

PREAMBLE

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Regional anaesthesia specialists and enthusiasts have a mission to improve the current state-of-the-art of regional anaesthesia in orthopaedics, obstetrics and day surgery as well as to advance the therapy of postsurgical pain, pains in adults and in children, and of any kind of severe pain that can be helped by sensible administration of drugs and other pain therapies. In addition to education on current pain research and therapy through conferences and publications, we must promote education on the management of pain for both medical students and health professionals.

By recognizing the dominant role of the brain, which generates our subjective experiences and activates our defense systems, we are now able to get a bit closer to the interlinked relationship between pain and stress. These relationships among stress, gender, the immune system, and chronic pain syndromes reveal the need to study pain in a biological context far broader than a pain pathway.

Postoperative pain has been poorly managed for decades. Regional anaesthetic techniques are the most effective methods to treat postoperative pain. The role of acute pain services to improve pain management and outcome is well accepted but implementation seems challenging.

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