

Merry
Christmas!

December 2016

6TH EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

Dear Reader,

2016 has been an exciting year with many important initiatives on a European and National level to improve the pain care in Europe. The Societal Impact of Pain Symposium in May 2016 in Brussels was a great success where many high-ranking experts in the pain area were involved as speakers, chairs and reporters. An impressive number of European politicians actively supported the symposium to ensure that the SIP initiative will lead to significant policy changes on a European and National level. With the produced policy recommendations we have a clear direction for the SIP symposium in 2017. The SIP Proceedings, where the recommendations can be found, have been described as the "bible of pain" by Mariano Votta, Director of ACN.



We are delighted to announce that **registration has now opened** for the SIP 2017 Symposium from June 7-9 in Valletta, Malta. If you wish to attend then please follow this [link](#) to our announcement and then fill in the registration form. You can also find a brief summary of the working groups and a brief description of the topics for SIP 2017 on our website. The event promises to be a great success, so make sure you book early as places are limited.

We encourage you to send information about your activities on the national implementation of the SIP 2016 policy recommendations to: SIP-platform@grunenthal.com.

On behalf of the SIP partners we want to thank you for the great collaboration and endorsement of the SIP initiative in 2016 and wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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

The Alliance for Balanced Pain Management Annual Summit

On Tuesday the 6th of December in Washington, D.C. the Alliance for Balanced Pain Management held their annual summit.

The Alliance for Patient Access hosted the event which discussed the topic "Balanced Pain Management in Action: Treating Pain, Reducing Medicine Abuse, and Improving Care". Further to this and released in conjunction with the Summit is the video below, providing an overview of Balanced Pain Management and its application for patients.

A link to our article on the AFPA event is available [here](#).

Webinar on IMI 2 Call 10

On the 7th of December 7th the IMI (Innovative Medicines Initiative) held a series of webinars on the subject of the IMI 2 10th Call for proposals, as well as on IMI2 rules and procedures.

The webinars featured a presentation by the EFPIA topic coordinator and time for questions and answers. One can find the IMI webinar recordings on "Improving the care of patients suffering from acute or chronic pain" [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) adds pain to its agenda

The IMI has published the following topics under consideration for inclusion in IMI2 - **Call 10**, scheduled for launch in December 2016. Our full report on the IMI is available to read [here](#).

Doctors lobby for better chronic pain management

The Lancet has published an article with references to SIP, Chronic Pain and other related issues. The author Tatum Anderson, a freelance writer on global health issues, spoke to EFIC President Chris Wells and Joanna Zakrzewska, a facial pain specialist at University College London Hospital to get their input on current European pain policy. Read our full article [here](#).

EU-LEVEL INITIATIVES

Brain, Mind and Main Written Declaration Update

After a sustained and successful awareness campaign by the Brain, Mind and Pain group their written declaration has gathered over 140 signatories.

They are calling for: clarification of patients' rights and simple workplace adjustments including flexible working hours. They emphasise that accurate early diagnosis and appropriate treatment and management are necessary to enable employees affected by these chronic conditions to enjoy equitable employment opportunities. The full announcement is available [here](#).



NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Better conditions for pain therapists in Germany

Germany – 8th September 2016; the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians (in German „Kassenärztliche Bundesvereinigung -KBV“) and the association of statutory health insurance funds (GKV-Spitzenverband) have achieved an agreement on innovations in the pain therapy. The full report, in English, is available [here](#).

Back problems cause indirect problems for Australians

Australian researchers have prelisted a study giving insight into the indirect costs of back problems. The study projected the indirect costs of back problems through lost productive life years from the individual's perspective, the governmental perspective and the societal perspective from 2015 to 2030, using a new micro simulation model on the long-term impacts of ill-health. Our full report on is available [here](#).

Dutch study finds that the impact of rheumatism is seriously underestimated

A new study conducted by the Dutch institute of Health Services Research ([NIVEL](#)) and commissioned by the Rheumatism Foundation ([Reumafonds](#)) as part of its 90th anniversary maps the various aspects of living with a rheumatic disease in the Netherlands. For the complete article please click [here](#).

French Open Letter to the Future President of the Republic

In anticipation of the French Presidential election next May in 2017, doctors and patients have called upon the future President to „open a new chapter in the fight against pain“. Our full report on the open letter is available [here](#).

Relieving pain for Chronic Pain patients Project Malta

Regarding the launch of the Maltese language PainTool Kit, the prospects of SIP 2017 in Malta and the continued challenges facing pain patients the Malta Health Network have released the follow press release detailing the events of recent months. For the full article, please click [here](#).



INTERVIEWS

An Interview with Professor Roberto Perez on the Chronic Pain Dutch Health Deal

SIP interviews Prof. Roberto Perez on the Dutch Chronic Pain Health deal. He discusses what it is, why it is important and what it means for the societal impact of pain. Our full interview is available to read [here](#).

Dr. Roberto S.G.M. Perez is a Professor of Pain Research, Pain Therapy and Palliative Care in the Department of Anesthesiology at the VU University Medical Center in the Netherlands.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening of registration for SIP 2017

We are pleased to announce the opening of the registration for SIP 2017 which is taking place on the 7th- 9th June 2017 in Valletta under the auspices of the Maltese presidency of the European council. In order to register, please follow this [link](#) for our announcement and the final registration portal where you can find some preliminary information about the event.



No Pain Foundation

No Pain Foundation is proud to announce that since November 2016 it is a Member of EFIC European Pain Federation as a Contributing Organisation. This is an important goal for the No Pain Foundation and they are pleased to have reached it.



UPCOMING EVENTS

106th "Aachener Hospizgespräch" Event

From the 3rd- 4th of February 2017 the 106th "Aachener Hospizgespräch" will be held at the Zinkhütter Hof Museum in Stolberg near Aachen, Germany. For more information on the event, read our announcement [here](#).

Questions, need support, wish to endorse or to publish on SIP Platform?

In case you should have any question regarding the newsletter's content, 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 Thomas Russell (Website Editor): sip-platform@grunenthal.com.

Find us on social media by following the links on the logos!



Societal Impact of Pain - SIP



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Imprint

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