May 19, 2017

Judith Turner, PhD
President
International Association for the Study of Pain
1510 H St NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 2005

Dear Dr. Turner:

On behalf of the more than 4,000 members of the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, I am writing to commend the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) on launching the Global Year Against Pain After Surgery Initiative.

Proper diagnosis and treatment of post-surgical pain is critical to avoiding the development of chronic pain, a major health, economic, and social burden on our country. ASRA’s regional anesthesia and acute pain specialists treat the patient throughout the continuum from the preoperative setting through surgery and postoperatively. ASRA also represents pain specialists who are specially trained to manage patients’ chronic pain and play a key role in the fight to avoid overuse of opioids by properly diagnosing and managing pain including consideration of interventional and nonpharmacologic options. ASRA supports IASP’s efforts to work with a wide variety of organizations to educate and share information about these important issues.

Resolving post-surgical pain after thoracoscopic surgery is the focus of the latest ARSA’s most recent Carl Koller Memorial Research Grant recipient, Dr. Harsha Shanthanna, MBBS, MD, MSc. Dr. Shanthanna has received the 2016 Carl Koller Memorial Research Grant for his proposal "Preventing Persistent Post-Surgical Pain after Thoracoscopic Surgeries: a Randomized Controlled Parallel Group Multicentre Pilot Study using Ketamine and Memantine." ASRA’s Carl Koller Memorial Research Grant provides up to $200,000 biannually to support clinical and laboratory studies related to any aspect of regional anesthesia and analgesia and their application to surgery.

In Spring 2018, ASRA will convene the World Congress on Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine, bringing together nearly 2,000 acute and chronic pain clinicians from across the globe to New York City for three days of education and collaboration as we work to share the best ideas and tools to manage patient pain across the world.

We invite IASP to collaborate with ASRA in any related areas and again commend and congratulation IASP on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Asokumar Buvanendran, MD
President