
Hand-outs for attendees:

- 2025 Business Meeting Agenda
 - 2024 Business Meeting Minutes
 - Membership Roster Report
 - Nominating Committee Report
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Call to Order – Scott Laker, MD

AAPM&R Board President Scott Laker, MD called to order AAPM&R's 2025 Annual Business Meeting. Dr. Laker welcomed attendees, explained handouts access, shared the rules of engagement, including voting eligibility, and shared that Robert's Rules would serve as the source of the rules of order.

Dr. Atul Patel, MD, AAPM&R Officer, established and announced that a quorum was present for the 2025 Annual Business Meeting.

Dr. Laker asked that the 2025 Business Meeting Agenda be adopted as presented. Dr. Laker called for discussion. There being none, a vote was taken. The 2025 Business Meeting Agenda was adopted as presented.

Dr. Laker brought forward for approval the Minutes of the Annual Assembly's November 9, 2024, Business Meeting in San Diego, California. Dr. Laker called for discussion. There being none, a vote was taken. The 2024 Annual Business Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

Membership Committee – Keneshia Kirksey, MD MBA

Dr. Keneshia Kirksey, Chair of the AAPM&R Membership Committee, gave an overview of the status of AAPM&R membership. Dr. Kirksey reported that the total membership as of October 17, 2025, was 10,194 and she provided a breakdown by member categories.

The Member Roster Report, made available as a handout, listed the names by category of the proposed members who have applied for membership in the Academy and members who have been adjusted to other membership categories since the previous Annual Business Meeting. Dr. Kirksey reported that the AAPM&R Membership Committee gave careful consideration to the credentials and found that all qualify for election and meet the requirements of their respective membership categories. She reported that the Board of Governors approved the Membership Committee recommendations.

Dr. Laker brought forward for approval the 2025 Member Roster Report and called for discussion. There being none, a vote was taken. The 2025 Member Roster Report was approved as presented.

Dr. Kirksey called for recognition of the members listed as 25-year members of the Academy, then concluded her remarks by asking for a moment of silence for Thomas E. Stautzenbach, MA, MBA, CAE, AAPM&R Past Executive Director and CEO, for Erwin G. Gonzalez, MD, AAPM&R Past President, and for the following Academy members who had passed away in since last year's Business Meeting:

Ronald D. Abraham, DO
Augusta S. Alba, MD
Dennis J. Bonner, MD
Damita L. Bryant, MD, MBA
Milton C. Calima, MD
Kwai-Tung Chan, MD
Richard M. Herman, MD

Hany R. Nosir, MD
Edward M. Outlaw, MD
Herbert A. Schoening, MD
Edwin M. Smith, MD
Ann T. Vasile, MD
David G. Welch, MD

Nominating Committee – D.J. Kennedy, MD

Dr. D.J. Kennedy, Chair of the 2025 Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of candidates:

Board of Governors Elected Positions:

- Vice President: Atul T. Patel, MD, MHSA, FAAPMR
- Treasurer: Nneka L. Ifejika, MD, MPH, FAAPMR
- Member at Large:
 - Rita G. Hamilton, DO, FAAPMR (1st Term)

Non-Board of Governors Elected Positions:

Nominating Committee Members:

- Deborah A. Bergfeld, MD, FAAPMR
- Miguel X. Escalon, MD, MPH, FAAPMR

Dr. Kennedy noted that in accordance with Academy Bylaws, 2025 President-Elect John Cianca, MD, will ascend automatically to the 2026 President role; Vice President Charlotte Smith, MD, will ascend automatically to the 2026 President-Elect role.

Dr. Laker brought forward for approval the 2025 Slate of Elected Positions as presented. Dr. Laker called for discussion. There being none, a vote was taken. The 2025 Slate of Elected Positions was approved as presented.

Report of the President – Scott Laker, MD

Dr. Laker, following up on discussion from the 2024 Business Meeting, reported that the goals for the AAPM&R Nominating Process are compliance, practicability, and transparency. He reported that AAPM&R's process incorporates best practice standards to support its goals. Dr. Laker then expressed appreciation for the 2025 Board of Governors, Academy volunteers, the Academy's CEO, and Staff. Dr. Laker emphasized the Academy commitment to supporting physiatrists, driving patient outcomes, and ensuring that physiatry's place in the healthcare landscape remains strong and secure. He highlighted key 2025 initiatives – ones that are gaining traction or newly created – to drive the commitment. Dr. Laker concluded his report with a preview of future focus areas, including spine/pain, sports medicine, positioning physiatry across the rehabilitation care continuum, data strategy, and workforce needs.

Report of the Treasurer – Atul Patel, MD MHSA

Dr. Atul Patel presented an overview of the Academy's 2024 audited financial statements, sharing that AAPM&R continues to receive the highest levels of auditor assurance. He announced that net operating income for 2024 was (\$209,180). Investment returns totaled \$1,393,547, for a total net income/change in assets of \$1,184,366. Projections for 2025 showed operating net income of (\$156,047), or (\$592,440) with below-the-line transition expenses. These 2025 net operating income figures do not include 2025 investment returns. The adopted FY 2026 budget has a net operating income of (\$473,798). Dr. Patel concluded his report by sharing the health of the Academy's reserves.

Report of the Editor-in-Chief – Janna Friedly, MD

Dr. Janna Friedly expressed appreciation for the Journal's editorial leadership, feature editors, and associate editors. She announced Editorial Board transitions, thanking incoming and outgoing editors. Dr. Friedly then summarized 2025 highlights, including the increased impact factor of 2.8 (up from 2.2), a PASC Collaborative Compendium publication, the launch of the Journal Club, and special content issues *Implementation Science* and *Climate Change and Health*. She shared a list of articles that contributed to the impact factor increase. She provided statistics for manuscript submission and full text views. Dr. Friedly concluded her report with a look ahead at PM&R 2026 special topics issues, podcasts, and a new practice management series.

Report of the CEO & Executive Director – Tracy J. Sereiko, MBA, CAE

Tracy Sereiko highlighted some of the Academy's initiatives and innovations that created exciting momentum in 2025. Tracy then detailed Academy priority commitment and efforts in key strategic areas:

- Education: Annual Assembly innovations, program successes with STEP, Resident Retreats, Department Chairs Summit, partnership with USOPC, virtual programs, and enhanced digital resources.
- Quality & Research: initiatives and engagement to support commitment to producing Academy practice guidance statements, facilitating the PM&R voice in national quality discussions, demonstrating the value of PM&R through evidence/data.
- Health Policy, Practice, and Advocacy: engagement that focused on fighting against PM&R physician fee cuts and for fair payment, defending PM&R physicians against scope of practice threats, and enhancing the recognition of PM&R medical expertise in Inpatient Rehabilitation, Pain Management, and other clinical areas.
- Specialty Brand Expansion: efforts designed to advance the awareness, appreciation, and value of the specialty with key stakeholders and to position PM&R physician alignment with the specialty's vision that physiatrists are essential medical experts and indispensable leaders early and throughout the continuum of patient care.
- Inclusion and Engagement: initiatives dedicated to include and engage all of the PM&R community.

Throughout her report of 2025 initiatives and successes, Tracy included previews of 2026 commitments in each key strategic area. Tracy concluded her report with a high-level summary of the vision for the future:

- Engage Across All Career Stages of Membership
- Focus on In-Person Connection
- Continue Digital Innovation
- Advance the Specialty

Old Business

Dr. Laker called for old business. There was no old business brought forward.

New Business

Dr. Laker called for new business. There being none, Dr. Laker introduced incoming AAPM&R President, John Cianca, MD, and presented him with the AAPM&R President's medal.

Report of the Incoming President – John Cianca, MD

Dr. Cianca thanked Dr. Laker for his guidance and emphasized the goals and priorities outlined in both the President's Report and the CEO/Executive Director's Report, highlighting focus on:

- Engaging, growing and connecting membership
- Addressing workforce issues
- Professionalism and collaboration
- The Academy as "home"

Adjourn

Dr. Laker concluded the meeting by encouraging attendance at Ryan Holiday's plenary speech and at the 2026 Annual Assembly in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Laker thanked attendees and adjourned the 2025 AAPM&R Annual Business Meeting.