



A Message from the President of WIP | May 2017

"To preserve open communication among our international membership to foster the exchange of medical science information in the field of interventional pain management." A simple, but powerful statement in the Preamble of the Bylaws of WIP that truly are guiding words for our member network. It is the exchange of both knowledge and skill on the global stage of pain medicine that are paramount to ensuring that working together we can deliver quality educational programs, hands-on workshops, and mentoring initiatives for the benefit of all pain physicians and the patients they serve.

As you are no doubt aware, WIP has for the first time formally organized and standardized the section elections. Thank you to all members for your participation, thank you to all who volunteered to run for election and contribute their time and talents, and congratulations to all our new officers. I look forward to an open and productive relationship with each and every section. Special thanks go to Dianne Willard, Executive Officer, as she successfully shepherded this monumental change in process from inception to reality.

Significantly, the response of the membership to this change in the election process has been overwhelmingly positive. We are very confident this centralized administrative service will further our efforts to increase member participation and a sense of member investment uniformly and transparently. Obviously, as in any new venture, we have learned a great deal through this process. Some members have suggested changes that can and will be implemented. By way of example, for the next election the ballots will be completely online, which should make the process much easier and more efficient for all involved. Other suggestions are invited and always welcomed.

Providing value for our membership is always a priority. The website (www.worldinstituteofpain.org) provides valuable information of interest to all members. This includes three documents under the "Governance and Outreach" tab that I encourage all members to examine: the bylaws, the section policy manual, and the code of conduct. Having a clear understanding of these policies and procedures, as defined in these three living documents, will promote understanding and further collaboration. As living documents, they necessarily will evolve as WIP evolves, as deemed appropriate by the governing body: the WIP Council.

The hallmark of our society of WIP is our certification program, the Fellow of Interventional Pain Practice (FIPP). Together with our Certified Interventional Pain Sonologist (CIPS) program, WIP is the leader in internationally-recognized, advanced certifications for pain physicians. In a few short weeks we will convene in Nijmegen, The Netherlands, with a record-setting group of workshop registrants and candidates for FIPP and CIPS certifications for a Spring/Summer exam event. In Miami, Florida, USA earlier this year, the WIP Board of Examination issued 22 new FIPP certifications and 13 new CIPS certifications, bringing our historical certification numbers to 991 and 47, respectively. Countries represented in this certification group include: Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chile, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, UK and USA. Many thanks to Mark Tolliver, our Managing Director of Education and Certification Programs.

Have you been thinking about certification for yourself and/or colleagues? You have two upcoming opportunities to earn certification: Budapest, Hungary September 1st and the just announced return to Miami, Florida, USA in February 19, 2018. Workshops precede both exam events. Details can be found on the website of WIP and the WIP Board of Examination website: www.wip-boe.org

Our *PAIN Practice* journal (PAPR) is a respected scholarly journal in its 17th year of publication. Please join me in welcoming Prof. Bert Joosten, PhD as the new Editor-in-Chief. Prof. Joosten is with Maastricht University and succeeds the late Prithvi Raj and myself as the third EIC in the history of PAPR. WIP is grateful to both Prof. Joosten and Maastricht University for their commitment and support of WIP and the editorial direction of our journal.

I would also like to remind you of our biennial World Congress, a time to come together and put into full motion what we have aspired to do ourselves and, hopefully, what we have inspired others to do for themselves. Mark your calendars for May 9-12, 2018 for the 9th World Congress of WIP, where in Dublin, Ireland we will come together again to celebrate the progress that we are making in improving both the standards of and access to pain medical care. Sign up today for Congress alerts via: www.kenes.com/wip2018



WIP has a new membership directory that its members control through their own member profiles. Compliant with current and emerging European directives, members have the flexibility to make some or part of their contact details visible (instead of all or none).

As our President for the next two years, I ask simply for your continued support of WIP by sustaining a current membership, through certification, if eligible, as well as participation in our conferences and workshops, most notably, our World Congress. Details of these initiatives are summarized in this newsletter and detailed on our websites. Again, please take the time to get to know your WIP web resources. We welcome your feedback so that we may continue to meet and exceed your expectations for your society, the World Institute of Pain.

Finally, but my no means lastly, please join me in expressing gratitude to our Immediate Past President, Kris Vissers and all past presidents. Theirs are noble footsteps to follow. I pledge to honor past legacies and future expectations, to preserve and further the contributions that we, the people who are the World Institute of Pain, have made as we continue to strive to improve practice standards for interventional pain practice to the benefit of all patients experiencing chronic pain.

WIP President
Craig T. Hartrick, MD, FIPP