

Voice Newspaper

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Technique Being Studied Mapping Pain May be Part of Treatment Plans

Treating chronic pain is challenging but can also be rewarding for the physician who is able to provide pain relief and the opportunity for the injured person to return to their life and work.

Research into pain care and treatment is ongoing and some recent developments in a process called pain mapping is showing positive results.

Gabor B. Racz, MD, DABPM, FIPP, President of the World Institute on Pain said that "mapping" pain is an evolving concept. "If you stimulate a nerve and the patient feels it as pain, then you can map it out and begin treatment, Dr. Racz told an audience of physicians and rehabilitation professionals at a recent South Florida Conference.

"We have been studying the process of pain mapping for several years and it will come about as a procedure that will help us treat patients more effectively," Dr. Racz said.

The internationally known

physician is Professor and Chairman, Emeritus of the Department of Anesthesiology and Director of the Pain Center at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, TX.

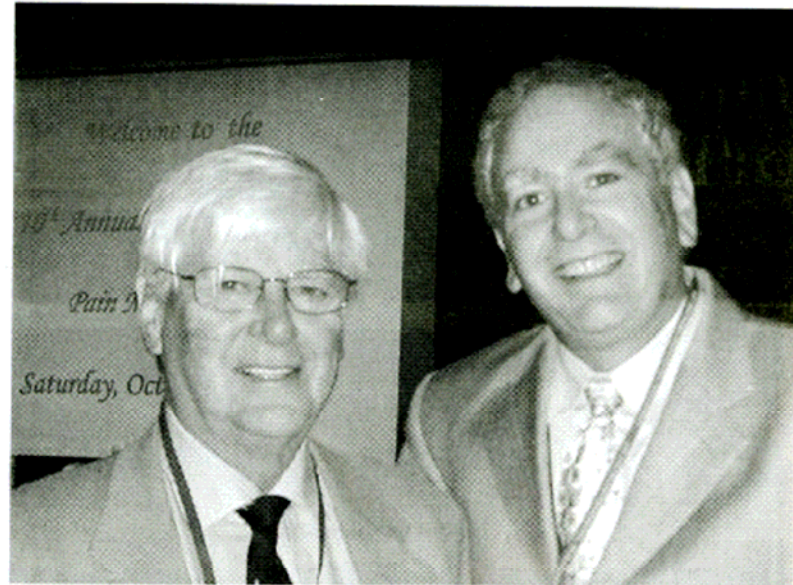
He is an advocate of patient education, particularly in regards to followup physical therapy and rehabilitation. He said patients should seek out good physical therapists. "The quality of the

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physical therapy is very important," Dr. Racz said.

He also advised individuals with pain problems to seek out the best programs they can find. "We need to raise the bar, not by legislation, but through education to get the best outcomes for patients," Dr. Racz said. "Functional recovery is the name of the game."

The pain management program was presented by Anesthesia Pain Care Consultants in



Gabor B. Racz, MD, left with Ira Fox, MD, at the 10th Annual Pain Management Conference held in South Florida.

Broward County. Course directors were Ira Fox, MD, DABPM, FIPP, founder of Anesthesia Pain Care Consultants of Tamarac, FL and Jay Lasner, MD, DABPM, FIPP, cofounder.

"There needs to be a sharing of information among the profes-

sions," Dr. Fox said in welcoming the attendees to the 10 Annual New Directions in Pain Management program, which was jointly sponsored by USF Health.

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