



November 19, 2015

Linda Porter, Ph.D.  
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke  
National Institutes of Health  
31 Center Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Re: Nomination to Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee

Dear Dr. Porter,

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), representing over 52,000 members, is pleased to nominate James Rathmell, M.D., to the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee (IPRCC) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). ASA believes that Dr. Rathmell possesses the crucial experience and expertise including the advancement of pain care research that the IPRCC seeks.

Dr. Rathmell is the Leroy D. Vandam & Benjamin G. Covino Professor of Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School and Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine at Brigham and Women's Healthcare. He recently served as Co-Chair of the IPRCC working group on Professional Education and Training for the National Pain Strategy, and is devoted to establishing the highest international standards for the education of physicians in pain medicine. Dr. Rathmell led a multidisciplinary task force that redesigned pain medicine education in the United States and authored the new fellowship training requirements implemented by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in 2007. The requirements govern pain subspecialty training for all physicians, including anesthesiologists, physiatrists, neurologists, and psychiatrists.

Dr. Rathmell has published and presented extensively on the topic of pain medicine. In 2004, he published a description of catastrophic neural injuries following intra-arterial injection of particulate steroid during cervical injections and a technique to lower risk that has become standard worldwide. Over nearly 20 years of practice, he refined techniques and assembled descriptions in the *Atlas of Image-Guided Intervention in Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (2007)* – the 2nd Edition of this text was published in 2011. Dr. Rathmell has played a central role in the development and publication of international clinical guidelines that have improved the safety and consistency of pain treatment. He has edited seven books, including two of the world's best-selling pain texts: *Raj's Practical Management of Pain, 4th Edition (2008)* and *Bonica's Management of Pain, 4th Edition (2010)*.

Dr. Rathmell has designed, conducted, and published numerous international, multicenter clinical trials examining novel analgesic agents and devices. He serves on the editorial board

of *Anesthesiology* and was immediate-past Associate Editor-in-Chief of *Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine*, both with impact factors ranking them among the world's top five pain journals.

In regard to his service to ASA, Dr. Rathmell has served as a member of the ASA Annual Program Content Committee for Pain Medicine since 2005, the ASA Task Force on the Future of Pain Medicine since 2008, and the ASA Task Force on Guidelines for Treatment of Chronic Pain from 2006-2010. Dr. Rathmell has served as a member of the ASA Committee on Pain Medicine since 1999 and he 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.

If selected to serve on the IPRCC, Dr. Rathmell is enthusiastically willing to serve and commit to the meetings required.

ASA is pleased to have the opportunity to nominate Dr. Rathmell to the IPRCC and hopes that the IPRCC will seriously consider his appointment. Dr. Rathmell is a recognized leader in pain medicine and provides a diverse and broad expertise that will benefit the important mission of the committee. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Cole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Cole, M.D.  
President  
American Society of Anesthesiologists