

Fine Tuning the Art & Science of Pain Treatment

State-of-The-Art Facilities And Patient Care Hits the Right Notes

A Concert Master has the task of making sure the orchestra is fine-tuned, in-sync with one another and producing a pitch-perfect outcome. To be a Concert Master requires professional expertise, ability to communicate, and leadership.

Jonathan Daitch, M.D. describes his work as a Board Certified Pain Management physician as a "labor of love". Such lyrical words are to be expected from a man who has played violin since age six and understands the requirements of precision and training to achieve a high level of proficiency. As Concert Master for the Fort Myers Gulf Coast Symphony he also knows a bit about the need for good communication.

Dr. Daitch and partner, Michael Frey, M.D., also Board Certified in Pain Management represent a two physician practice; Advanced Pain Management & Spine Specialists of Fort Myers (APMSS). They are building their practice patient-by-patient and are creating awareness among workers' compensation adjusters and case managers about their treatment approach.

"We believe that we have created something unique as an independent pain physician center of excellence," Dr. Daitch said during a recent interview. "We don't have in-house physical therapy or diagnostic imaging equipment. There is no self-referring in our practice," he emphasized.

Dr. Daitch believes this offers the adjuster/case manager more options. "Our goal is to provide the best patient care we can and utilize the best resources available in the community to further their rehabilitation," Dr. Daitch said.

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Dr. Frey, who has extensive experience in sports medicine agreed that working with health care providers in the community benefits the patients. "We seek to refer to therapists who will provide the best outcomes. We make ourselves accessible to adjusters and case managers," Dr. Frey added.

He believes that it is important that specialists in pain management should be seen soon after an injury to prevent a cycle of ongoing assessments, attempts at medicating the pain and therapy that does not achieve the desired outcomes. "I believe we can effectively improve return-to-work because we assess each patient from a rehabilitation perspective. I enjoy this specialty because I enjoy evaluating patients and implementing a program that returns them to their lives," Dr. Frey said.

With fifteen years of experience as an anesthesiologist, Dr. Daitch early on was attracted to the specialty of pain management and treatment. "I enjoy working with people and also the requirement for pinpoint accuracy. I saw that it was an under-served area with tremendous potential." In recent years there has been a growth in pain practices, and in the midst of the proliferation APMSS seeks to set itself apart.

"There are many more practitioners today and many of them are aligned with referral sources, or they are part of a group and locked into a referral network," he pointed out.



Jonathan Daitch, M.D. of Advanced Pain Management & Spine Specialists.

"One of the challenges is understanding the workers' compensation process. I am the kind of person who wants to get to know the adjusters and I like to have good communication and establish relationships," Dr. Daitch said. The system does not always make that easy, but he believes better communication results in better outcomes.

The practice is located in a 15,000 square foot office that Dr. Daitch says "has a life of its own" in terms of providing a staff and patient friendly atmosphere.

"It really is a team effort and our success is due to the support of the medical and administrative staff," he said. Future expansion is likely, but only to meet the needs of patients, but not for the sake of growing, Dr. Daitch indicated.

In terms of communication the practice has developed a "user friendly" website for the community and health care professionals. "We want to know when things are done right and also when there is a problem that needs to be resolved," Dr. Daitch added. "We also believe in giving back to the profession."

Both Dr. Daitch and Dr. Frey are members of the World Institute of Pain and the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians and lecture, publish papers and serve as



Michael Frey, M.D. brings a wide range of professional experience to APMSS.

examiners. They are also involved in the local medical community giving talks, providing continuing education programs and supporting local programs and projects. Dr. Daitch has also lobbied on Capitol Hill for developing guidelines to provide proper patient care, adding "the interest of the patient is foremost".

Ed. Note: Advanced Pain Management & Spine Specialists have offices in Fort Myers and Cape Coral. Using the latest technology and advanced treatment approaches physicians treat a wide range of conditions. The physicians provide CEUs and also feature a webinar educational program for adjusters and case managers. They welcome inquires and can be reached at 239-437-8000. The workers' compensation coordinator direct line is 239-337-6806. Visit the web site at www.apmss.net