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Q: Why did you join IVAPM?

A: I joined IVAPM during its inception in 2001. I was working at Pfizer Animal Health when they supported the start of the Pain Consortium which led to the development of the IVAPM.

Q: What is the importance of pain management in veterinary medicine?

A: I watched this field grow from non-existent to a widely respected specialty and a daily part of veterinary care. It is still hard to believe that not long ago we did not think about managing pain in our patients and now that we understand the detrimental effects of painfulness we can improve the perioperative experience, speed recovery and prevent and treat chronic pain. There is still much to learn but we are moving in the right direction and the IVAPM is committed to ensuring that.

Q: What vet medicine pain management related initiatives are you involved with and/or most proud of accomplishing?

A: After more than 40 years in veterinary medicine, working in academia, specialty practice and the pharma industry, I was honored to receive many speaking awards and serve on the boards of directors for the first Veterinary Technician Specialty (VTS), the Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Society (VECCS) and ultimately to serve as the first non-veterinarian president of the IVAPM.

Q: What passion veterinary projects are you currently involved?

A: Starting a non-profit charity [eagleYcondor](#) and directing the veterinary projects has been the highlight of my career. I have the opportunity to work with the most dedicated people I have ever met in an effort to bring spay/neutering and healthcare to poor communities in Ecuador.

Ms. Shaffran is a graduate of Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania.