Annual Report 2013
If there is a theme permeating this Annual Report, it is that change – positive change – is necessary to continue to serve the emerging needs of our members and academic physiatry.

2013 has been a year of change, vigorous activity, and exciting tangible results. I am especially proud of the actions we have taken to deliver greater value to our members. Many of these achievements were prompted by a significant restructuring of the composition of AAP leadership. This change, officially implemented by a vote of membership at the 2013 General Business Session in New Orleans, increased AAP committee representation and participation on the Board of Trustees. This has allowed for the cross-fertilization of ideas, experiences, and knowledge across our areas of focus. It also created a presidential chain, providing the AAP with the stability we need as we move forward.

I believe 2013 will be remembered as one of AAP’s most successful years in positioning ourselves for the future and demonstrating our growth potential. Our initiatives during the past year include strategic partnerships that have expanded our reach and resources; expansion of our academic development programs; and important research, thought leadership, and advocacy efforts. We also enjoyed steady growth in overall membership, annual meeting attendance, and subscriptions to our 'blue journal,' AJPM&R. All of these efforts were supported by strong and fiscally stable operations.

To further illuminate these accomplishments please enjoy our first Annual Report to membership, designed to provide an understanding of how the AAP works to advance the goals and priorities of academic physiatrists. The Annual Report includes information about the AAP's fiscal status, membership statistics for the reporting year, descriptions of activities and accomplishments from committees and councils, and highlights for 2013 initiatives and programs. Keep in mind that this wave of achievements was not attained alone; rather it was the result of collective, member-driven action and collaboration with support from our expert office staff.

The Annual Report is also an occasion to analyze where we are and recognize where we have been. Knowing where we stand provides the basis for moving forward.

As most of you are aware, we are in the process of re-focusing our Association through a strategic planning process. Many members are playing key roles to ensure that the AAP strategically positioned to meet new challenges and take advantage of new opportunities. We began this important work in October and the AAP Board will be voting on a final plan in February.

The changes implemented in 2013 and future changes that will accompany AAP's new strategic plan demonstrate vitality. It’s incredibly important for us to look toward the future with passion and leadership. There is much more work ahead of us as we continue to move the specialty forward to further advance research, education and academic leadership

As we begin the New Year, the AAP Board of Trustees and I would like to wish you and your family much health, happiness, and success in the coming year. I would also like to extend a special thank you to the AAP Board, committees, volunteers, and members for the privilege of serving as your President. Your leadership and support allowed us to achieve greater results in 2013, and reflects your dedication to PM&R education and research.

With warm regards,

Kathryn A. Stolp, MD
During the past year, AAP has remained uniquely focused on education, research, and leadership development in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R). The AAP publishes a leading journal, the *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*, hosts a national annual meeting, runs a variety of intensive programs in education and professional development, and supports research networks and programs to enhance the research endeavors of AAP members. The academic development of junior individuals is a priority of the Association. AAP members provide invaluable mentorship and actively participate in AAP programs developed to enhance leadership skills in a PM&R academic setting. The AAP collaborates with other organizations in advocating for people with disabilities and securing research funding for PM&R. All of these efforts were supported by strong and fiscally stable operations.

This annual report describes important AAP programs and activities of its members that have substantial impact on research, education, and leadership development in academic PM&R. These activities require the AAP’s commitment and core financial support, however nearly all have external funding as well.

Your membership is important because:
- it assists AAP in growing and mentoring the next generation of PM&R physicians
- it supports ongoing and future programs
- it reflects your commitment to PM&R education and research

*Join or Renew Today!*

**Academic Leadership Development**

**Program for Academic Leadership**

The AAP Program for Academic Leadership (PAL) continues in its success under the direction of Gary S. Clark, MD, CPE, MMM. The goal of PAL is to provide a basic administrative framework and skill set to promising physiatric academic faculty to enhance leadership abilities within a department, medical school, and the specialty of PM&R at large.

PAL has been recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) as a model program for addressing the gap that exists in leadership development in academic medicine and is believed to be unique for its focus on benefiting a specialty by leadership development for early career faculty at a national level.

The Roosevelt Warm Springs Foundation awarded AAP refunding of $25,800/year to support PAL for the 2014-2016 program cycle.

**2013 PAL Graduates**

Heather W. Walker, MD, University of North Carolina
Percival H. Pangilinan, MD, University of Michigan
Christopher J. Visco, MD, NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia
Ajit Pai, MD, Virginia Commonwealth University
Jeffrey C. Berliner, DO, TIRR Memorial Hermann
Dixie Lynne Aragaki, MD, UCLA/VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System

**Rehabilitation Medicine Scientist Training Program**

The Rehabilitation Medicine Scientist Training Program (RMSTP) provides research training, mentorship and career development support for those physiatrists committed to developing productive careers in academic medicine.

**AAP’s academic development programs received substantial external support and funding in 2013:**

- Roosevelt Warm Springs Foundation refunded PAL
- Neilsen Foundation awarded AAP $46k to expand RMSTP, RREMS, and MSSCE programs
- Foundation for PM&R increased support for RREMS
and research. The ultimate aim of the RMSTP is to increase the number of rigorously trained, extramurally competitive and scientifically productive faculty members in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) departments, who can contribute to the continued development of physiatric research specifically and rehabilitation science in general.

The RMSTP is funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute of Child Health Human Development (NICHD), National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR), and the Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP).

PAL participants and graduates also won numerous 2013 awards including the Electrode Store Best Paper Award (Erik Chang, MD and Brad Kurowski, MD) and the DeLisa Lectureship Award (Gwendolyn A. Sowa, MD).

**In 2013, RMSTP participants secured $1,373,805 in funding for research in physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R)**

The Neilsen Foundation awarded AAP $6,000 to support related travel costs for two (2) additional applicants interested in attending the RMSTP pre-application workshop at the 2014 AAP Annual Meeting. The funded applicants will be candidates who have identified a strong interest in pursuing SCI research if accepted into RMSTP.

**2013 RMSTP Graduates**
Pradeep Suri, MD, UW Medicine
Qinq Mei Wang, MD, PhD, Harvard/Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital

**Medical Student Externship Programs**

RREMS and MSSCE are eight-week summer PM&R externships offered to medical students between the first and second year of medical school with an attached stipend of $4,000. The availability of AAP PM&R student externships enhances the visibility of PM&R in the medical student community and attracts high quality and a more academically oriented cadre into the specialty of physiatry and into additional leadership training pathways.

**The Craig H. Neilsen Foundation awarded AAP $40,000 to support AAP student programs RREMS and MSSCE, allowing the AAP to expand the number of externship placements offered in 2014**

**Rehabilitation Research Experience for Medical Students**

The Rehabilitation Research Experience for Medical Students (RREMS), directed by Brad E. Dicianno, MD, concluded its 6th successful summer program in 2013. RREMS has been developed for medical students with strong research interests. This program provides an exciting and structured research experience while exposing the medical student to some of the most successful and respected faculty mentors in the field of PM&R.

The Foundation for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation increased their support of RREMS, providing funding for three (3) RREMS positions in 2013.

Institutional interest in RREMS remained high in 2013, soliciting thirteen (13) available hosting site sponsors with strong academic programs. Eight student applications were received for the program.
Medical Student Summer Clinical Externship

The Medical Student Summer Clinical Externship (MSSCE) directed by R. Sam Mayer, MD concluded its 2nd successful summer program in 2013. The Medical Student Summer Clinical Externship (MSSCE) program has been developed for medical students with a strong desire for clinical experience in the field of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) and who are eagerly seeking opportunities to see patients. This program aims to provide a wide range of inpatient and outpatient clinical exposure and to allow students to explore the human side of patient care and the psychosocial environments their patients face.

Student interest in MSSCE continues to exceed expectations with over thirty (30) students interested in PM&R applying for six available slots in 2013. Thirteen (13) institutions were available as site sponsors.

Education

2013 AAP Annual Meeting

The AAP Annual Meeting brings together leading PM&R physicians and residents to exchange cutting edge information within the themes of education, research, administration, and clinical care in physiatry. Four plenary sessions, six educational tracks, and a variety of hands on workshops and networking opportunities are offered to attendees.

Additionally, participants interact through oral presentations, panel discussions, and posters on topics that included Basic Science, TBI, SCI, Education & Administration, Pain, Musculoskeletal, Stroke, and more.

The 2013 AAP Annual Meeting took place at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans, Louisiana, March 6–10, 2013 and drew 654 attendees, an increase of 37 over 2012, and the highest AAP meeting attendance to date.

![Annual Meeting Participants by Year](chart)

AAP Council Leads Preparation for ACGME’s Milestones and the Next Accreditation System (NAS)

The AAP Residency & Fellowship Program Directors (RFPD) Council developed a program for the 2013 AAP Annual Meeting in New Orleans to introduce ACGME’s Milestones and the Next Accreditation System (NAS) to program
directors and coordinators nationally. The program identified and defined the Milestones specific to PM&R, explored possible evaluation methods for the Milestones, and provided the forum to share concerns about challenges that face program directors regarding the Milestones and the NAS.

At the AAP Annual Meeting, the RFPD Council established six (6) Milestones Task Force groups to develop tools to assess the milestones in each competency including Professionalism, Patient Care, Systems Based Practice, Medical Knowledge, Interpersonal Skills and Communication, and Practice Based Learning.

In October 2013 at the AAPMR Annual Assembly in National Harbor, the AAP sponsored a follow up program convening task force members and program directors to continue preparing for the Milestones and NAS. An update on the NAS was addressed by a representative from the ACGME and the six (6) task force groups collaborated on tools to assess the milestones. A representative from each task force presented an overview of the progress made for each group since the initial meeting of the task force groups at the 2013 AAP Annual Meeting.

The RFPD Council Workshop at the 2014 AAP Annual Meeting in Nashville will present the finalized tools developed to assess the Milestones and participants will learn faculty development strategies for assessing the Milestones.

**AAP Education Committee Established**

The AAP officially established an Education Committee at the 2013 AAP Annual Meeting in New Orleans, chaired by Susan V. Garstang, MD. The Education Committee is focusing on providing AAP members MOC modules designed specifically for academic physiatrists. In 2013, the Education Committee submitted an application to ABPMR to develop learning modules from select content presented at the 2014 AAP Annual Meeting. The MOC modules will be made available to AAP members on the AAP website. The Education Committee has recorded the first of a series of Journal Club Podcasts that feature interviewer/author discussion of articles from the *American Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation*. The committee also conducted a Learner’s Needs Assessment survey in 2013 that solicited input from AAP members regarding learning formats, topics, and barriers. The valuable feedback collected is helping to develop future educational offerings from the AAP.

**Research**

**AAP Research Committee Established**

The AAP officially established a Research Committee at the 2013 AAP Annual Meeting in New Orleans, chaired by Gwendolyn A. Sowa, MD, PhD.

*Physiatric Research Development Consulting Program*

The Research Committee developed a Physiatric Research Development Consulting Program, which will increase physiatrist research capacity by providing customized assistance and recommendations for institutions committed to developing a physiatric research program. The program is supported by the Association of Academic Physiatrists (AAP), the American Physiatric Education Council (APEC), and the Foundation for PM&R (FPMR). The program consists of a pre-visit needs assessment and evaluation by the AAP Research Committee, a two-day, on-site evaluation by three to four experienced researchers/administrators, and a follow-up assessment. The site visitors will meet with key individuals during the on-site visit, and then provide specific recommendations for implementing or increasing the capacity for a research program.
The AAP Research Committee developed the **UC Irvine / AAP Research Badges**, a step-by-step guide designed to help PM&R resident identify the knowledge & skills required for conducting research, and to answer some of the most commonly encountered questions as AAP members undertake research and publication.

**PCORI White Papers**

In addition, the committee prepared and delivered three (3) white papers in 2013, discussing research priorities in PM&R. The white papers were developed in response to the Advisory Panels that were created this Spring by PCORI and are written on topics that the committee hopes each of the panels will include in their discussions. The white papers will also be submitted for publication and member access in *AJPM&R*:

- **“Rehabilitation Systems of Care: Promoting Research that Addresses Quality Outcomes”**  
  - authored by John Whyte, MD, PhD

- **“Rehabilitation Outcomes and Metrics Development: Identifying Goals”**  
  - authored by Andrea Cheville, MD

- **“Rehabilomics Research: a Model for Translational Rehabilitation and Comparative Effectiveness Rehabilitation Research”**  
  - authored by Amy Wagner, MD and Gwendolyn Sowa, MD, PhD

**AAP Partners with Disability Research Dissemination Center (DRDC)**

In 2013, the AAP announced its partnership with the newly-established Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD) Coordinating Center for Research and Training to Promote the Health of People with Developmental and Other Disabilities – the Disability Research Dissemination Center (DRDC). The purpose of the DRDC is to identify and fund the innovative and contemporary research in the field, foster training of public health and other professionals, and use the most progressive mechanisms to disseminate knowledge about evidenced based practice and policy.

Through partnership with the DRDC, the AAP and its members have immediate access to the most contemporary information, [requests for research proposals](#) and [fellowship opportunities](#), broadening the NCBDDD network to all PM&R academic centers with expertise in birth defects, disability and blood disorders.

By expanding the scope of public health research for the NCBDDD, the NRDC intends to make discoveries that impact the population.

The AAP joins other national organizations, such as the American Association of Pediatrics, Association of Medical Colleges and the Association of Schools for Public Health and others, as partners of the DRDC to promote requests for proposals.
Membership

The AAP has approximately 1200 dedicated members including PM&R department chairs, program directors, residents and fellows, researchers, administrators, and others involved or interested in academic physiatry. The AAP has six (6) active councils and eight (8) hard working committees.

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<th>2013 AAP YEAR END MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS</th>
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<td>New Members</td>
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<td>In-training Resident</td>
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<td>Program Coordinator</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
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AAP Member Engagement

In 2013, the AAP implemented several member engagement strategies that promoted member networking and collaboration through the AAP communities, discussion forums, and file sharing on the AAP website, AAP listservs, and Social Media to encourage the information exchange between members and identify opportunities for members to enhance their success.

AAP social media participation showed steady growth in 2013, with the number of posts, discussions, sharing, and reach increasing substantially.

AAP Membership Committee Established

The AAP officially established a Membership Committee at the 2013 AAP Annual Meeting in New Orleans, chaired by Adam B. Stein, MD. The membership committee has developed an Academic Mentoring Program that will launch in 2014. Senior faculty will volunteer to serve as a mentor to graduating residents and fellows. The Academic Mentoring Program will allow participants to make a personal connection as well as receive guidance in their first year out of residency. The committee also worked with members of the Residents/Fellows Council (RFC) to review a “Welcome to Physiatry” guide for PGY2 residents. The tri-fold brochure was distributed to all PM&R program directors, along with AAP pins. The committee is working to finalize several strategies to promote the benefits of the AAP to all academic physiatrists.
**Journal**

**AJPM&R Impact Factor Increases**
The official journal of the AAP, the *American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation* (AJPM&R) impact factor has increased to 1.731.

Ranking: 33 / 84 Sports Sciences
19 / 63 Rehabilitation – Top 30%

**AJPM&R Interest and Productivity Increases**
The number of manuscript submissions for publication in the *AJPM&R* continued to increase in 2013. The Journal also saw increased productivity in 2013 with decreased time from submission to first decision.

**AJPM&R Expands CME Opportunities for AAP Members**
AJPM&R offered expanded continuing medical education (CME) opportunities in 2013, offering 10 CME articles and exams. AAP members can earn CME from participating in AJPM&R CME activities as a member benefit.

**Advocacy**

- AAP’s role in DRRC accomplishments in 2013 – NIDRR, Blue ribbon panel

**Finances**

AAP’s financial report.