



CANADIAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT

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CANADIAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS – 2012

The Canadian Academy of Pain Management was founded by a group of Canadian pain physicians who believed that there needed to be advocacy for not only physicians but also all 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 or support. This creates significant problems for:

- Identifying to the public the physicians and health care professionals with pain management expertise.
- Providing credentialing to physicians and health care professionals who demonstrate preparedness to work in this field.
- Giving a voice to pain clinicians as stakeholders to address in a unified way the problems we face, such as access to pain clinic care, billing for pain-related services, identifying pain clinicians as stakeholders who can negotiate with regulatory bodies, visibility with other professional associations, and dissemination of information and linking together health professionals by newsletter.

SINCE 2005 THE CANADIAN ACADEMY OF PAIN MANAGEMENT HAS ACCOMPLISHED

- Publicizing Vision and Mission statement consistent with excellence in care of patients and their families suffering pain, and high standards of interdisciplinary pain care, and evidence-based practice
- on the CAPM website identifying members of the Canadian Academy of Pain Management, and credentialed members who have demonstrated the experience and knowledge recommended by the Canadian Academy of Pain Management and the American Academy of Pain Management
- Promoting evidence-based standards of care with a multidisciplinary pain management focus. This has included conducting CAPM comprehensive multidisciplinary pain courses beginning in 2011
- President of CAPM was a co-applicant along with the president of CPS and several Academic Directors in Anesthesiology, to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada to recognize a Fellowship in Pain Management. This is currently in final stages of development, and will be open as a sub-specialty program to Anesthetists, Physiatrists, Neurologists and Psychiatrists.
- CAPM has agreement with the American Academy of Pain Management, to use their examination process to qualify Canadian Academy of Pain Management members for credentialing. This includes a robust screening to determine eligibility, and a validated qualifying examination.
- CAPM partners with the American Academy of Pain Management with over 4000 members worldwide. Joint membership is an option of CAPM members and offers access to their on-line CME programs, newsletters, and yearly national conferences.
- We have arrived at a consensus with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario regarding the ethics of proper representation on business cards or letterheads for individuals practicing in pain management.
- We have developed a board of directors with representatives from across Canada, including physicians (primary care pain physicians, psychiatry, psychology, chiropractic, nursing, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, interventional pain management). Our board includes prominent opinion leaders from across the country.
- We have been participants as stakeholders in 3 working groups convened by the regulatory/licensing body the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to develop guidelines for pain management
- Two years ago we met, together with the Pain Physicians' Section of OMA, with the Ontario Ministry of Health to resolve problem of negation of fees when primary care physicians refer their patients to pain clinics. This led to a new and equitable billing number provision.
- We have over 120 members nationally and numbers are increasing. This includes 72 physicians, 16 psychologists, 15 chiropractors, and other disciplines include dentists, pharmacy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, basic scientist,

social work, nurse, veterinarian, podiatrist, acupuncturist, Yoga master, and case manager. 25% of our members are also credentialed, and many are credentialed by both CAPM and the American Academy of Pain Management

- We collaborate with Canadian chapter of the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain in educational endeavors in Canada.
- CAPM president Dr. E. Tunks and board member Dr. Howard Vernon are in a working group with representatives of the Canadian Chiropractic regulatory and licensing bodies to develop a pain subspecialty. Dr. Vernon, a long-time member of CAPM board, is chair of that working group.
- We have a web-site that identifies members specializing in chronic pain, and identifying those who are credentialed (Diplomates or Fellows of CAPM).
- We are invited stakeholders in the working group convened by College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario that developed recommendations for pathways for creating Advanced Certificates in Pain Management for Interventional Pain. A related working group of CAPM with four members on the former working group also developed a protocol consistent with the Ontario regulations to offer Advanced Credentialing in Interventional Pain to physicians who practice interventional pain management.
- The CAPM newsletter, is edited by CAPM Secretary Gloria Gilbert, who received in 2011 a Lifetime Achievement Award from the national physiotherapy association. The CAPM newsletter has an increasingly effective outreach, academic, multidisciplinary focus, and educational content.
- The Annual General Meeting is held each year in conjunction with the Canadian Pain Society's Annual Conference.

Our first multidisciplinary educational courses were held in January and November 2011.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU AS A MEMBER

Sincerely,
Eldon Tunks, MD, FRCPC,
Emeritus Prof Psychiatry, McMaster University,
President of CAPM,
Diplomate of AAPM, Diplomate of CAPM,
Lifetime Achievement Award Canadian Pain Society