

From: European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC®)

Subject: “Societal Impact of Pain”, 30 & 31 May 2012 - Copenhagen, Denmark.
Block the date and call for abstracts.

Brussels, 24 January 2012



Dear Madam, dear Sir,

This letter is to invite you to block May 30 & 31, 2012 in your agenda for your participation at the symposium “Societal Impact of Pain” SIP 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Chronic pain poses a severe burden on the individual but also on the society, including an enormous economic burden for the health care systems. So far, a structured programme of the institutions of the EU targeting these challenges and long-term consequences of chronic pain is missing:

- Chronic pain is one of the major reasons for discontinuation of labour and early retirement and undermines the *Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*.
- Chronic pain, which is pre-dominant mainly in elderly people, also undermines the European goal of healthy ageing, as expressed in the *European innovation partnership action and healthy ageing*.
- Chronic pain directly affects sufferers and their quality of life and should be addressed by a common, horizontal approach according to a resolution on non-communicable diseases adopted by the European Parliament recently.

It is therefore that EFIC®, as one of the most relevant scientific societies of healthcare professionals for the study of pain in Europe, calls for policymakers and decision-makers alike to adopt a much wider, strategic perspective in their deliberations regarding service provision and resource allocation.

In May 2011 the symposium “Societal Impact of Pain” took place in the European parliament. An important outcome of SIP 2011 was the Road Map for Action, which outlines the key issues on how the EU institutions and member states could effectively address the societal impact of pain at both EU and national levels.



Based on the tremendous response of the previous SIP symposia EFIC® and Grünenthal have decided to organise SIP 2012. The national and European implementation of the Road Map for Action will be a central theme for discussion.

In the first half of 2012, Denmark will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Supported by a large group of Danish and European stakeholders EFIC® aims to raise awareness with the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the societal impact of pain by organising SIP 2012 in Denmark.

The 3rd symposium on the “Societal Impact of Pain” will take place May 30 & 31, 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark. This symposium offers a unique opportunity for developing the dialogue between all key stakeholders involved in future pain care policy.

The SIP 2012 symposium is hosted by the Danish Association for Chronic Pain Patients (FAKS). The scientific framework of SIP 2012 is designed under the responsibility of the European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC®). The pharmaceutical company Grünenthal GmbH is responsible for funding and non-financial support (e.g. logistical support).

As announced above, I would like to invite you to block the dates May 30 & 31, 2012 in your agenda. Registration will open at 12-01-2012 at:

<http://www.regonline.com/sip-copenhagen>

I look forward to welcoming you in Copenhagen.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Hans G. Kress, MD, PhD
President

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