

May 2017

## 9TH EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

Excitement is building for the Societal Impact of Pain symposium next month. We will be delighted to welcome speakers from the highest levels of government and policy-making. Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta, will be one such speaker, an overwhelming achievement for our campaign. We have been working closely with the Maltese government and we know that they share our concern for pain and its impact on patients but also on society. We hope to continue such collaboration with national governments in the coming years.

For the first time, the SIP symposium will be live-streamed. We were inundated with requests to attend the symposium this year, and the size of our venue in Malta meant that we could not accommodate all requests. Thankfully live-streaming will mean that those who could not attend in person will be able to follow the discussions.

I expect SIP 2017 to be the start of a more substantial collaboration between the SIP partners and the European Commission. Cooperation between health care systems has been the focus of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and we believe there is much that can be done in this area that could improve pain care. We also believe that the kind of cross-border cooperation which SIP facilitates could be of benefit to policy-making at EU-level, and we hope to see some progress in this direction.

See you all on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June!

Sincerely,



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

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.

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

#### Announcements

##### SIP 2017 Abstract & Background Booklet now available

The Abstract & Background book of the SIP 2017 symposium features an overview of what will happen at SIP 2017 - in the different working groups as well as in sessions organised by supporting initiatives of SIP. Biographies and abstracts from about 150 faculty members of the symposium are included and contact details from more than 300 endorsing organisations. 30 Good Practices which were submitted to apply for the ACN EU Civic Prize on Chronic Pain are described. The 4 winners of the Prize will be celebrated at SIP 2017 in the Award Ceremony on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

The pdf is available for download [here](#).

## New SIP Endorsers



### The Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health

The Office of the Commissioner for Mental Health (CMH-Malta) promotes and safeguards the rights of persons suffering from a mental disorder and their carers.

<http://www.mentalhealthcommissioner.gov.mt/>



### The Pain Clinic

The Pain Clinic is an Integrative Medical Centre that specialises in the holistic management of persistent pain, chronic stress and suffering associated with chronic illness.

<http://www.painclinic.com.mt>



### Associação Atlântica de Apoio ao Doente Machado Joseph

The Atlantic Association for the Support of the Patient of Machado-Joseph (AAADMJ) is a private institution of social solidarity, headquartered in Ponta Delgada, whose mission is to represent and defend the general and collective interests of patients with Machado-Joseph disease and their families.

<http://www.aaadmj.com/>



### Força 3P - Pessoas com Dor

[www.forca3p.pt](http://www.forca3p.pt)

[geral@forca3p.pt](mailto:geral@forca3p.pt)

The full background texts are available to read [here](#).

## SIP 2017 Symposium LIVESTREAMED for the first time

The livestream will be available soon but is currently under development.

## Watch the Video from Members of the European Parliaments about SIP 2017

Jeroen Lenaers MEP Group of the European People's Party (EPP Group), The Netherlands, from Heinz K. Becker MEP, Group of the European People's Party (EPP Group), Austria and Marian Harkin MEP, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, Ireland.



Watch the full videos on the SIP website [here](#). The MEPs, although not attending the symposium this year, have offer their renewed endorsements, continued support for the objectives of SIP and encouragement to achieve our goals.

## Programme Overview

The programme in full can be found [here](#).

### Plenary session: Evolving concepts in the definition of chronic pain



For policy makers, the different views on the definition of chronic pain held by health care professionals can be confusing. In particular, the issue of whether chronic pain can be considered a diagnostic entity, or even a condition in its own right, can lead to consternation. In some cases, the lack of certainty over this issue appears to cause reluctance to address pain in policy measures. These topics will be evaluated and discussed with renowned speakers in the first plenary session

### Working Group 1: Pain as a quality indicator for healthcare systems

Evaluation of whether pain therapy is effective should account for patients' experience and sensation.

### Working Group 2: European and national platforms addressing the societal impact of pain

Policy makers at EU-level and in national government ministries are slowly waking up to the fact that pain impacts many areas of their policy-making and spending. Health ministers, finance ministers, social welfare ministers, and others need to quickly realise that tackling the societal impact of pain is of cross-governmental relevance.

### Working Group 3: Impact of Pain on Labour and Employment

The European Union and its Member States are facing a substantial challenge in terms of among others ageing population, chronicity, and the need to address involuntary early retirement and workforce sustainability.

### Working Group 4: Challenges, lighthouses and best practices in pain policy

The Societal Impact of Pain platform benefits from its wide variety of partners and allies and from the opportunities for experience sharing provided at the Symposium.

### Pre-Symposium "The Societal Impact of Pain on Malta"

Our Mission is to provide a local platform, on a national level, that mirrors what is occurring in other platforms dealing with pain and relevant policy. This is always done with the ultimate goal to benefit all those persons who constantly live with chronic pain as a reality in its own right. Advancement of the interests of this aspect of society is therefore our driving ethos.. A consensus paper has been drafted to be aligned and signed during SIP 2017.



**A MALTESE CONSENSUS PAPER FOR CHRONIC PAIN.**

### GAfPA Workshop "Effective lobbying for pain and SIP advocates"



GAfPA's workshop on June 7th is entitled 'Can Davids beat the Goliaths?' and is focused on policy advocacy – showing how even the smallest organisations and advocates can be empowered to have loud voices and to effect change with policymakers.

## #Red Balloon Project



Pain Alliance Europe's mission is to improve the quality of life of people living with chronic pain. One of our main objectives is to raise awareness with politicians and policymakers, healthcare providers, employers and the general public. At SIP 2016 the Red Balloon project has been initiated which will be closed with an event at SIP 2017. Read more about the project on [www.theredballoonproject.eu](http://www.theredballoonproject.eu).

## Breakfast Session: "Schmerztherapeutische Versorgung im Gesundheitssystem"

Join us for this German language speaking discussion on Pain therapy and treatment in the different health care systems of the DACH Region.

## GMMS Lecture on Palliative Care



The German Maltese Medical Society (GMMS) have organised a lecture on palliative care "In pain and breathless - Terrifying symptoms at the end of life".

## European Civic Prize on Chronic Pain – Collecting Good Practices



In 2015, Active Citizenship Network (ACN) conducted a research-project the "[European Civic Prize on ChronicPain - Collecting Good Practices](#)" with the aim to give evidence on existing good practices in several European countries in terms of struggle against pain. The final event of the Prize will be celebrated during SIP - Societal Impact of Pain Symposium 2017 that will be held in Malta on 8th-9th of June 2017, during the Maltese Presidency of the EU Council. Additionally, H.E. the President of Malta Marie Louise Coleiro Preca has confirmed that she will attend the Award Ceremony.

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## Resources

### SIP 2017 Fact Sheet

In preparation for the SIP Symposium 2017, a fact sheet has been compiled that will provide a concise overview of everything that the Societal Impact of Pain is about.

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## Contact us!

Please contact [sophia@ecmeetings.com](mailto:sophia@ecmeetings.com) (MP +356 (9933) 9937) for any question related to the organisation of SIP 2017. Questions with regards to the content and presentation at SIP 2017 should be sent to [sip-platform@grunenthal.com](mailto:sip-platform@grunenthal.com).

## 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, European Pain Federation EFIC President Elect: [bart.morlion@uzleuven.be](mailto: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](mailto:sip-platform@grunenthal.com).

In case you should have any technical questions or need assistance, please contact Thomas Russell (Website Editor): [sip-platform@grunenthal.com](mailto:sip-platform@grunenthal.com).

Find us on social media:



## Imprint

The scientific framework of the SIP platform is under the responsibility of the European Pain Federation (EFIC®). The pharmaceutical company Grünenthal GmbH is responsible for funding and non-financial support (e.g. logistical support).

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