

John Farrar MD, PhD

How can USASP make the greatest impact for pain scientists?

Despite many years of research in pain and pain therapeutics the impact of pain on society remains large and only moderately controllable. What is clear is that the best way to have an impact on pain, we need to bring together the broadest range of scientists, clinicians, and patients to work together to find new treatments, but also to rationally and equitably apply what we already know to help people get and stay healthy with manageable pain. What the US-ASP has to do is to become known as the organization that brings people together across a broad spectrum of backgrounds and interests to achieve the greatest good for all. There are many pain related organizations that focus on specific groups of individuals, but very few that focus on how best to bring them all together. The potential impact of this combined effort on pain science has the potential to dramatically affect the future of pain care for all.

What do you perceive as the USASP's greatest strengths and potential for future growth?

Building on how the USASP can have the greatest impact, our greatest strength is in the people who have joined and in convincing potential new members that it is the best organization for the support of pain research and care. The growth of the organization will be dependent on convincing both young and older pain researchers and practitioners that they have a place in the organization and that their voices will be heard. This is best done by building a society structured on interest groups across a broad spectrum of the pain community with opportunities for all who are interested to participate and have a say in how things will move forward. We will not all agree on the best course forward but with open and honest dialogue and a respect for differences in opinion we can hope to achieve a consensus for how to improve our understanding of pain and pain therapeutics to improve the lives of all people who need care.