

May 2016

2ND EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

Welcome letter from the President Elect and EU Liaison Officer of the European Pain Federation (EFIC)

Europe: Announcement of Cluster Headache Day

Dear Reader,

Here is the second edition of the SIP newsletter. As the 2016 SIP symposium approaches, we thought it would be a good opportunity to give you a preview of the symposium agenda for 2016, and what's going on behind the scenes in European pain policy.

We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd and 24th.

Sincerely,



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

It's not too late to register for SIP 2016 in Brussels!

„Time for Action!“

The 6th Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) symposium will take place in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium on 23-24 May. The event should be relevant for anyone involved in pain policy e.g. health care professionals, politicians, representatives of pain advocacy groups, insurances, health authorities, regulators and budget holders.

Topics for discussion:

- ♥ Pain as a quality indicator for health care
- ♥ Chronic Pain: a disease or multi-morbidity?
- ♥ The relevance of pain in cancer care and rehabilitation
- ♥ Pain, rehabilitation and reintegration of workers in the working force

More information you can find under [Events / SIP 2016](#). The full scientific programm SIP 2016 will be published soon.

Registration

[Register here](#) to participate at SIP 2016.zz

Support SIP 2016 on social media?

Facebook wizard? First-time Twitter user? Whatever your level of knowledge, you can use social media to support SIP 2016. Use the hashtag #SIP2016action



We have created a series of simple graphics that can be shared on social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and many more. If you are interested in helping spread the word of SIP 2016 with social media, please contact angela.pauly@bm.com

SIP 2016 endorsed by the Italian Ministry of Health and MEP Interest Group on Brain, Mind and Pain

Europe: Announcement of Cluster Headache Day

SIP 2016 success is growing by the hour! Not only the event is being held under the high patronage of the Italian Ministry of Health, but also the whole [MEP Interest Group on Brain, Mind and Pain](#) is endorsing the objectives of the symposium, together with other 19 supportive Members of the European Parliament: Clara Eugenia Aguilera Garcia, Heinz K. Becker, Soledad Cabezon Ruiz, Nicola Caputo, Theresa Griffin, José Inácio Faria, Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Marian Harkin, Merja Kyllönen, Giovanni La Via, Jeroen Lenaers, Roberta Metsola, Piernicola Pedicini, Sirpa Pietikainen, Sabine Verheyen, Françoise Grossetête, Therese Comodini Cachia, Miriam Dalli, Agnes Jongerius and Alfred Sant.

More than 160 organisations, patient groups, medical associations and other institutions from all over Europe have already confirmed their endorsement for SIP 2016.

Marco Spizzichino, Director of the Italian Health Ministry Directorate for Health Planning will address the symposium personally on the 23rd May. You may be aware that Italy has an innovative approach to dealing with pain care which other EU member states may be able to learn from. We look forward to Mr Spizzichino's presentation.

In case you are interested in also endorsing the scientific aims of SIP 2016, it is not too late to [contact us](#).

SIP policy preview: Pain as a quality indicator for health care



Source: European Parliament audio-visual archive 2014

A piece of EU law called the Cross-border Healthcare Directive is being implemented this year. Ratified in 2011, the Directive enshrines the right of European citizens to access healthcare in another EU member state. One reason why a patient might need to access healthcare abroad, covered in this law, is the degree of pain they are suffering. A high degree of pain and a long waiting list for treatment should be enough to grant EU citizens the right to seek treatment in another member state.

Two questions arise; how do we measure the degree of pain experienced and are hospitals currently doing this? Jose Inacio Faria (pictured below), a Liberal Member of the European Parliament asked this question to the European Commission earlier this year. Unfortunately, the Commission official's answer was lacking in detail.

At SIP 2016 we hope to address these questions properly, and put pressure on the European Commission to force national governments to properly implement the Directive and measure pain.

SIP policy preview: Pain, rehabilitation and reintegration of workers in the working force



Source: <http://www.eu2015lu.eu/en/espace-media/galerie-photo/006-emploi/006-emploi-09/index.html>

As Europe continues to experience slow growth, high unemployment and threats to the sustainability of welfare systems, the rehabilitation and reintegration of workers should be high on the EU policy agenda. Laws in this field are still primarily set by national governments, though the single currency and shared risks have led policy makers to look at a common EU framework for economic policies. National spending is monitored by the European Commission and other national governments, meaning that recommendations naturally have to follow.

One group who provide recommendations is the grouping of national experts on social protection systems, known as the SPC within the European Commission. They are chaired by Thomas Dominique, a senior civil servant at the Luxembourg Ministry for Social Security (pictured below).

Mr Dominique has invited a SIP delegation to present evidence to the SPC of the link between pain care, reduced social protection spending and the rehabilitation and reintegration of workers.

The 2016 SIP symposium will be an opportunity to test arguments and prepare for the presentation to the SPC later in 2016.

Contact us!

Please contact 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.

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.

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:



Imprint

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European Pain Federation EFIC®

Grensstraat 7, mailbox 3
1831 Diegem, Belgium
Tel : +32 2 251 55 10
Fax : +32 2 251 48 10

e-mail: secretary@efic.org
www.efic.org

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Grünenthal GmbH

Governmental Affairs & Patient Centricity
SBU Europe

Zieglerstraße 6
52078 Aachen
Deutschland
e-mail: sip-platform@grunenthal.com
www.grunenthal.com

Grünenthal EU Transparency Register ID Number: 67826544528-01
Regulatory agency: Bezirksregierung in 50606 Köln
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For further information please click [here](#).