



# CANADIAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT

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## CANADIAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT – ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

This organization was founded by a group of Canadian pain physicians who believed that there needed to be advocacy for not only physicians but also other health professionals who were involved in pain management. Despite a large number of pain patients, and an increasing number of clinicians devoting their time partly or wholly to pain management, the specialist or expert status has had up to now no regulatory body acknowledgement. This creates significant problems for:

- Promoting evidence-based standards of care with a multidisciplinary pain management focus.
- Identifying to the public the physicians and health care professionals with pain management expertise.
- Providing credentialing to physicians and allied health care professionals who demonstrate preparedness to work in this field.
- Giving a voice to pain experts as stakeholders to address in a unified way the problems we face, such as access to pain clinic care, billing barriers such as negation of provincial health insurance funding/fees when patients are referred to some pain clinics, identifying pain clinicians as stakeholders who can negotiate with regulatory bodies, visibility with Provincial Medical Associations, dissemination of information etc.

### Since 2005 The Canadian Academy of Pain Management has accomplished all the following:

- We are co-applicants along with the president of CPS and several Academic Directors in Anesthesiology, to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Anesthesiology section to recognize a Fellowship in Pain Management. This is currently working its way through the RCPS and in 4-6 years will probably be approved as a recognized subspecialty open to Anesthetists, Physiatrists, Neurologists and Psychiatrists.
- We have a formal agreement with the American Academy of Pain Management, to use their vetting and examination process to qualify our Canadian physicians and health professionals for credentialing. The CAPM is currently setting up the first credentialing exam which will allow us to credential (Diplomate of Canadian Academy of Pain Management). This uses a robust screening to determine eligibility and a validated qualifying examination with invigilators.
- We have become an affiliate of the American Academy of Pain Management with over 6000 members worldwide, and our president is on the AAPM Credentialing and Accreditation committee.
- We have had meeting with CPSO regarding the issue of specialist physicians and general practitioners identifying themselves as Pain Physicians or Pain Clinicians. As you know, up to now, the RCPSC made it a professional misconduct for a physician to identify him/herself on business cards, web sites or letterheads or advertisements, as a specialist in pain (since that designation does not yet exist, and eventually will exist only for specialists through anesthesiology fellowships). As a result of that meeting in Dec 2008, the CPSO put out a discussion paper that very fairly addresses this question, and paves the way for expert designations on business cards, letterheads, and advertisements.
- We have developed a board with representatives across Canada, including physicians (primary care pain physicians, psychiatry, psychology, chiropractic, physiotherapy, anesthesiology) with strong links to Canadian Pain Society and Ontario Medical Association.
- We have had a very cordial and encouraging meeting in concert with OMA Pain Physicians Section Chair Dr. H. Jacobs with officials of Ontario Ministry of Health and of OHIP to address and resolve the problem of negation of fees when primary care physicians refer their patients to pain clinics manned by primary care physicians with interventional pain management expertise. This is still ongoing.
- We have 100+ members nationally and numbers are increasing increasing, ¾ of whom are in the credentialing stream (either already credentialed or applying for this).
- We have a web-site that identifies members specializing in chronic pain, and identifying those who are credentialed (Diplomates of CAPM).
- We have begun to develop criteria and procedures for creating Advanced Certificates in Pain Management for Interventional Pain Management, in Pharmacological Pain Management, and in Behavioral Pain Management, and eventually others. This is in process, and one of these categories will likely be available by the end of the year.
- We have re-launched the newsletter with much more effective outreach and educational content.
- The Annual General Meeting is held each year in conjunction with the Canadian Pain Society's Annual Conference. In 2009 it is in Québec City, Québec.

## WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AS A MEMBER

Sincerely,

Eldon Tunks, MD, FRCPC, Emeritus Prof Psychiatry, McMaster University, Co-Vice-Chair OMA Pain Physicians' Section, President of CAPM, Diplomate of AAPM, Diplomate of CAPM