



PRESS RELEASE

Pain in Europe VII – 7th Congress of the European Federation of IASP Chapters (EFIC®)

“Societal Impact of Pain in Europe” Initial results on the European-wide implementation of a policy-driven ‘Road Map for Action’

Aachen/Hamburg, Germany, 12 September, 2011. During the 7th Congress of the European Federation of the IASP® (International Associations for the Study of Pain) Chapters (EFIC®) in Hamburg between September 21-24, first insights on the strategic international and national implementation of a European “Road Map for Action” for improved pain care in Europe will be presented. These initial results will be shown during the symposium “Societal Impact of Pain in Europe”, which aims at supporting the multi-stakeholder discussion regarding the future pain care lobby at EU level and national collaborative approaches. The symposium will take place in Hamburg on Friday, 23 September, 18:00 -19:30.

The Road Map for Action is the major outcome of the European symposium “Societal Impact of Pain”, which took place in the European Parliament in Brussels on 3-4 May, 2011 bringing together more than 300 stakeholders from more than 30 countries worldwide (www.sip-meeting.org/2011). Professor Hans Georg Kress, President of the EFIC, recalls: “The symposium on the societal impact of pain and the ‘Road Map for Action’, which was brought forth as a key result of this event, are just a start: They will contribute to make chronic pain more visible – more visible as a challenge to our health care systems in all of Europe”.

The policy document outlines the key issues on how the EU institutions and member states can effectively address the societal impact of pain at EU level. Specifically, the Road Map for Action calls on European governments and the EU Institutions to work on seven concrete policy dimensions of ‘pain’:

1. Acknowledgement of pain as an important factor limiting the quality of life;
2. Availability of information and access to pain diagnosis and management;
3. Increased awareness of the medical, financial and social impact that pain and its management have;
4. Increased awareness of the importance of prevention, diagnosis and management of pain;
5. Strengthening of pain research;
6. Establishment of an EU platform for the exchange, comparison and benchmarking of best practices;
7. Trend monitoring in pain management by using the EU platform.

The detailed Road Map can be found online at www.sip-meetings.org/press.



Prof. Rolf-Detlef Treede from the Medical Faculty Mannheim, Heidelberg University, Germany, explains: “With the ‘Road Map for Action’ we have agreed upon a strong policy document to target European and Member State governments and to raise awareness of the societal impact that pain – especially chronic pain – has on our societies and economic systems.”

Furthermore, Professor Treede sees a first opportunity for a clear stance on chronic pain in the patient rights and protection laws: “The right to get access to pain therapy and palliative medicine must be integrated into German law”, says Treede.

The symposium will give initial outcomes on the status of the national implementation of the concrete policy dimensions mentioned in the Road Map. One insightful example will be given by Dr Dolores Martín Rodríguez, General Department of Quality Programs and Healthcare Safety, Galician Ministry of Health, presenting a national strategy (daily basis strategy) for the improvement of pain management in the Galician healthcare system: “The newly developed global strategy aims towards optimal pain management: A standardized approach for all chronic pain patients towards improving both patients and family quality of life”.

All EFIC councilors, board members representing national pain care organisations, as well as persons willing to contribute to advance the position of pain care in society at a strategic and political level in the health care system are invited to participate in the event. Responsibility for the scientific framework of the symposium rests with the European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC®). The logistics of this symposium are being organised by Grünenthal GmbH and hospitality is being sponsored by Grünenthal GmbH.

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Notes to Editors:

About The Societal Impact of Pain

The scientific framework of SIP 2011 was designed under the responsibility of the European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC®) and was endorsed by 85 international patient advocacy and scientific organisations of different backgrounds and interests that support the need for improved pain care in Europe. It provided a platform for health care professionals and specialists, as well as representatives of health authorities, pain advocacy groups, politicians, regulators and budget holders. The pharmaceutical company Grünenthal GmbH was responsible for logistic support, preparation and organisation. The event was kindly co-hosted at the European parliament by Dr Jirí Maštálka MEP and Dr Milan Cabrnoch MEP. For more information, please visit www.sip-meetings.org.

About EFIC

The European Federation of IASP® chapters (EFIC®) is a multidisciplinary professional organisation in the field of pain science and medicine, made up of the 35 European Chapters of National Pain Societies of IASP (International Association for the Study of Pain). Established in 1993, EFIC's 35 constituent chapters represent Pain Societies from 35 countries and close to 20,000 scientists, physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists and other healthcare



professionals across Europe, who study pain and treat patients suffering from pain.
For more information, please visit www.efic.org.

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