



FSPMR

"To enhance health and function
through education and research
in the field of
physical medicine and rehabilitation"



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First, I want to thank the society and its members for the honor of being elected your President. We had a great annual meeting in conjunction with FAPM at the Hyatt Grand Cypress in Orlando. The meeting was well represented by Florida physiatrists and several of our members participated in giving lectures and being part of the special panels in the conference series. I also want to give thanks to Albert Ray, MD, President of FAPM, for the opportunity to be part of their program.

The future presents itself with great opportunities, especially those who prepare for it and don't shy away from the challenges. With this in mind, we look forward to continue to increase our political and public exposure and participation.

The recent Supreme Court decision regarding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (AKA , Obama Care) brings the point home that it is very important who we support and vote into power. With the new 2012 redistricting of the Florida State House and Senate many seats are being contested. We need to be involved and support those candidates who support physicians and their cause. Let me make it clear, we are not affiliated with any one political party. We recommend candidates that will represent physicians. In our last meeting (June 23 in Orlando), we met two of these candidates: Robert G. Brooks, MD, who was a prior member of the Florida House of Representatives until appointed Secretary of the Florida Department of Health in late 1998 and now running for State Senator ; and, Senator Elyn Bogdanoff who is running for re-election to the Florida Senate. Senator Bogdanoff has been very supportive and active in pain management legislation. Another candidate is Representative Ronald "Doc" Renuart, DO, a primary care physician and author of HB 291, which is now law and protects our youth relating to sports concussions. Rep. Renuart is running for the Florida House of Representatives. It is up to each individual to help. Please, **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**, donate to each candidate as little as \$10 to whatever you can afford at www.bobbrookscampaign.com, www.ellynbogdanoff.com and <http://www.votedocrenuart.com> .

In order to protect our patients and maintain our standard of care, we will continue to address and champion scope of practice issues as well as support appropriate pain laws.

For some, Fee-For-Service reimbursement is coming to an end and Pay-For-Performance will be a new way of life. In the new value-based approach, the reimbursement for doctors will be based on quality and efficacy of care rather than volume of services performed. Accountable Care Organizations are here to stay. Although I think it will only be one aspect of future health care systems, we must be involved. We must strive to place our specialty as the primary care of neuromusculoskeletal and rehabilitation medicine, or it will be driven through primary care.

With these and many other issues facing us, it is imperative that we promote organized medicine, and work on increasing membership with Florida Physiatrists. We have grown our membership by 30% in the last year, but still over half of the physiatrists in Florida are uninvolved. We need your support to maintain and grow our membership in order to succeed. We are stronger and can make a difference if we act together. If each member talks with one non-member physiatrists, imagine what we could accomplish. It can't be the \$125 membership fee that prevents physiatrist from joining.

Strategic partnerships with other specialty societies is crucial for all physicians. We will continue fostering our relationship with FAPM, FSIPP, FSN, FMA and others. Only by joining forces will we have the power to make a difference in order to achieve positive results with our mission in mind, in both the public and political arena.

I must make a note of gratitude to several physiatrists among us (not a complete list) who are making a difference: FSPMR CAC Rep- and VP FAPM – Jeff Zipper, MD; AAPMR Rep- Mitch Freed, MD; Concussion Rep- Christopher Burton, MD; Pain Rep and VP FSPM&R– Michael Creamer, DO; FSIPP VP and Secretary of FSPM&R - Jesse Lipnick, MD. I also want to give a heartwarming “thank you” to past and present FSPMR officers.

I would also like to give a special recognition to our Executive Director, Mrs. Lorry S. Davis whom I have known since the early 90’s. She works tirelessly for our society. She is a caring, efficient and very loyal individual who has managed to work with doctors, who are very hard to work with as a group. She is a multispecialty executive director. She is also a mother and grandmother, able to juggle her personal and business life. Last but not least, a special thanks to Mitchell Freed, MD a 2 term president who has demonstrated leadership and mentorship, father of 7 children and still full set of hair. He loves to snow board with his kids (good luck with that in Florida). He is honest, caring, and intelligent. He is always involved in the political process and always working for us to make our specialty better.

Part of our long term goal that ties in with our mission is to increase services for our members through sponsorships with allied vendors. This in turn will help to: implement educational programs; explore potentials for providing CMEs; provide regular updates to our members; develop a quarterly newsletter; and, maintain and improve our web site with links to areas of interest. For this we need capital. I encourage all members to look at the vendors that call on them and recruit them to be a sponsor of your specialty. Send your contact information to us (President - Rigoberto Puente-Guzman, MD rpunte@aol.com ; Vice President - Michael Creamer DO, michael.creamer.do@flhosp.org; or Executive Director - Lorry S Davis Med, Lorry4@comcast.net)

In the last four years or so, current political movements have brought the fields of pain, musculoskeletal and electrodiagnostic medicine to the forefront. My goal is to continue with these, but also expand our attention to other fields of PM&R, including but not limited to inpatient rehabilitation, Sports medicine and Pediatric care. Again, this will require input and participation of our members.

In summary, the future of medicine is changing. We need to focus on evidence based science/pathways. We need to be involved in forming these pathways or they will be written without our input. This will dictate the future of our specialty. Obama care unless repealed or modified will have a deep impact of how we practice. We need to have a voice. If we are not at the table fighting for us and our patient’s interests, we will have no say about the results. We cannot afford to sit on the side and be uninvolved.

I challenge you to **PARTICIPATE**. Many of you are involved, but the majority of physiatrists in Florida stand idle. We must encourage and help our colleagues join the leadership with their time and expertise and to come on board and be part of the solution. If you do not have the time or inclination, then I encourage you to contribute financially to support those who are taking the fight for you.

Sincerely,

Rigoberto Puente-Guzman, MD
President of FSPM&R

REMINDER

FSPMR Meeting will be held in conjunction with AAPM&R Annual Assembly, on November 15, 2012, 7 – 9 pm, Hilton Atlanta. The Council of State PM&R Society Presidents will meet on Fri., Nov 16th, 2012 from 2:30pm-4:30pm at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC); Building C; 285 Andrew Young International Blvd, NW Room C106 Atlanta, GA 30313. Please RSVP Lorry Davis at Lorry4@comcast.net if you plan to attend.

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2012 DUES INVOICES

Thank you for maintaining your FSPMR Membership. 2012 dues are due. If you have not paid your membership it is just a click away at www.fspmr.org/OnlinPymt.htm