



Missouri Pain Initiative

A member of the Alliance of State Pain Initiatives

Missouri Pain Initiative 2010 Board of Directors

Bernard M. Abrams, MD

Bernard (Bernie) Abrams is a Neurologist with special interest in pain. He has contributed numerous chapters (over 10 this year) to Pain Management texts and is a Course Director for the Pain Board Review Course given each year in August by the Dannemiller Memorial Educational Foundation, of which he is Vice President. He approves all programs for that organization related to Pain and Medical subjects (excluding anesthesia) and is an ACCME examiner whose charge is to avoid commercial bias in educational presentations. Over the course of his professional career, Bernie has given hundreds of lectures, almost all on pain.

John G. Carney, MEd

John Carney is Vice President, Aging and End of Life at the Center for Practical Bioethics. With an undergraduate degree in philosophy and a masters in counseling, Carney has spent most of his career in the non-profit healthcare arena most notably as the executive of Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice (Wichita, KS) for 15 years. In 2000, John was named the chief operating officer for the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in Alexandria, Virginia and also worked for America's Health Insurance Plans and the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association (Washington DC) directing its educational programs until his return to the Midwest in August 2004.

In the early 1990s, John helped launch the LIFE Project in Kansas, a statewide effort to build citizen and community awareness on end of life and aging issues. He is well known regionally as a passionate spokesperson for patients and their families and caregivers facing end of life issues. His experience in advocacy, regulatory, and legislative initiatives, will strengthen the Center's work in coalition building, policy reform, professional education, and citizen engagement.

Rebecca Rengo-Kocher MA, MSW, LCSW, ACSW

Rebecca Rengo-Kocher received her Master of Arts degree in Public Administration and her Masters in Social Work from The Ohio State University. Rebecca is also certified in gerontology from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Rebecca has held numerous positions in health care settings (i.e. long term care, home health, and hospice) and was on full time faculty at Washington University in the School of Medicine, Memory and Aging Project. Rebecca was also an adjunct professor at St. Louis University, School of Psychiatry. Rebecca continues to serve as an adjunct professor in the Schools of Social Work at: Washington University, St. Louis University and the University of Missouri-St. Louis

Rebecca has served on numerous committees and boards throughout her career. She has received several awards for her community service, including the Sister Pat Kelley Award from the National Association of Social Workers-eastern unit, Woman of Worth Award from the Older Women's League, and the Paul Harris Fellow from Rotary International. Rebecca has recently released a book "Beyond Chronic Pain" and provides tele-seminars, coaching and professional speaking on topics related to chronic pain and quality of life issues.

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Ann J. Corley, MS

Ann Corley served as the Executive Director of the Missouri Pain Initiative from 2005-08. She currently works for the American Pain Foundation's Action Network, the grassroots advocacy arm of the organization.

Josephine Hawkins, APRN, MSN, AOCN

Josephine (Jo) Hawkins is a semi-retired Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) from Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Most of her profession experience has been in medical nursing and oncology nursing. Jo spent 25 years as a nurse manager. She has authored articles on pain management, dyspnea in the oncology patient, oncology care path development, skin cancer, safe delivery of chemotherapy, and the use of GCSF in ulcerative colitis patients. As CNS, Jo developed many classes for nursing and community education in oncology disease process, chemotherapy certification, pain and symptom management, cancer prevention and early detection. She has given lectures to home care agencies on arthritis pain, skin cancer, lung cancer and pain management. She is currently adjunct faculty at the Barnes-Jewish School for Nursing

Brian L. Valentine

Brian Valentine studied Marketing and Finance at Central Missouri State University. In his current position as community outreach worker for the University of Missouri- Columbia, Brian is responsible for building collaborative partnerships with private and public health entities in the underserved communities of central Missouri.

Brian has participated in positions of leadership for several social organizations: IMPACT Association, Callaway Action Network, Concord Baptist Association, Baptist Student Union, GETAWAY, and Missouri Re-Entry Steer Committee.