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The Power of PM&R: Working Together, We are Stronger

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The strength of PM&R lies in our unity. When PM&R physicians come together under the umbrella of AAPM&R, we become a formidable force, capable of driving meaningful change and advancing the impact of our specialty within healthcare. To date, more than 15,000 physicians have been board-certified in PM&R.

We all bring our unique perspectives, experiences and expertise to the table, and we have an unparalleled opportunity to support and uplift one another. Fortunately, the Academy is focused on efforts to build and enhance the unity of our field.

In 2023, AAPM&R launched Member May, a month-long initiative offering members the chance to participate in a wide range of free educational and networking sessions. These sessions provided a platform for members to connect, learn and grow together, fostering a sense of community and collaboration. Due to its success, Member May is set to return in 2024, with even more sessions

planned throughout the month. From clinical insights to practice management tips, these events cater to the diverse needs and interests of our membership, further strengthening our collective knowledge and skills. Watch aapmr.org/membermay for more information. These events will be free, open to all Academy members and hosted through AAPM&R's Online Learning Portal (onlinelearning.aapmr.org). Some will also have CME.

Member May is just one example of AAPM&R's commitment to fostering a sense of community and inclusion among its members. With more than 45 Member Communities (hosted on PhyzForum.org), we have the opportunity to join groups tailored to our specific clinical, practice and identity-focused interests. Regardless of the focus of each group, these communities all provide a space for members to connect with like-minded individuals, share resources, and collaborate on initiatives that advance our specialty.

Physiatrists represent a diverse group of individuals with various backgrounds, subspecialties, practice locations, and even political beliefs. However, despite our differences, we are united by our shared commitment to advance care for patients with disabling conditions.

By embracing the richness of the multiple aspects of our diversity, we can ensure that every member of our community feels included, valued, respected, and empowered to engage and contribute their unique perspectives and talents to advance our field. Thus, diversity and inclusion are not just buzzwords; they are fundamental principles that drive engagement, progress and innovation within PM&R.

The Inclusion and Engagement (I&E) Strategic Coordinating Committee plays a pivotal role in this endeavor. As the inaugural chair of this committee, I had the privilege of spearheading initiatives aimed at fostering an inclusive and engaging environment within AAPM&R. The focus continues to be not merely acknowledging the diversity within our ranks but celebrating it and leveraging it for the growth and progress of our field.

In line with this vision, AAPM&R recently launched its first class of Innovators and Influencers. This group is a diverse cadre of physiatrists who are committed to advancing PM&R on a national scale and in this issue we recognize more than 20 PM&R physicians who are making a difference and advancing the specialty. They embody the spirit of innovation and influence that we strive to cultivate within our Academy, and they serve as a testament to the great things we can achieve when we embrace our diversity and engage collectively toward our shared goals. If you want to find out more about this specific program please go to: aapmr.org/innovatorsandinfluencers.

Together, when we are collectively united as PM&R physicians in the AAPM&R, our potential is limitless as we continue our journey through the ever-changing landscape of healthcare. So let's embrace our diversity, support one another, and march forward with determination and purpose, knowing that our collective strength knows no bounds.