

November 2016

5TH EDITION OF THE SOCIETAL IMPACT OF PAIN (SIP) NEWSLETTER

Dear Reader,

Once again we would like to remind you of the upcoming Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) symposium 2017, which will be held on 8th and 9th of June 2017 in Malta and are delighted to announce that registration will be opening soon. To add further anticipation to the upcoming event, it has also been announced that SIP 2017 will be co-financed by the Maltese Ministry for Finance. We would like to offer our most sincere thanks to the Maltese government for their continued support of SIP and look forward to an excellent conference next year.

This month has also seen the launch of the SIP Twitter account, which is a useful resource for keeping up to date with what's going on. Make sure to follow us [@SIP_PainPolicy](https://twitter.com/SIP_PainPolicy) for news, photos and articles.

We encourage you to send information about your activities on the national implementation of the SIP 2016 policy recommendations to: SIP-platform@grunenthal.com. Further, you will find in this newsletter other relevant information about initiatives and projects related to the Societal Impact of Pain in Europe.

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

SIP Steering Committee



On the 20th October in Brussels SIP held a steering committee meeting to follow-up on the policy recommendations from the SIP Symposium in May 2016 and to define the agenda for SIP 2017 in Malta. The meeting took place in the refined and historic University Foundation building, hosted by the European Brain Council. About 35 multi-disciplinary experts from different countries shared best practices and initiatives from their countries to successfully address the societal impact of pain.

Marian Harkin MEP, a member of the Brain Mind and Pain Group in the European Parliament attended the meeting for a keynote speech and gave SIP advice how to convince politicians to implement the SIP policy recommendations in Europe on a national level.

Publications

Launch of SIP Proceedings 2016

[AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

We are proud to present the official Proceedings booklet for the SIP 2016 Symposium, billed as the “Bible of Pain” it offers a comprehensive report of the event and offers concrete policy proposals.

It comprises summaries from all four parallel workshops, overviews on the plenary sessions, key results and statements, as well as impressions from speakers and participants. More than 220 stakeholders from 28 countries had attended the event, which was endorsed by more than 165 international and national scientific organisations, patient advocacy groups and health authorities.

SIP 2016 Policy Recommendations published at the ISPOR Congress in Vienna

The poster “Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) 2016 – 8 Policy Recommendations: Time for Action” has been presented at the ISPOR 19th Annual European Congress in Vienna. You can download the poster [here](#).

The full report on the event is available [here](#).

EU-Level Initiatives

EU call for proposals on Chronic Pain and Rheumatic disease

The EU has committed 500,000 Euros to fund the development of integrated strategies for Chronic Pain and Rheumatic Disease. This is significant because SIP has been advocating for similar change to pain policy, especially the integration of chronic pain within EU policies on other chronic diseases.

For the full story, please click [here](#).

National Initiatives

Dutch Deal on Chronic Health

The Dutch Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Minister of Economic Affairs signed a “Health Deal on Chronic Pain” together with pain - and revalidation centers and the pain patient association.

The Deal is important because it represents a combining of efforts from previously overlapping groups. SIP has encouraged international co-ordination before but it is important to remember the value of national best practice as well. Focus and communication from government ministries along with Dutch pain groups offers for the first time a functional contract that guarantees improved chronic pain care.

For the full story, please click [here](#).

Invitation of Maltese Health Minister Chris Fearne to attend SIP 2017



On the 28th of October Chris Fearne the Maltese Health Minister and several members of his ministry have attended a conference to officially launch the PainToolkit on Malta. On behalf of the SIP platform, Gudula Petersen has taken the chance during this conference to personally invite Chris Fearne to attend the SIP 2017 Symposium on June 8th-9th in Malta. SIP 2017 will take place under the EU presidency on Malta and with financial support of the Maltese Ministry for Finance.

The full article is available [here](#).

Interviews

Neil Betteridge on the EULAR 2016 Conference about RMDs and health at work

SIP has interviewed Neil Betteridge, who is the International Liaison officer for EULAR, about the conference, how it relates to the goals of SIP and about the organisation itself.

The EULAR Brussels Conference 2016, which took place on the same day as World Arthritis Day, aimed to contribute to the ongoing revision of EU legislation and policies on health and safety at work. RMDs are the largest and most burdensome work-related diseases, and hence the principal cause of work loss, absenteeism and early retirement. The aim of the event was to bring together the RMD community, policy makers and stakeholders to develop policy recommendations to better prevent RMDs in the workplace as well as to facilitate the retention of people with RMDs at work.

For the full interview, please click [here](#).

Announcements

“EU Civic Prize on Chronic Pain” deadline extended. Don't miss your chance to enter!

Active Citizenship Network has extended its deadline for entries to apply for the EU Civic prize on chronic pain, to be awarded at SIP Malta 2017.

For the full announcement, please click [here](#).

MEP Brain Mind and Pain Interest Group has launched the Written Declaration 0112/2016 #MakeWorkWork

On October 24th, the Members of European Parliament (MEP) Interest Group Brain Mind and Pain have launched the written declaration 0112/2016 on access to employment for those affected by neurological disorders and chronic pain conditions.

The full article is available [here](#). Additionally, you can find the written declaration [here](#).

Contact us!

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, 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 Gudula Petersen (Website Editor): sip-platform@grunenthal.com.

Find us on social media:



Imprint

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