As we welcome 2018, I would like to update you about the new CPRC strategic roadmap through 2020 and call you to action. The board members identified key priorities that define opportunities for member involvement and I want to energize all who share our vision to engage this roadmap to increase the impact of the CPRC over the next 3 years.

The CPRC is becoming the world leader in advancing multi-modal cancer pain intervention. Our purpose is to champion research, education and training to alleviate suffering from cancer pain. Since 2013 we have been building a global, multi-disciplinary workforce that is changing the way cancer pain is treated.

Over the next three years the CPRC will focus on several strategic goals. I encourage current and future members to participate in the projects that will help us achieve these goals by the end of 2020.

The Board has appointed 6 committees to drive this work forward. Please contact Wendy Swatek, our Executive Director, for detailed description of each committee and to join in a project. The committees are:

1. Education
2. Training
3. Research
4. Patient Empowerment and Access
5. Funding
6. Technology

Cancer related pain may is treated by many different specialties, from Medical Oncology and PM&R to Neurosurgery and Radiation Oncology, but it can no longer be treated in silos. The Consortium is leading the way in defining how the specialties can most effectively work together, and the knowledge gaps between and within each area.
Cancer patients are now surviving for years and even decades. The prevalence of pain in a person with cancer or a history of cancer continues to increase. There are different options for improving quality of life, but many gaps in our knowledge remain. Together, we need to discuss, collaborate, and improve access to effective pain relief and prevention. Together, we need to identify cost effective and efficacious treatments. Together, we need to gather, evaluate, and disseminate the evidence related to cancer related assessment and its treatment, while identifying the knowledge gaps and supporting the research to close them.

Our Consortium will focus on pain. We know it is difficult to focus “just” on the symptom of pain because it is complex with many different factors that contribute to it. By prioritizing our resources towards the understanding of Cancer Pain and its multimodal treatments and prevention, we will gather a distinct research repository and develop targeted educational and training programs over the next 3 years.

Now is the time. Engage in the CPRC by visiting our website (http://www.cancerpainresearchconsortium.org/), make sure your membership is current, and join one of the projects. We are again meeting in April for our 4th Annual Cancer Pain Research Consortium Meeting (http://www.cancerpainresearchconsortium.org/annual-meeting). Register today, and join us in New Orleans to network, discuss and learn from each other.

Sincerely,
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