LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We appreciate the perspective that Ms. Meghani provides in her letter regarding biases in reporting research results relevant to racial and ethnic disparities in the treatment of pain. There is an expanding literature regarding undertreatment of pain in minorities and other vulnerable populations that this special issue addressed. However, there is some literature (as the writer correctly states) that does not show disparities in pain treatment based on race and ethnicity. Because most of the pain literature supports disparities in pain care, it can be easy to overlook research that reaches discrepant conclusions. As Ms. Meghani notes, identifying and reconciling discrepant findings is crucial if the research enterprise is to move forward on firm ground and lead to enduring changes in policy and practice.

The editors of the special issue thank the writer for her careful reading of the Sullivan and Eagle article and for bringing other research, as well as other interpretations of the research, to the readership’s attention. The practice of pain medicine and the research on this critically important public health issue can only benefit from open exchanges such as these.

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Guest Editors
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