



NEWS

News from the American Pain Society's □
27th Annual Scientific Meeting

For immediate release

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AMERICAN PAIN SOCIETY PRESENTS 2008 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

WASHINGTON, DC, May 8, 2008 – The American Pain Society (APS), www.ampainsoc.org, today announced the winners of its prestigious annual achievement awards at a gala held during the organization's annual scientific meeting.

Every year, APS rewards excellence in the field of pain management by presenting six separate awards for career achievement, pain scholarship, education and public service, advocacy on behalf of children, outstanding service to APS and early career achievements.

“The American Pain Society sponsors these annual awards to recognize outstanding efforts in improving the understanding of pain management among health care professionals and the general public,” said APS President Judith Paice, PhD, RN. “We salute these individuals and their important contributions toward alleviating the suffering of people with chronic and acute pain.”

The **Wilbert E. Fordyce Clinical Investigator Award** recognizes career achievement in clinical research and is awarded to **Srinivasa Raja, MD**, professor of anesthesiology and critical care, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Raja's clinical interests include acute and chronic pain management, sympathetically maintained pain, postherpetic neuralgia and post-amputation pain. Dr. Raja is the author or coauthor of more than 175 publications, and was an associate editor of *Pain* and editor of *Anesthesiology* for nine years. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Pain Society.

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The **Frederick W.L. Kerr Basic Science Research Award** honors individual excellence and achievements in clinical pain scholarship and will be awarded to **Karen Westlund High, PhD**, professor of physiology, University of Kentucky. Dr. High's recent research has concentrated on visceral pain transmission pathways, reduction of pancreatitis pain, inflammation and tissue damage. Other work has focused on complex interactions of central and peripheral neural pathways to improve understanding of pain transmission processes and improve analgesia for those with debilitating pain conditions.

In recognition of the longstanding APS interest in promoting improved pain management in pediatric health care settings, the **Jeffrey Lawson Award** recognizes advocacy efforts to improve pain management in children. This year's recipient is **G. Allen Finley, MD**, professor of anesthesia and psychology at Dalhousie University and medical director of pediatric pain management at IWK Health Centre in Halifax. Dr. Finley has more than 80 publications in peer-review journals and began a pediatric pain email discussion list in which pain researchers and clinicians from more than 40 countries participate. He also serves as president of the special interest group on pain in childhood for the International Association for the Study of Pain.

The **Elizabeth Narcessian Award** recognizes outstanding educational achievements in pain management. Dr. Narcessian trained as a fellow at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and the awardee is one of her colleagues, **Steve Passik, PhD**, associate attending psychologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering and assistant professor of psychology and psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College. Dr. Passik has authored 126 journal articles and 57 book chapters and has served on several editorial boards in the pain field. In 1999, he was a faculty scholar for the Soros Foundation's Project on Death in America and was awarded the American Psycho-Oncology Excellence in Clinical Care Award in 2007.

The **Distinguished Service Award** for outstanding and dedicated service to APS is awarded to **Ronald Dubner, DDS, PhD**, professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Maryland Dental School. A past president of APS, Dr. Dubner has published more than 250 articles in journals and books and has co-authored one book and co-edited eight others. He is the recipient of numerous awards for

research excellence and public health service. His current research interests include molecular, neurochemical and physiological changes in the peripheral and central nervous system following tissue and nerve injury and the development of new pharmacological strategies for controlling acute and persistent pain.

The **John and Emma Bonica Public Service Award** pays tribute to this couple for their leadership in the pain-treatment movement. It recognizes contributions by an individual or organization through public education, public service or other vehicles to communicate information about pain. The 2008 recipient is **Perry Fine, MD**, professor of anesthesiology, University of Utah School of Medicine. Dr. Fine teaches courses in social medicine and medical ethics and serves on several professional society and corporate boards. He has a strong interest in and devotion to palliative care as an integrative component of disease management in community settings.

To recognize early career achievement in pain scholarship, APS created the **John C. Liebeskind Early Career Scholar Award**. It is awarded to **Robert Edwards, PhD, MPH**, assistant professor of anesthesiology, Harvard Medical School and clinical psychologist, Pain Management Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dr. Edwards has received research grants from the National Institutes of Health and the American Pain Society. His current research projects include studying individual differences in inflammatory responses to pain and predictors of persistent post-surgical pain in women.

About the American Pain Society

Based in Glenview, Ill., the American Pain Society (APS) is a multidisciplinary community that brings together a diverse group of scientists, clinicians and other professionals to increase the knowledge of pain and transform public policy and clinical practice to reduce pain-related suffering.

APS was founded in 1978 with 510 charter members. From the outset, the group was conceived as a multidisciplinary organization. APS has enjoyed solid growth since its early days and today has approximately 3,200 members. The Board of Directors includes physicians, nurses, psychologists, basic scientists, pharmacists, policy analysts and more.