



SIP
Societal Impact of Pain

2017

**Structured Cooperation
between Health Care
Systems tackling the
societal impact of pain!**

Pre-symposium - Wednesday
June 7th 2017 – The societal
Impact of pain on Malta

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Disclosure Statement of conflict of interest in the context of the subject of this presentation

Within the past 12 months, I or my spouse/partner have had following financial interest/arrangement(s) or affiliation(s)

- **Support for travel**NA.....
- **Honoraria for lectures**NA.....
- **Honoraria for advisory board activities**NA.....
- **Participation in clinical trials**NA.....
- **Research funding**NA.....
- **Financial shares and options**NA.....
-NA.....

A Maltese Consensus Paper for Chronic Pain



Maltese stakeholders with an interest in Chronic Pain led by Malta Health Network, No Pain Foundation and SIP Malta fully endorse the Societal Impact of Pain 2016 Policy Recommendations: Time for Action and The Societal Impact of Pain, "A Road Map for Action".

This document recognizes that the successful implementation of the 8 Policy Recommendations is dependent on collaboration between EU member states.

A Maltese Consensus Paper for Chronic Pain



Our recommendations are guided by five factors, namely:

- **Ease of implementation**
- **Cost-effectiveness**
- **Urgency**
- **National Priorities**
- **Major impact on patients.**

The Maltese Stakeholders are making the following recommendations, in relation to the Maltese scene:

1. Chronic Pain should be included as an independent condition facilitating the access of chronic pain sufferers to treatment. Chronic pain should be recognized as a disease in its own right and not as a symptom of other diseases.
2. A 'Chronic Pain Prevention' Campaign should be run to raise awareness about chronic pain. Such a campaign should be conducted within a wide variety of settings and should target all groups at risk of developing persistent pain.
3. Local Pain Management policies and services within our national hospital should be restructured and streamlined towards European policies and guidelines.
4. Chronic pain should be duly recognized and relative research should be prioritized through appropriate funding.

The Maltese Stakeholders are making the following recommendations, in relation to the Maltese scene:

5. Recognition of the wide-ranging implications of pain should be endorsed through closer inter-ministerial collaboration.
6. Pain should be included as a key indicator in the outcomes of medical and surgical interventions.
7. Appropriate facilities should be established to facilitate specialization of health professionals in the field of pain.
8. The Maltese authorities should enact and facilitate vocational retraining and integration into the workforce of persons suffering from chronic pain.
9. A National Pain Plan should be established and implemented by 2020.

Any organisation or individual wishing to endorse this document is invited to contact any of the above organisations.

SIP 2017 Malta Pre-symposium



- Boaz Samolsky Dekel: The treatment of pain patients can be demanding, and the right and good practice of pain medicine in the current economic, legal and social environment can be difficult. The clinician is in the position of understanding that the subjective experience is the objective reality of pain.
- Chris Wells- stressed on learning from best-practices, looking at what works and practicing it for the welfare of patients.
- Neville Calleja – agreed that research is necessary to know numbers and how this is impacting on persons' life. Research can help justification for investing more in health. He mentioned the research collaboration between Ministry of Health & No Pain Foundation based on validated questionnaires being carried out.

Professionals' view

- Dr Mario Gixti presented another study which is being carried out by MHN & NPF called the 'Impact of Pain in Maltese Citizens' to obtain an indication of the degree of pain in Malta & then use data to make recommendations for poli
- Dr Marilyn Casha gave an overview of services offered by the Pain Clinic in Mater Dei Hospital, Malta which is being run by a Specialist in Pain rather than service by other specialists. She showed concern for non-referral to specialized pain care eg in cancer. Problem with lack of medicines because our market is too small to make it economically viable to supply.
- Matthew Camilleri- gave the perspective of the importance to therapies for the pain patients looking at Physiotherapy as an example to be considered by policy makers in services development.

- Pete Moore – Pain self-management is not on the agenda services are mostly stuck in the medical model. Patients take responsibility for their pain. Professionals need self-management skills in training and thus we need to rethink the training programmes of professionals.
- Mariano Votta- introduced the concept of the Pan-Euro Mediterranean collalition which is an initiative which developed over a number of years of collections of best practices which is now being proposed to be taken to a more collaborative level.
- Patients expressed their views via video realized in collaboration with Maltese associations. They shared the burden placed by pain on their everyday lives and this was followed by discussion where patients shared the positive outcome which effected their lives through the experience of pain.

Discussion conclusions in perspective of the Consensus paper



With the contribution of the experts panel which included Joop van Griensven, Chris Wells, Nicola Bedlington & William Raffaelli the discussion looked at how the proposed consensus paper fitted in with developments on a European level.

The session was concluded by another panel which included Rev Fr Chris Caruana and Ms Antoinette Calleja.

There was a general agreement that the proposed Consensus paper can be achievable and doable given the good will of all involved. The paper seeks to drive policy by applying knowledge, skills and human sensibility in the pain professionals, stimulate more collaboration with the pain patient, applying the most technically right and morally sound actions to regain personal dignity.