

painmanagement

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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A new study by the American Pain Foundation shows that 51% of chronic pain patients currently using opioid analgesics felt that they had little or no control over their pain. Over 60% indicated that they had breakthrough pain one or more times per day. Chronic pain now affects over 50 million people and left under treated can significantly impair one's quality of life and well-being. Most importantly 77% said that they are looking for new ways to treat their pain. Only 14% were happy with their current treatment of pain and 48% didn't feel that they were getting adequate information on treating their condition.

This shows us that there is a wide open field that the physical therapist can significantly contribute to in many ways. We can reduce pain through pain modulating modalities. We can certainly increase exercise tolerance to enhance the person's own neurochemical cascade. And we can do all the new and often amazing techniques such as PRRT! There are so many ways we can touch the person with chronic pain to reduce their discomfort. It is important to work closely with the entire team that is assisting the patient so that the outcome can be the very best possible. At times we will see some improvement and then a total collapse as is illustrated by John Garziones' article to follow.

By the time you receive this it will be fall and officer elections will be upon us. I will write my final message next edition before I hand the baton over to our new President. I hope that you all participate in our upcoming election and support our new slate of officers as well as you have me.