



4700 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, IL 60025 - 1485
847-375-4731 Phone
info@painmed.org

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www.painmed.org

Contact Information
Susan M. Thompson
Director, Communications
American Academy of Pain Medicine
847-375-3686 office
sthompson@painmed.org

The American Academy of Pain Medicine Announces this Year's Presidential Commendations and Awards

February 27, 2012, Glenview, IL— The American Academy of Pain Medicine (AAPM) is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Presidential Commendations and Awards. The Academy's Immediate Past President, Perry G. Fine MD, presented the honors at AAPM's 28th Annual Meeting held in Palm Springs, CA, last week, where more than 900 scientists and physicians convened to learn the latest in Pain Medicine.

The following individuals were recipients of the Academy's *Presidential Commendation* for their exceptional service to the specialty of Pain Medicine.

Kenneth A. Follett, MD PhD – Professor and Chief of Neurosurgery, University of Nebraska Medical Center was honored with AAPM's *Presidential Commendation* for his service on the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Advancing Pain Research, Care, and Education.

R. Gil Kerlikowske – Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy received AAPM's *Presidential Commendation* in recognition of his leadership in developing the Office of National Drug Control Policy's "Epidemic: Responding to America's Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis."

Regina M. LaBelle – Senior Policy Advisor to the Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy was awarded AAPM’s *Presidential Commendation* in recognition of her leadership in developing the Office of National Drug Control Policy’s “Epidemic: Responding to America’s Prescription Drug Abuse Crisis.”

Sean Mackey, MD PhD – Associate Professor Departments of Anesthesiology, Division of Pain Management, Neurosciences and (by courtesy) Neurology, Stanford University, and Chief, Pain Management Division, Stanford University Department of Anesthesia, Stanford University was honored with AAPM’s *Presidential Commendation* in recognition of his service on the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on Advancing Pain Research, Care, and Education.

Jerome Schofferman MD – Director of Research and Education of the Spine Care Institute of San Francisco was recognized with AAPM’s *Presidential Commendation* for his stalwart and unflinching principled efforts to advocate for the highest ethical standards within the American Academy of Pain Medicine.

Senator Jay Rockefeller (West Virginia) – Senator Jay Rockefeller was honored with AAPM’s *Presidential Commendation* for his efforts to prevent the unsafe use of prescription drugs and reduce the number of deaths from prescription drugs by promoting physician and patient education and creating a uniform reporting system for painkiller-related deaths, through the introduction of the *Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2011*.

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (Rhode Island) – Senator Sheldon Whitehouse was recognized with AAPM’s *Presidential Commendation* for his efforts to prevent the unsafe use of prescription drugs and reduce the number of deaths from prescription drugs by promoting physician and patient education and creating a uniform reporting system for painkiller-related deaths, through the introduction of the *Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 2011*.

AAPM also recognized several other individuals that have made outstanding contributions to Pain Medicine:

The *Philipp M. Lippe, MD Award* is given to a physician for outstanding contributions to the social and political aspect of Pain Medicine. Social and political accomplishments could be those that benefit the science, the practice or the recognition of the specialty. The 2011 Philipp M. Lippe, MD Award recipient is: **Philip A. Pizzo, MD**

The *Founders Award* is given to an individual for outstanding contributions to the science or practice of Pain Medicine. This award is given for continued contributions for the basic or clinical science of Pain Medicine or for demonstration of clinical excellence or innovation in the practice of Pain Medicine. The 2012 Founders Award recipient is: **Howard M. Fields, MD PhD**

The *Distinguished Service Award* is given to an individual for commitment and contributions to the American Academy of Pain Medicine. This award is given to an individual for specific outstanding contributions. The 2012 Distinguished Service Award recipient is: **B. Todd Sitzman MD MPH**

The *Patient Advocacy Award* recognizes activity of an individual in advocating for appropriate evaluation and treatment of patients suffering from pain. This award was created to honor those healthcare professionals whose deeds reflect their recognition of the importance and impact of the specialty of Pain Medicine. The 2012 Patient Advocacy Award recipient is: **Robert J. Saner II JD**

The *AAPM Presidential Excellence Award for Education* was inaugurated this year to honor an individual who has made major contributions to the education of others about Pain Medicine. The 2012 AAPM Presidential Excellence Award for Education recipient is **Lynn R. Webster MD** who was recognized for his work on the Safe Opioid Prescribing Initiative.

About AAPM

The American Academy of Pain Medicine is the premiere association for 2,400 pain physicians and their treatment teams. Now in its 28th year of service, the Academy's mission is to optimize the health of patients in pain and eliminate it as a major public health problem by advancing the practice in the specialty of pain medicine. More information is available at www.painmed.org.

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