

February 2017

7TH EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present you with the 7th edition of the Societal Impact of Pain newsletter and am greatly encouraged by some of the fantastic news within. Securing the attendance of the Maltese Minister for Health, Chris Fearné, and Martin Seychell who is the Deputy Director General DG Sante sends a clear message that the societal impact of pain is on the agenda for Malta and the EU.

With SIP 2017 fast approaching, I would encourage anyone considering coming to register for SIP immediately, in order to avoid disappointment you may do so [here](#).

The next edition of the newsletter will be distributed in mid-April.

Sincerely,



Prof. Bart Morlion
Director of the Multidisciplinary Pain Centre of the University of Leuven, Belgium
President Elect of the European Pain Federation (EFIC)

Events

OECD Health Ministerial Meeting

On 17 January 2017 the Health Ministers and Representatives of OECD Members and Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Peru and South Africa met in Paris. The purpose of the meeting was to share views and options on how to design and implement the Next Generation of Health Reforms. In the concluding statement pain was mentioned.

Members discussed the achievements of the healthcare systems over the past years, which include progress towards effective Universal Health Coverage; the rise in life expectancy; progress in delivering safe and effective care and positive outcomes from the promotion of healthier lifestyles.

Read our [full report here](#).

SIP Delegation meets with Martin Seychell, Deputy Director General, DG SANTE



On the 12th of January, a delegation of SIP - Joop van Griensven (PAE), Patrice Forget (European Pain Federation, EFIC), Bianca Ferraiolo (ACN) and Norbert van Rooij (Grünenthal) - met with Martin Seychell, Deputy Director-General for Health in the European Commission and Stefan Schreck (Head of Unit -Health Programme and Chronic Disease Unit) in order to discuss [SIP's policy recommendations](#) and to understand how the Commission could help pursue these.

Read more [here](#).

Publications

SIP Announcement Flyer 2017 Launch

We are pleased to provide you with [this flyer](#) for the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Symposium 2017. It has been designed using the colours of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU and represents an overview and summary of the event with some basic logistical information. It has been approved by the Maltese Presidency team for further distribution.

Please use [this flyer](#) to promote SIP 2017 wherever possible (e.g. in meetings, on your website etc.) to raise awareness of the event. We will continuously update the information on the SIP website about the planned program and other SIP 2017 relevant relevant information.



European Observatory on Health Systems Policy Brief

The European Observatory on Health Systems has published a policy brief on structured co-operation between health systems to tackle workforce related challenges related to highly specialised healthcare. For SIP, this aligns closely to the title of the upcoming symposium in June "Structured co-operation to tackle the societal impact of pain". Below is an excerpt from the full document:

"Finally, the exchange of good practices in cross-border cooperation to address health workforce challenges in highly specialized health care seems beneficial. While in many cases a proper evaluation will be required to establish what is actually 'good practice', there is a wealth of knowledge available that can inspire various actors in the health system – from governments and health agencies to health care providers, professional bodies, funding organizations, education institutions and other health care sector actors – seeking solutions to problems of the health workforce in providing highly specialized care."

Find the full document [here](#).

EU-Level Initiatives

Pain Alliance Europe Launches Survey in 17 Languages

PAE has created an internet survey which is available on [their website](#). They have asked all their member organisations to feature the link for the appropriate survey in their language on their website. (If you need advice on which one to use, please contact: info@pae-eu.eu)

The usefulness of the survey will increase according to how many responses they receive, so we urge you to ask your members and all other chronic pain patients to click through and complete the survey in order to collect as much information as possible. If this survey proves successful, PAE have plans for other surveys on the various topics dealing with chronic pain such as work, insurance, etc.

National Initiatives

Impact of Pain on Maltese Citizens – Project has been approved for through VOPs

To-date there is no data available in Malta which reflects the number of people affected by pain and how this affects their lives. The Maltese organisations Malta Health Network and No Pain Foundation have submitted a pain research project proposal to be funded through the “Voluntary Organisations Project Scheme 2017”. In December 2016 the project has been selected by Voluntary Organisations Project Selection committee to benefit from the fund managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector on behalf of the Ministry for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties (Malta).

The study team is now very busy to prepare the project together with esteemed advisors in Epidemiology, Bioethics, Epidemiology and Social research. First results are planned to be presented at the Societal Impact of Pain 2017 Symposium in Valletta from the 7th-9th of June which is co-hosted by Malta Health Network and No Pain Foundation.



Announcements

Sam Kynman to join the European Pain Federation EFIC as Executive Director

Sam joins the European Pain Federation, EFIC with significant experience working for a large public affairs and communications agency and before that in the European Parliament. He has been supporting SIP for several years and has now taken up a position as the Executive Director for the European Pain Federation, EFIC.

Confirmed Speakers at SIP 2017: Chris Fearne and Martin Seychell

The Maltese Minister for Health, Chris Fearne, and Deputy Director General of DG Sante, Martin Seychell, have both confirmed their participation at SIP 2017.

SIP 2017 registered on the official Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU Calendar



In preparation for SIP 2017, which is being held under the auspices of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, an official informational document has been prepared to promote and advertise the event. It is available to be downloaded [here](#). SIP 2017 has now officially been added to the Maltese agenda calendar and one can find the event listed [here](#).

Upcoming Events

“Cluster Headache: one of the worst pains known to man!” 21st March, Brussels, Belgium

Active Citizenship Network will participate as a panellist in the conference “Cluster Headache - One of the worst pains known to man!” organised by the [European Headache Federation](#) and the [European Headache Alliance](#) to celebrate the second edition of the European Cluster Headache Day. The event will be held on March 21st 2017 from 11:00 to 13:30 in Brussels at the European Parliament in room ASP1H1. For further information on the event please visit the [website](#).

Postoperative Pain Management: The New Challenges: 31st March Lyon, France

This one day conference will cover a wide range of pain related topics, with special focus on post-operative pain care and treatment. You can find the full programme (In French) [here](#). The event will run from 9am until 4pm the same day and will take place in three sessions.

Dutch Pain Society Congress: 1st April Eindhoven, The Netherlands

The DPS is proud to announce that the following keynote speakers will be joining them this year in Eindhoven: John D. Loeser, Pete Moore and Andrew S.C. Rice.

You can find more information on the DPS Congress (In Dutch) [here](#).

SIP 2017: Can Davids beat the Goliaths? Valletta, Malta

On the 7th of June 2017 prior to SIP on Malta, the [Global Alliance for Patient Access \(GAfPA\)](#) will host a three hour workshop focused on policy advocacy. Learn how healthcare providers and their patients can work together to inform policymaking whether it be in Brussels, or your home country. The workshop will include a presentation on the keys to effective policy advocacy, a panel discussion featuring best practices and lobbying case studies and an interactive breakout session. Learn why, when it comes to policy advocacy, Davids can beat the Goliaths. Sign up today [here](#).

Contact us!

Questions? Need support? Wish to endorse or to publish on SIP Platform?

In case you should have any question regarding the newsletter's contents, please contact Prof. Bart Morlion, EFIC President Elect: bart.morlion@uzleuven.be.

In case you would like to endorse the SIP Platform or to publish news on the SIP Website, please contact Norbert van Rooij (Grünenthal GmbH, Head of Governmental Affairs & Patient Centricity): sip-platform@grunenthal.com.

In case you should have any technical questions or need assistance, please contact Gudula Petersen (Website Editor): sip-platform@grunenthal.com.

Find us on social media:



Imprint

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For further information please click [here](#).