

Colorado Pain Society Newsletter #9

Collaboration and Diversity

The last two years have seen CPS place an emphasis on exploring and strengthening inter-societal collaboration, as well as push for greater membership diversity amongst medical specialties and allied disciplines. How are we doing? I would like to illustrate our efforts in these areas and highlight how this push for diversity of members and thought is being reflected in the agenda of our upcoming [7th Annual Chronic Pain Conference](#).

Colorado Pain Society is aiming not only for growth in our [membership](#), but a continued increase in its diversity. We have an open door and welcome not only pain, addiction medicine, and psychology specialists, but are excited to see growing interest and membership of PCPs, surgeons, APPs, CRNAs, LPCs, R.N.s, radiation technologists, and therapists, as well as providers from other disciplines. We are also reaching out to all 4 corners of Colorado and have seen a growing number of rural providers join CPS, enriching us with their unique experiences and ideas. The current CPS board of directors consists of private, outpatient, urban and rural physiatrists, an academic anesthesiologist, a hospital-based physiatrist, and an addiction medicine specialist. Past presidents have included both a psychologist and a surgeon. Membership brings discounted registration to our CME conferences, email updates on safety, educational, legislative and advocacy [news](#), posting of practitioners' locations and websites on our [Pain Care Provider Locator](#) page, and an ability to get involved with education and advocacy projects. Diversity of practitioners and ideas enhances CPS's voice in all realms as well as the richness of experience of its members.

Intersocietal relationships have always been valued by, and critically important to, CPS. For example, the 2023-24 legislative advocacy efforts by CPS to increase behavioral health access for our pain patients was assisted and supported by [Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention](#) (Consortium), Colorado Psychiatric Society, and our strong, perennial partner and mentor, [Colorado Medical Society](#) (CMS). The Consortium has been a strong partner and supporter of this and last year's CPS annual conferences. CMS and Consortium have partnered with CPS on numerous legislative issues. This year, we are building bridges with [Pacific Spine and Pain Society](#), with our societies cross-promoting membership and attendance at our [Annual Meetings](#). We are optimistic about collaborating on future advocacy and educational projects with PSPS. We are also reaching out to [Texas Pain Society](#) and would encourage you to consider attending their upcoming [Annual Meeting](#).

This year's [CPS 7th Annual Chronic Pain Conference](#), October 11-13, 2024 at The Hythe in Vail, consists of a diversity of topics and speakers which should please and provide useful clinical information to the wide spectrum of specialties and disciplines represented by our attendees. Topics include sleep and pain, neuromodulation, radiofrequency ablation, how literature interpretation and publishing bias influences advocacy vs. medical economic struggles, pain and surgical specialists co-presenting

diagnosis and treatment of lumbar spinal stenosis and discogenic back pain, including conservative to surgical treatments and more controversial advanced pain procedures and regenerative medicine options, motivational interviewing skills and CBT concepts for the non-psychologist, pain management with opioids, buprenorphine, and ketamine, EMG basics, indications and limitations, and headache diagnosis and treatment. [MER](#) has not only provided CME, MATE, and MOC accreditation for several disciplines but also greatly enhanced our live streaming capabilities. We are offering access to all lectures (16 CME) via live streaming, with virtual or live attendance registration options, and 7-day archival of lectures for online review. Please join us for learning, networking, camaraderie and fun!

I would like to close with an expression of my heartfelt gratitude for the CPS board of directors: Jon Clapp, Rachael Rzasa Lynn, Josh Blum, and Ellen Price, past-president Brent Van Dorsten, and our executive director Anellie Vallone, for their tireless, dedicated and generous work on behalf of CPS, our members, and patients. Thank you!

J. Scott Bainbridge, MD
President, Colorado Pain Society