



PDF



MEDIA



CONTACT



SIP

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

## 31ST EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

Dear reader,

As 2020 draws to a close, the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) would like to thank you for your continued support, during what has been a unique year. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on our daily lives, in particular, for healthcare professionals and patients living with chronic pain.

The disruption caused by COVID has affected not only the provision of healthcare services across the spectrum of care, but also across the globe. To understand more about the impact of COVID on the delivery and receipt of pain therapy, Pain Alliance Europe (PAE) launched a survey to find out [how chronic pain patients across the EU are affected by COVID-19](#). For example, any difficulties chronic pain patients are having accessing treatment for their pain condition; how the pandemic is affecting them socially, emotionally, and financially; the research that is now being conducted; and whether technology is helping them. PAE also recently presented the results of another survey on [“Pain and E-Health and M-Health”](#) in the context of the current pandemic. The results show that, for people living with chronic pain, using electronic methods to support their health, is not well known.

Despite the pandemic, SIP Europe remained committed to continuing its advocacy work. For example, it did not stop us from appointing a new leader for SIP, and we are delighted to welcome [Prof. Patrice Forget, who has accepted the role of SIP Working Group Chair for EFIC](#). Patrice is a Belgian physician and Clinical Chair in Anaesthesia, University of Aberdeen, and Honorary Consultant, NHS Grampian, Aberdeen, United Kingdom. We look forward to working together over the next three years. We would also like to thank Professor Bart Morlion, who has stepped down from the role prior to Patrice’s appointment.

Shortly after publishing our Cancer Position Paper, SIP Europe held a series of virtual meetings with the offices of [MEP Irena Joveva](#), [MEP Roberta Metsola](#), [MEP Alfred Sant](#), [MEP Dolors Montserrat](#), [MEP Susana Solís Pérez](#), [MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen](#), and [MEP Margarita de la Pisa Carrión](#). During these meetings we took the opportunity to speak about the 2018 SIP [Joint Statement](#), SIP’s long-term priorities (pain indicators, pain education, pain in employment, and pain research), and SIPs 2020-21 policy priorities (cancer pain policies, employment and social integration of pain patients, and pain and digital medicine).

These meetings were also a timely opportunity to discuss the key facts and recommendations from the SIP Cancer Position Paper, particularly in light of the upcoming [Europe's Beating Cancer Plan](#) (EBCP) (expected January 2021), and the ongoing work of the European Parliament's Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA).

As we move into 2021, SIP continues to lay the groundwork for policy influencing in our other priority areas (such as employment and social integration of pain patients, and pain and digital medicine). On the topic of employment and social integration of pain patients, we recently submitted SIP's pledges to [reinforce the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights](#).

Within the area of digital medicine, SIP also took the opportunity to contribute to the European Commission's [Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health \(EXPH\)](#) draft opinion on the organisation of resilient health and social care following the COVID-19 pandemic. SIP called for the establishment of pain as a quality indicator for health systems performance assessment, particularly in the context of improving the resilience of health systems, and the digitisation of health systems and services.

In the last part of 2020, SIP also held two virtual National Platform calls, (the 25th [September](#), and the 26th [November](#)). We are proud to see SIP activities continue at national level, and we are happy to welcome on board SIP Switzerland after its [inaugural meeting on the 20th October 2020](#). SIP National Platform colleagues have also been active in organising virtual meetings, for example, [SIP Portugal](#) organised a webinar on the 15th October entitled "[The National Day Against Pain](#)". We would also like to extend a big thank you to our Spanish colleagues as [SIP Europe was recently awarded the prize of "Best Political Initiative in the Pain Category" by the Spanish Pain Society](#).

As part of SIP's commitment to strengthening our network of European partners and supporters, we held a virtual [SIP Stakeholder Forum](#) on the 28th October 2020. This was an opportunity for European and national colleagues to hear a summary of SIP's 2020 achievements, as well as to discuss SIP's 2021 aspirations, and areas of collaboration. We look forward to sharing more updates on this soon.

As we move into an intensified period of European health policy activity, SIP looks forward to continued collaboration with our network in 2021 and beyond. SIP remains committed to addressing issues related to the societal impact of pain, and we look forward to building on our 2020 successes next year.

As many events now take place virtually, we encourage you to keep up to date with SIP's activities using our [calendar](#).

Once again, we would like to thank you for your continued collaboration and support. We wish you and your loved ones a happy, safe, and healthy holiday and new year in this extraordinary time.

Best wishes,

Dr. Brona Fullen, President of European Pain Federation EFIC &  
Mr. Joop van Griensven, President of Pain Alliance Europe (PAE)



#### [SIP met virtually with the office of MEP Margarita de la Pisa Carrión](#)

On the 9th of December 2020, the SIP team met online with the Office of MEP Margarita de la Pisa Carrión. The SIP team presented the SIP project, including SIP's long-term priorities, SIP Cancer Pain Policy Paper, and SIP's key 2020-2021 policy priorities.



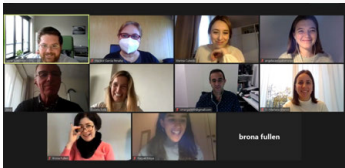
### SIP met virtually with the office of MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen



On the 17th of November 2020, the SIP team had the opportunity to meet virtually with the Office of MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen. The SIP team used this opportunity to thank MEP Pietikäinen for endorsing the 2018 SIP Joint Statement. The SIP team also spoke about the 2020-21 SIP policy priorities, SIPs long-term priorities, and the SIP Cancer Pain Policy Paper key facts and key recommendations.



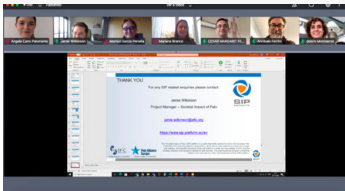
### SIP met virtually with the Office of MEP Susana Solís Pérez



On the 16th of November 2020, the SIP team met virtually with the Office of MEP Susana Solís Pérez. The SIP team spoke about SIPs long-term priorities, SIPs 2020-21 policy priorities, and specifically, the SIP Cancer Pain Policy Paper key facts and key recommendations.



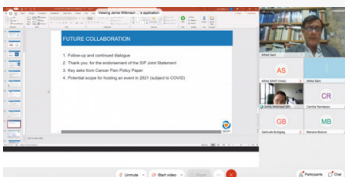
### SIP met virtually with the Office of MEP Dolors Montserrat



On the 5th of November 2020, the SIP team had the chance to meet virtually with the Office of MEP Dolors Montserrat. The SIP team introduced the SIP project, including the SIP Cancer Pain Policy Paper, and outlined SIP's key 2020-2021 policy priorities, for example, expressing an interest in contributing to the activities of the European Parliament's Special Committee on Beating Cancer (BECA).



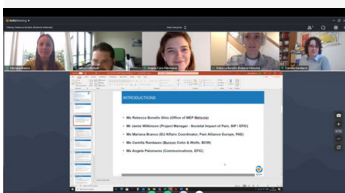
### SIP met Virtually with the Office of MEP Alfred Sant



On the 26th of October 2020, the SIP team met online with the Office of MEP Alfred Sant. The SIP team used this opportunity to strengthen relations with MEP Sant's office, as well as providing key SIP updates and 2020-2021 policy priorities, such as on employment and social integration of pain patients.

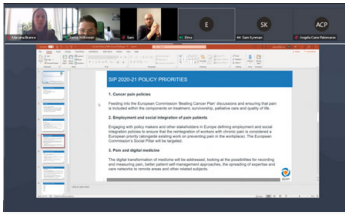


### Virtual meeting with the Office of Roberta Metsola



On the 7th of October 2020, the SIP team met virtually with the Office of MEP Roberta Metsola. It was an opportunity to strengthen relations with the Office of MEP Metsola, and to discuss recent SIP updates - including SIP's key 2020-2021 policy priorities.

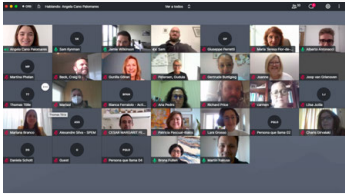




### SIP met virtually MEP with the Office of MEP Irena Joveva



On the 5th of October 2020, the SIP team met online with the Office of MEP Irena Joveva. The SIP team introduced the SIP project, spoke about pain issues, showcased the SIP Cancer Pain Policy Paper, and provided an overview of SIP's key 2020-2021 policy priorities.



### SIP Stakeholder Forum meeting took place on 28 October 2020



The Annual SIP Stakeholder Forum took place online this year. The event was focused on recent SIP activities and achievements, and SIP's 2021 aspirations and longer-term priorities.



### The SIP National Platform Call took place on 26 November 2020



In the November SIP National Platform Call, participants had the opportunity to hear updates on the latest SIP Europe activities, highlight SIP National projects, and discuss SIP National Strategies for 2021.



### The SIP National Platform Call took place on 25 September 2020



In this SIP National Platform Call, participants had the opportunity to meet new members of the SIP team, highlight SIP National Projects, and discuss future activities for SIP and National Platforms.



### SIP response to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights



SIP recently submitted its pledge to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.



### SIP response to EXPH Opinion on the Organisation of Resilient Health and Social Care Following the COVID-19 Pandemic



SIP recommended to establish pain as indicator, and to include people with chronic pain as a distinct group of vulnerable patients.



## SIP Europe receives award from the Spanish Pain Society

The Spanish Pain Society awarded SIP Europe with the prize for the Best Political Initiative in Pain.



## The inaugural SIP Platform meeting in Switzerland took place!

SIP Switzerland was successfully launched on the 20th of October 2020.



## SIP presents its Cancer Position Paper

SIP, through this position paper, highlights the importance of addressing pain management from a multi-professional perspective to improve quality of life for patients and survivors, as well as palliative care and overall treatments.



## MEP Interest Group on Brain, Mind and Pain virtual meeting: 10 November 2020

79% of Brain, Mind and Pain patients agree that policies need to be implemented to improve access to flexible employment and education. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the next steps in adapting relevant policies to improve the lives of patients with issues related to the brain, mind, and pain.



## PAE survey on how Europe's chronic pain patients are affected by the pandemic

Pain Alliance Europe launched a survey to find out how the pandemic is affecting chronic pain patients' access to treatment, as well as their social, emotional, and financial conditions, among others.



## The results of PAE's Chronic Pain Survey on E-Health and M-Health are available

Pain Alliance Europe announced the results of its survey on chronic pain on E-Health and M-Health.





## EU-OSHA launched the Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2020-2022

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work launched the Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2020-2022, which focuses on work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).



Follow us on  
SOCIAL MEDIA



Feel free to forward this newsletter to whomever it might be relevant for. In case you have been forwarded this newsletter and would like to subscribe please register [here](#).

### 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 Sam Kynman, Executive Director European Pain Federation EFIC [sam.kynman@efic.org](mailto:sam.kynman@efic.org).

In case you would like to endorse the SIP Platform or to publish news on the SIP Website, please contact: [sip@efic.org](mailto:sip@efic.org)

In case you should have any technical questions or need assistance, please contact Jamie Wilkinson (Website Editor): [sip@efic.org](mailto:sip@efic.org)

Contact Mariana Branco (PAE EU Affairs Coordinator) for patient-focused inquiries at [info@pae-eu.eu](mailto:info@pae-eu.eu)

### IMPRINT

The scientific framework of the SIP platform is under the responsibility of the European Pain Federation (EFIC®).

European Pain Federation EFIC®  
Rue de Londres 18  
1050 Brussels, Belgium

Tel : +32 2 251 55 10  
Fax : +32 2 251 48 10

e-mail: [secretary@efic.org](mailto:secretary@efic.org)  
[www.efic.org](http://www.efic.org)

EFIC EU Transparency Register ID Number:  
35010244568-04

Further information can be found on the [imprint](#)

You have been included in this mailing list for the SIP Newsletter either by your registration to the SIP 2017 event or by registration for the SIP Newsletter. In case you wish to unsubscribe from the SIP Newsletter, please enter your [email address here](#). Your email address will then be removed from the distribution list.

Please note that some links may not work anymore because the articles have moved, do therefore not hesitate to look at the news section or use the SIP-search engine or contact [sip@efic.org](mailto:sip@efic.org) for more information.