



NEWS

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

For immediate release

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American Pain Society Honors *Newsweek* Journalist for Military Pain Management Coverage

Mary Carmichael Wins APS Journalist Award

TAMPA, May 8, 2008 – The American Pain Society (APS) www.ampainsoc.org, has awarded the 2008 Kathleen M. Foley Journalist Award for excellence in reporting on pain and pain management to Mary Carmichael for her *Newsweek* cover story on June 4, 2007, “The New War on Pain.” It reported on pain management methods used in treating wounded Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans.

The award was announced at the annual scientific meeting of the American Pain Society. APS established the Foley Award in 2002 as one of its public awareness initiatives to support and promote the Decade of Pain Control and Research.

“We are pleased to honor Mary Carmichael for her outstanding coverage of how battlefield nerve blocks and intensive rehabilitation programs are providing effective pain treatment for seriously wounded soldiers,” said APS President Judith Paice, PhD, RN. “We hope this recognition shows that the pain community values the work of journalists who cover pain-care issues. Society benefits when news coverage provides enhanced understanding and stimulates public action to improve pain care and access to it nationwide,” said Paice.

For *Newsweek*, Carmichael covered scientific presentations and spoke with numerous pain management experts, inside and outside the military and VA, on subjects from battlefield analgesia to achievements of pain rehabilitation programs to benefits and risks of potent pain medications. Her story also related how rapid and effective battlefield pain care not

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only provides rapid relief, but also could prevent or limit damage to the nervous system that can cause ongoing pain long after the injury has healed. “Treat acute pain early, the thinking goes and you stop the brain from responding to it,” she wrote.

“Writing this article was an eye-opener for me. The drive of the scientists doing pain research, especially in the military, was matched only by the strength of the chronic-pain sufferers I met. I’m very honored to receive this award, but the real accolades should go to them,” said Carmichael.

As the leading professional society devoted exclusively to pain, pain management and pain research, APS sponsors the Kathleen M. Foley Journalist Award to recognize excellence in reporting pain-related topics. The award is designed to honor the work of journalists whose coverage of events, scientific discoveries, patient care, issues and policies contribute to furthering public awareness and understanding of pain and pain-related issues.

The APS award is named for Dr. Foley in recognition of her contributions to furthering professional and public understanding about the need for effective cancer and end-of-life pain management. She is an attending neurologist for the Pain and Palliative Care Service at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York and director of the Project on Death in America sponsored by the Open Society Institute.

Eligibility was limited to work published or broadcast from Jan.1, 2007 to Dec. 31, 2007 by writers and reporters who receive at least 50 percent of their income from journalistic activity, either as an employee of an independent media outlet or a free-lancer.

Nominations were submitted by journalists and by APS members on behalf of specific journalists. The applications were judged by an independent panel from the APS Task Force on the Decade of Pain Control and Research.

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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.

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