledge of anatomy and physiology, diseases of nerves and muscle, metabolic disorders and a host of other abnormalities. Studies done by untrained medical professionals such as medical assistants are interpreted by a machine. Many times these tests are incomplete, inadequate and non-diagnostic. Frequently the tests have to be repeated and done properly by a Physiatriist or a Neurologist.

On behalf of the Florida Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodiagnostic Medicine, I thank you and wish you success.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Dehgan, M.D.
FSPMR Immediate Past President

FSPMR Lobby Fund – Thank You

to these members who have paid their lobby assessment:

Venerando Batas MD, Amy Clunn MD, Frank Collier Jr MD, Oscar De Paz MD, Roberto Dominguez MD, Rodolfo Eichberg MD, Josephine Estampador-Tan MD, Mitchell Freed MD, Dagoberto Garcia MD, Marc Gerber MD, Veronica Gipps MD, Patrick Gonzalez MD, Erick Grana MD, Robert Gruber DO, Melinda Hayes MD, Matthew Imfeld MD, Ariel Inocentes MD, Marc Kallins MD, Vidya Kini MD, Paul Kornberg MD, Christopher Leber MD, Craig Lichtblau MD, Jimmy Lockhart MD, Jay Mendolsohn MD, Enrique Monasterio MD, Wilda Murphy MD, Geeta Narula MD, Rigoberto Puente-Guzman MD, Victoria Rabe-Tagala MD, Marc Reiskind MD, Mark Rubenstein MD, Peter Schreiber MD, Andrew Sherman MD, Ronald Snyder MD, Scott Tannenbaum MD, David Tsai MD, Jeffrey Zipper MD, Colleen Zittel MD

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(for full contact information, go to <http://fspmr.org/officers.htm>)

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