



August 19, 2010

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), an educational, research and scientific association representing over 44,000 members, is pleased to nominate James P. Rathmell, M.D., for consideration as a member of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Advancing Pain Research, Care, and Education. ASA believes that Dr. Rathmell possesses the crucial experience and expertise, including the establishment of research priorities regarding pain and the advancement of approaches to diagnose and treat pain that the IOM seeks.

Dr. Rathmell is highly active in numerous national and international organizations pertaining to pain research and pain medicine. He served on the World Institute of Pain from 2008-2009, and will serve as a member of the Planning Committee of the World Congress on Pain in 2011. He has also been a member of the American Pain Society since 1995 and the American Academy of Pain Medicine since 2005. In addition, he has been a member of the Association of Pain Fellowship Directors since 1999 and served as its President from 2003-2005. Dr. Rathmell has served as the Vermont State Representative to the New England Pain Association since 1999, and a member of the International Association of the Study of Pain since 1994. Finally, Dr. Rathmell has served as a member of the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ASRA) since 1994.

In regard to his service to ASA, the largest specialty organization representing pain medicine physicians, Dr. Rathmell has served as a member of the ASA Task Force on the Future of Pain Medicine since 2008, and as a member of the ASA Task Force on Guidelines for Treatment of Chronic Pain from 2006-2010. Since 2005, he has been a member of the ASA Annual Program Content Committee for Pain Medicine. In addition, he was a member of the ASA Task Force on Interventional Pain Medicine in 2002. Finally, Dr. Rathmell has served as a member of the ASA Committee on Pain Medicine since 1999 and chaired the committee from 2001-2005. The Committee on Pain Medicine is charged with studying pain mechanisms and management as well as reviewing and disseminating developments in the field of pain medicine.

Dr. Rathmell has published and presented extensively on the topic of pain medicine, including diagnosis, treatment, and management of pain. He has authored and edited the 2nd edition of the Atlas of Image-Guided Intervention in Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine. He has edited the 4th edition of Raj's Practical Management of Pain and the 4th edition of Bonica's Management of Pain.

Dr. Rathmell is an Associate Professor of Anesthesia at Harvard Medical School and an Adjunct Professor of Anesthesiology at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He is also an Associate Anesthetist in the Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Board of Anesthesiology.

If selected to serve on this ad hoc committee, Dr. Rathmell is enthusiastically willing to serve and commit to the meetings required.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to submit the nomination of Dr. James P. Rathmell for the IOM Committee on Advancing Pain Research, Care, and Education and hope that the IOM will seriously consider his appointment. Dr. Rathmell is a recognized leader in pain medicine and provides a diverse and broad experience and expertise that would benefit the important mission of this IOM committee. I have personally had the opportunity to work closely with him for more than a decade and can attest to his honesty and diligence. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alexander A. Hannenberg, M.D.", written in black ink.

Alexander A. Hannenberg, M.D.
President
American Society of Anesthesiologists