

## Meeting minutes: 2021 SIP Stakeholder Forum

Zoom, 09/11/2021

### Attendees

**SIP/EFIC/PAE Attendees:** Brona Fullen, Sam Kynman, Deirdre Ryan, Patrice Forget, Jamie Wilkinson, Alberto Antonacci, Mariana Branco, Angela Cano Palomares.

**Stakeholder Forum Attendees:** Gertrude Buttigieg, Amanda Leighton Bellichach, André Ljutow, Bill Giannakopoulos, Donna Walsh, Emmi Weller, Gisèle Pickering, Gudula Petersen, Ivone Machado, Juan J. Fernandez R., Kenia Muñoz, Lara Grosso Sategna, Liisa Jutila, Maira Cardillo, Maria Teresa Flor-de-Lima, Maria-Louisa Busuttil, Martin Rakusa, Martina Phelan, Miguel Pérez Navarro, Nevenka Krceviski-Skvarc, Omer Vanhaute, Sumathi Subramaniam, Ber Oomen.

### 1. Welcome and introductions

- Patrice Forget (PF) welcomed all attendees and presented the agenda for the day
- Deirdre Ryan (DR) presented herself and welcomed everyone
- Jamie Wilkinson (JW) introduced the SIP Team

### 2. Background on SIP

- JW provided a short introduction on SIP's long-term priorities, such as pain as an indicator, pain education, pain in employment and pain research
- JW provided an overview of SIP's background and change of governance model in July 2020

### 3. SIP 2021 achievements and aspirations for 2022

- JW provided a short overview of SIP 2020-2021 Policy priorities, i.e., cancer pain policy, employment and social integration of pain patients, and pain and digital medicine
- JW provided a short explanation on the policy activities related to these priorities, in addition to those activities related to ICD-11, which were initiated in September 2021
- JW provided an overview of SIP's suggested priority areas for 2022 and beyond
- When surveyed live, 75% of Stakeholder Forum attendees indicated that they would be interested in providing input into future SIP position papers
- JW invited all to provide feedback on SIP's Position Paper on Digital Health: Pain Assessment and Quality Indicators
- JW stated that this paper will be launched early next year, and encouraged attendees to provide feedback by 16 December 2021
- JW stated that, in addition to the Annual SF meeting, he would like to have bi-lateral calls with Stakeholder Forum members around May each year

### 4. Highlights from around the table for 2021

- JW invited attendees to share what were / are the top three policy priorities for their organisation in 2021
  - The top four answers were: employment, digital health, BECA Plan, and multimodal pain treatment
- JW invited attendees to share what are / will be the top three policy priorities for their organisation in 2022+

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The 'Societal Impact of Pain' (SIP) platform is a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the European Pain Federation EFIC and Pain Alliance Europe (PAE), which aims to raise awareness of pain and change pain policies. The scientific framework of the SIP platform is under the responsibility of EFIC and the strategic direction of the project is defined by both partners. The pharmaceutical companies Grünenthal GmbH and Pfizer are the main sponsors of the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) platform

- The top answers were: digital health, ICD-11, cancer, pain and work, health workforce, COVID-19 impact, and pain as disability
- JW invited attendees to share relevant policy and advocacy activities they have worked on during 2021
  - Gertrude Buttigieg (GB), from SIP Malta, stated that webinars such as the one organised by SIP and EU/OSHA in September, have proven to be very useful at national level. Materials from the webinar have been translated and shared and will continue to be shared in the future. GB also stated that, on a local level, SIP Malta has launched, (together with the Ministry of Social Accommodation and supported by the Ministry for Inclusion and Social Wellbeing), a scheme entitled 'New Hope' to allow people with chronic conditions to secure mortgages. The scheme was launched in September/October 2021. GB explained they will continue to advocate for invisible disabilities, including chronic pain, in the years to come
- JW stated that SIP will organise similar webinars in the future for both national and EU level colleagues
- Sumathi Subramaniam (SS), from the European Academy of Neurology, stated that one of the themes worth highlighting is pain treatment and, therefore, a topic worth pursuing might be how to include pain treatment into an integrated response, in order to help Member States at national level
- Related to this, JW invited Sam Kynman (SK) to share some news on a European Pain Forum project on multimodal pain treatment. SK stated that the Forum is working on a definition of multimodal pain treatment
- JW stated that there may be an opportunity to produce a document within SIP which would complement the work being done on the European Pain Forum on the definition
- Maria-Louisa Busuttill (MLB), from the European Region of World Physiotherapy, gave an overview of their working groups and stated that pain is frequently treated condition by physiotherapists. Therefore, they are open to future collaboration. MLB also talked about the campaign '[InAbled Cities](#)' which aims to develop inclusive urban environments for physical activity for people with disabilities and senior citizens. MLB placed a special focus on how COVID-19 and long-COVID has affected and advanced pain
- André Ljutow (AL), from SIP Switzerland, stated that they started the SIP National Platform in 2019. AL gave an overview of their activities, such as working on establishing chronic pain as a disease and developing papers on inclusion and exclusion criteria
- Maira Cardillo (MC), from Active Citizenship Network (ACN), gave an overview of ACN's activities, such as [EU-Level webinars](#), [stroke prevention](#), and contributing to the understanding of COVID-19 with a [survey](#)
- Nevenka Krceviski-Skvarc (NKS), from SIP Slovenia, stated that multidisciplinary pain management is key. NKS stated a meeting on chronic low back pain was held in October 2021 in Slovenia. NKS added that interdisciplinary pain management is also of great importance
- SK stated that IASP has a project on interdisciplinary pain management, and plans have been made to work hand in hand on the topic within the European pain forum
- Maria Teresa Flor-de-Lima (MTF), from SIP Portugal, stated that educating patients on pain is currently their main project, and that they are finishing translating SIP materials in order for them to be published on their website
- In response to a question from MTF on the effects of COVID-19, Angela Cano Palomares (ACP) from SIP, stated that the EFIC COVID-19 Task Force published relevant papers on their website, and have launched two surveys, (one for healthcare professionals and one for patients), in order to understand the impact of COVID-19 on pain services (with a focus on telehealth). Both the papers and the surveys can be found [here](#). ACP also stated the

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EFIC Patient Education Working Group is currently working on a series of brochures to educate patients on pain management. Once these ready, these will be made available on the EFIC [website](#)

- Deirdre Ryan (DR) stated that PAE developed and launched in-depth surveys regarding COVID-19 over the last two years. The results can be found on PAE's [website](#). DR also stated they will work to find a way of introducing the results into the policy arena
- Omer Vanhoute (OV), from the UGent / National Service of Public Health in Belgium), stated that chronic conditions should be on the policy agenda. OV stated there is an interest on the 'return to work' policy area. However, OV acknowledges policy changes take time, therefore, supporting the area of 'returning to work and employment' should be a priority
- JW stated the topic of returning to work will indeed remain on the SIP 2022 agenda to keep the momentum
- Liisa Jutila (LJ), from PAE, stated that the Finnish Pain Association received funding to develop webinars, roundtables, and programmes around the topic of pain. LJ stated COVID-19 has placed the focus on pain

#### 5. [Thoughts on new policy areas for SIP to explore in the future](#)

- JW asked attendees for additional opportunities they consider relevant for SIP to engage in 2022+, in terms of policy and advocacy activities
  - The top four answers were: self-management, education, and pain post COVID-19
- OV stated that it would be interesting to explore the topic of data sharing. OV stated that digital health could be a tool to increase the awareness on pain and quality indicators. OV also stated the importance of understanding to what extent countries have included pain in ICD-11
- JW stated that these topics have indeed been identified as priority areas for SIP to work on in 2022+
- JW and DR stated that it is important to recognise the areas where issues related to pain can be addressed, that is to say, explore all possible policy areas, e.g., such as transport, diversity, and inclusion / equalities, digital, etc.
- Martin Rakusa (MR), from EAN, stated that a big database is being prepared with papers on COVID-19. MR invited all to visit the website once ready

#### 6. [Next steps and close](#)

- JW explained that SIP has recently drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (SIP SF MoU)
- JW stated that this MoU aims to strengthen the SIP SF, and nurture further collaboration in the future
- JW invited attendees to consider signing this MoU, and to add their organisation's name and logo
- JW stated that there will be several opportunities to work together in the future, to strengthen the policy positions of the SIP platform, for example, starting with an invitation to review the draft SIP Digital Health Position Paper by EOB 16 December 2021
- DR reminded the attendees that they can send their news and updates to SIP, for them to be shared through the SIP newsletter, website, and social media channels
- DR and JW thanked everyone and closed the meeting

## 7. Actions

- SIP to develop additional webinars in 2022+ (such as the one held in September by SIP and EU/OSHA) for both national and EU level stakeholders
- SIP to explore the possibility of producing a complementary document to the European Pain Forum work on a definition of multimodal pain treatment
- Attendees are invited to consider signing of the SIP SF MoU (deadline: rolling / ongoing)
- Attendees are invited to review the draft SIP Position Paper on Digital Health: Pain Assessment and Quality Indicators (deadline: EOB 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021)
- SIP's policy priority areas for 2022(+) should be:
  - Continued work on employment and pain policy
  - Digital health and pain
  - Multimodal pain treatment
  - Impact of COVID-19
  - ICD-11

## About SIP

The '[Societal Impact of Pain](#)' (SIP) platform is a multi-stakeholder partnership led by the [European Pain Federation](#) (EFIC) and [Pain Alliance Europe](#) (PAE). SIP aims to raise awareness of pain and to change pain policies. The platform provides opportunities for discussion for health care professionals, pain advocacy groups, politicians, healthcare insurance providers, representatives of health authorities, regulators, and budget holders.

## Contacts

For further information, please contact:

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