Ernest Volinn, a sociologist, is Research Associate Professor at the Pain Research Center, University of Utah. He has conducted extensive research on the outcomes of pain treatment. For example, how effective are opioid analgesics for back pain? His research on pain treatment has led him to explore how socio-cultural context influences the experience of pain and its treatment. Although he publishes mainly in medical journals (e.g., *Spine*), his research approach is eclectic and incorporates aspects of sociology, anthropology, and epidemiology. Recently, he published a cross-national comparison of how back pain is manifested among workers in Japan and the U.S. He is now conducting research on pain and its treatment with colleagues at West China Medical College/Sichuan University.