

The International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) is the leading professional forum for science, practice and education in the field of pain. Membership in IASP is open to all professionals involved in research, diagnosis or treatment of pain. IASP has more than 7 000 members in 126 countries, 84 national chapters, and 14 Special Interest Groups.

The International Association for the Study of Pain began in May 1973 with an interdisciplinary meeting in Issaquah, Washington, USA, organized by University of Washington anesthesiology professor John J. Bonica. The participants, 350 scientists and clinicians from 13 countries, decided to found a multidisciplinary professional organization dedicated to pain research and management, and agreed to launch a journal, called *PAIN*, to be edited by Patrick D. Wall. Bonica identified IASP's mission: to provide an egalitarian, interdisciplinary, and international forum to improve knowledge about pain, improve the education of health care providers, and improve the care of patients. IASP is non-profit organization governed by its Council.

The biennial World Congress on Pain, the world's largest pain-related gathering, is international and multidisciplinary. The 13th World Congress on Pain took place in Montreal, Canada, from August 29 to September 2, 2010.