

## LETTER FROM AAPM MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

### Join, Keep Your Membership Active and Get Involved in AAPM

Dear Colleague,

**The whole practice of Pain Medicine is changing, culturally and politically.** It has become a medical specialty all to itself, focused on treating the pain patient with “consultant grade” capability. Integrating the clinical wisdom and experience of a large number of individual medical specialties can be full of social and intellectual complexity. Governmental agencies, insurance carriers, fellow physicians, and society at large are all slowly discovering the talents and needs for the pain medicine specialist. To accomplish this successfully takes advocacy and education, quality assurance (by way of board certification) and commitment to clinical excellence.

**It is the goal of the American Academy of Pain Medicine to foster the professional development of the pain medicine specialist with**

- educational opportunities, such as [AAPM's Annual Meeting](#), including preconference workshops, plenary and concurrent sessions on the latest pain therapies and procedures
- access to current information, by means of a **dynamic website** and **bi-weekly e-News**
- social, political, and professional [advocacy](#), such as formal representation with the American Medical Association, giving you a voice in these changing times; the Pain Care Coalition, providing representation and advocacy in Washington, DC; and patient education materials, such as the online videos on the AAPM website
- a world-class medical journal, [Pain Medicine](#), the premier source of peer-reviewed research and commentary on the multidisciplinary clinical practice of pain medicine
- interaction with other skilled pain medicine physicians with shared goals and concerns, on local, state and national levels in AAPM's interactive **online Member Community**.

**I encourage you to take a more active role in 2012 in this robust and vigorous professional organization** as we seek to encourage the highest levels of clinical practice for some of the most difficult patients in the world, in a dynamic intellectual, technical, social and cultural environment. [Join](#) or [renew](#) your membership online.



Thomas L. Yearwood, MD PhD  
**Chair, Membership Committee**