Letter to the Editor


Bonjour docteur Craig,

Your editorial about knowledge translation prompts me to send you this message.

I believe the problem of pain science knowledge translation has a political dimension that should be confronted head-on. It is a problem of resource distribution that could be compared, for example, with the one that prevails in nutrition science, in which solutions to hunger are well known but can only be implemented through politically adequate resource distribution.

What modern politics are still lacking, in my view, is an approach to suffering (algonomy; www.algosphere.org/indexen.htm) that could inform social-economic management. There is a need for a science of suffering (algoscience; www.algosphere.org/intro/index.html), and the fields of psychology and pain science should be more aware of that need. Your editorial uses the words 'suffer' and 'suffering', it raises the question of how pain is conceptualized and it states that there is a great need for integrative, even speculative, reviews and theoretical analyses. I would like us to go further – to clarify the link between pain and suffering, to recognize that because pain is an unpleasant experience, it is therefore a kind of suffering, to perform not only reviews and analyses but also to create the new science of suffering that must be created.

If you ever hear of someone who might be interested, able and available for that kind of creation work, please let me know!

Robert Daoust
Algosphere
Montreal, Quebec