Letter From The Editor

With this issue we launch the first "Journal" issue of PAIN PHYSICIAN. In keeping with our purpose and our earlier promises we will continue to provide information regarding proposed HCFA regulatory changes, fraud and abuse issues, compliance plans, and other topics crucial to practice management in an increasingly complex health care environment. At the same time, we don't want to lose sight of our purpose for learning how to survive these pressures: providing the highest quality healthcare possible to an extremely needy medical population. We need to be compassionate and humane (especially in this sometimes cold and calculating world of managed care), but we need also to be competent and on the cutting edge of the latest technology and newest innovations. For that purpose we will offer review articles and original contributions, the first of which have been offered by Manchikanti et al of the Pain Management Center of Paducah, Kentucky. Help us to expand these segments of our Journal by submitting your own contribution.

Once again many thanks are in order for the able staff at Arent Fox, Attorneys at Law, who not only provide expert lobbying efforts and counsel, but also provide the News from Washington and News Briefs. Thanks also go to Dr. David Kloth who remains an active contributor with his thoughts on Corporate Compliance. And, of course, without the wonderful help of our staff, Michelle Powell, Diane Dunmyer, Vidyasagar Pampati, Ben Lawrence, Lisa Dick, and Kevin Court we would probably still be working on this issue.

We are very excited about our 1st annual meeting in Washington, D.C., on November 5th and 6th, 1999, and there should still be time for you to register. The first day will be comprised of practice management topics followed by a day of practical clinical presentations. The speakers on both days, including congressional representatives, are of the highest quality. We would love to meet as many of our members as possible so please attend and strengthen our network.

Join with us as we continue to evolve into a major voice for interventional pain management specialists. We invite your ideas and suggestions. Together we can make a difference.

Bert Fellows, M.A.
Editor