



Dear Members, Councilors, CIPSS and FIPPs, and Readers,

Since May 1, 2019, I have the honor of keeping my tenure as President of the World Institute of Pain® (WIP). I am conscious of the tremendous responsibilities this honor brings and overjoyed that this position allows me to continue my life's work of furthering pain medicine and the treatment of pain patients.

Since the beginning of the 1980s, as part of the IASP Task Force on Acute Pain (organized by Brian Ready and Tom Edwards), the passion for Pain Medicine has directed my professional life in the clinic, the laboratory and with work for scientific and professional organizations. At the beginning of the 1990s, all the original Founding Fathers of the WIP were my personal friends, and that's why this organization has always been close to my heart. However, at that time, I was more involved with the European Federation of IASP Chapters (EFIC) and my interest was especially focused on awareness on pain, and the ways to sensitize the European policy makers toward the problems of Pain Patients.

Meanwhile, the WIP has evolved from a prevalently interventional focused to an organization more focused on a broader view of pain and pain patients, and my involvement with the WIP has become more intense. I have since been dedicated to this evolution and gratified to see WIP grow into a major organization helping pain professionals and pain patients.

The mission of WIP was and is "...to preserve open communication among international membership to foster the exchange of medical science information in the field of pain management." Currently, WIP is a powerful international professional organization in this regard, with 27 local sections, 30 Pain Centers who have been awarded Excellence in Pain Practice from the WIP, 200 Certified Interventional Pain Sonologists (CIPS), over 1100 Fellows of Interventional Pain Practice® (FIPP®), and over 3000 worldwide members. All of this tremendous growth has occurred since the WIP's inception, an amazing growth for a professional organization. I have been gratified to have played a role with many others in this growth, and plan on continuing this growth during my tenure as President.

WIP has contributed enormously to pain education around the world. The well-respected annual courses and examinations for CIPS and FIPP® are prime examples. Anyone of you may find all the necessary information on the WIP Educational Program exploring this website. The goal and desire for international certification, both CIPS and FIPP®, have increased exponentially, beyond any initial expectations.

As the WIP continues to expand, we will focus on Africa, Far East, Russia, and other areas of the world that have been underrepresented in our organization in the past, and where pain patients are still under-recognized and treated. The plight of pain patients is the mission of WIP, and will be my continued focus as President. A further mission will be to continue increases in membership, certifications, and educational opportunities over my tenure, with the continued goal of improving pain patient quality of life and outcomes.

In the coming two years, my commitment will be to help the Executive Board, support the Council, and everyday work of the Executive Secretariat, completely and tirelessly at their service. Our mission will remain and will always be our guiding concept for all we do. And I hope all of you, reading this message, will be ready to help in this mission.

Giustino Varrassi, MD, PhD, FIPP