



January 18, 2013

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

Re: Nomination for Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee

Dear Dr. Porter,

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), representing over 48,000 members, is pleased to nominate Asokumar Buvanendran, M.D., for the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee (IPRCC) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). ASA believes that Dr. Buvanendran possesses the crucial experience and expertise, including advancement of pain care research that the IPRCC seeks.

Dr. Buvanendran is an anesthesiologist specializing in Pain Medicine, and his academic activities are divided between research, teaching, clinical duties in the Rush University Department of Anesthesia, and national advocacy for the advancement of pain care. He was Chair of the 2011-2012 Defense Medical Research and Development Program for the Department of Defense Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs for Pain Medicine. He reviewed several applications and effectively chaired the allocation of millions of dollars for research in Pain Medicine. He is currently conducting NIH-funded research projects on the predictors of opioid analgesic responses and common endogenous opioid mechanisms. He is also conducting several prospective randomized clinical trials on acute and chronic pain, including medical school grants with partnership from private entities. In addition, Dr. Buvanendran has led several key basic science research studies in pain, including creation of new animal pain models for acute pain. Dr. Buvanendran is a reviewer for JAMA, New England Journal of Medicine and multiple pain-related professional journals, and is on the editorial boards for Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, Anesthesia & Analgesia, Journal of Clinical Anesthesia, Pain Physician, and Journal of Opioid and Pain Management. He is a grant reviewer for the Government of Western Australia, Physicians Services of Ontario, and Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

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In regards to teaching, Dr. Buvanendran is a Professor of Anesthesiology and Director of Orthopedic Anesthesia at Rush University and is Co-Director of the Anesthesiology Research Clerkship at Rush Medical College. Dr. Buvanendran teaches anesthesiology residents and pain fellows in the operating room and clinic, participates in the Pain Fellowship Lecture series, and has conducted multiple lectures as a visiting professor on chronic pain management nationally and internationally. In 2010, he was invited to be an examiner and is a question writer for the American Board of Anesthesiology pain medicine exam. He is editor-in-chief of the ASRA-ASA Pain Medicine self-assessment program (MOCA), and the first edition was completed in October 2012.

Dr. Buvanendran's clinical responsibilities at Rush University Medical Center include general and regional anesthesia, interventional chronic pain medicine, and acute pain management. He is a member of the Advisory Committee to the Chairman, Research Committee on Anesthesiology, Curriculum Committee on Anesthesiology, Orthopedic Joint Pathway Committee, and is a former member of the Research Committee for Rush University Medical Center.

At ASA, Dr. Buvanendran is the Vice Chair of the Educational Track for Pain Medicine, Chair of the Subcommittee on Regional Anesthesia and Acute Pain, member of the Committee on Pain Medicine, member of the Education Track for Regional Anesthesia, and is a Delegate to the ASA House of Delegates. Dr. Buvenandran is also Treasurer of the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine (ASRA), Past President of the Illinois Society of Anesthesiologists, Past President of the Illinois Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, and a Board Member of the Orthopedic Anesthesia and Rehabilitation Society.

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

ASA is pleased to have the opportunity to nominate Dr. Buvanendran to the IPRCC and hopes that the IPRCC will seriously consider his appointment. Dr. Buvanendran 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,



John Zerwas, M.D.
President
American Society of Anesthesiologists