



Kris C.P. Vissers
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President's message

Welcome to all of you as a visitor to the website of the World Institute of Pain. It is an honor for me to introduce to you our worldwide organization for pain clinicians. If you are a patient, a proxy of a patient, a health care professional, a pain specialist or a citizen wherever in the world, we all have one common goal: "the prevention of pain and suffering by providing the best multidimensional diagnosis and treatment for the patients suffering from acute and chronic pain."

Suffering from pain is a worldwide problem which is larger than the problem of cancer, heart disease and diabetes together. In the top 10 of most prevalent diseases, 6 of them are directly related to chronic pain. The World Institute of Pain is founded to improve this dramatic worldwide problem.

The mission of WIP is to bring together the most recognized experts in the field of pain medicine throughout the world for the standardization and advancement of multidisciplinary and interventional pain practice and the achievement of improved standards of care for pain patients by workshops, educational activities and the FIPP and CIPS examination.

In the past 20 years this mission has focused on the improvement of the standards of care implementing continuously new knowledge and dimensions to the clinical practice of eradicating chronic pain by world recognized top experts who teach during a lot of WIP's activities. It is now recognized that pain and certainly chronic pain is a complex phenomenon where besides the physiological or somatic problems, psychosocial and existential factors may play an important role. Therefore, care should be centered around the patient and according to each patient's specific problems and needs.

The World Institute of Pain continues to focus on promoting training and education and hopes that all pain physicians over the world have access to high quality training and educational support. Therefore, we hope that pain physicians around the world should be aware that they are in the preferential position to be able to relieve the patient's suffering and that they can be involved in building strategies to improve the patient's management in developed and developing countries all over the world. By becoming a member of the WIP you will participate in active membership by pain conferences, workshops, special fellowships, certifications and endorsements. WIP's scholarly journal, *PAIN PRACTICE* and the books of our members are a rich collection of knowledge shared generously by those

who have contributed as clinicians, researchers and editors. Our journal, together with the Fellow of Interventional Pain Practice® certification program, and now also the Certified Interventional Pain Sonologist certification program, are the hallmarks of WIP. We come together as both teachers and learners at the biennial WIP World Congresses, where we celebrate and facilitate the global exchange of knowledge and strive to set the level even higher to achieve greater impact and outcomes where the needs are greatest for patients.

A consortium of professional pain societies, including WIP signed in 2012 the declaration of Miami: "It is the right of any human individual to have access to the best possible pain relief in any and every part of the world."

We strongly need your support, so do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, or any good idea to support our mission. Feel welcome to our website and be aware that thousands of our WIP members, in all countries over the world are available to help and support any initiative to relief suffering from pain.

I hope that you can support WIP's mission worldwide, and in case you have special questions or wishes, please contact us.

Warmest regards

Kris Vissers, MD, PhD, FIPP
President of WIP