

## EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

Since our last Council meeting there has been much activity. Immediately following the Council meeting, we held the 5<sup>th</sup> Societal Impact of Pain meeting, on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November. This has been endorsed by the Italian Minister of Health, and there were more delegates than ever before. These included 5 MEPs and 2 Ministers of Health. Ably Chaired by Nick Ross, the new format – without slides – was popular with the participants. The link to the Proceedings is [http://www.sip-platform.eu/tl\\_files/redakteur-bereich/Home/SIP\\_Supplement\\_Symp.2014\\_Lay3.pdf](http://www.sip-platform.eu/tl_files/redakteur-bereich/Home/SIP_Supplement_Symp.2014_Lay3.pdf). There is a SIP seminar during the EFIC Congress, on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> in Hall B; speakers include Neil Betteridge from EULAR and Mary Baker from the European Brain Council.

The next SIP is planned in May 2016, in conjunction with Grünenthal as previously. Norbert van Rooij has taken over the project from the Grünenthal point of view, replacing Konrad Labuschagne, and the EFIC Executive Board has appointed Bart Morlion as the EFIC project leader.

**The European Journal of Pain:** This is now online and we are seeking other adaptations, including a phone app. The nomination committee for selection of the Editor-in-Chief finalised the appointment of Luis Garcia-Larrea from Claude Bernard University in Lyon, France. We also appointed a second Deputy Editor, Bart Morlion, to represent the Executive Board on the Journal. He joins Hans Kress for the future, until Hans steps down from the Board at the end of his Past President term.

**The European Year against Pain (EYAP):** Preparation of printed material for the European Year against Pain in 2016 is well advanced and will be available shortly. EFIC will support the World Day against Arthritis on 12<sup>th</sup> October; details are available on <http://worldarthritisdaily.org> EULAR are organising a meeting in Brussels the following day, to which I am pleased to have been invited. The Year officially starts on 1<sup>st</sup> January and we will be holding a press conference in Brussels. Again, Bart Morlion has taken over my role of overseeing this important project and is already also working on the European Year of acute and chronic post-operative Pain in 2017.

**Dubrovnik Meeting:** We have started a new initiative in conjunction with EYAP; we were encouraged by IASP to have a European event with the theme of joint pain and we are holding the first EFIC Topical Seminar in Dubrovnik from September 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> next year, to cover all aspects of joint pain. We will do this in conjunction with other European and World societies, including the Society for Intervention of the Spine (SIS) and the International Federation for Musculo-skeletal Medicine (FIMM). We hope other European groups will join with us. It has been decided to hold the Executive Board and Council meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September in Dubrovnik, and we look forward to joining our Croatian Chapter for what promises to be an excellent meeting. We are deliberately holding the meeting immediately before the IASP meeting, so there is ample opportunity to fly on to Tokyo on the Saturday or Sunday following the meeting. The co-Chairs of the meeting are Serge Perrot and myself, and relevant details are in your delegate pack at the congress.

**Curriculum and examinations:** The Education Committee has been working hard on a pain syllabus and a Diploma of Pain Medicine. We were delighted to be granted use of the Australia and New Zealand Faculty of Pain Medicine's curriculum, which we felt was outstanding and comprehensive, although designed for anaesthetists. We are looking to alter this to a multidisciplinary curriculum with the help of feedback from a multi-European Task Force over the next 3 months. This curriculum will then form the basis of our first European Pain Federation examination. Part I will be available to all disciplines and will be known as the “**European Pain Federation Certificate of Proficiency in Pain Management**” (CPPM). Part II (medical only at

this point) will be the **European Pain Federation Diploma in Pain Medicine (EDPM)**. We hope to hold the first examination in Dubrovnik on 24<sup>th</sup> September, time permitting. We may well have a second exam around the time of the 2017 biennial meeting in Copenhagen. We have appointed Liam Conroy from Ireland as Examiner-in-Chief. I wish to particularly thank Andreas Kopf for his excellent work on the project in conjunction with Liam Conroy, Juan Perez-Cajaraville, Bart Morlion, Margarita Puig and myself.

**Task Forces:** The work of the Task Forces is increasing, with more to come! The European Reimbursement Policies Task Force has now completed its activity and Hans Kress will be discussing this during the congress. We have almost completed a Task Force on appropriate opioid use, Chaired by Tony O'Brien and co-Chaired by myself; the final document is undergoing revision. We have completed the European Road Map, but are still awaiting further work from Grünenthal on this. We have also recognised the importance of acute pain; we feel we need to concentrate on this as well as chronic pain under our EFIC umbrella. We will be looking at a Task Force on Acute Pain, and will be discussing possible initiatives for this in the next 12 months. We will also be setting up a Task Force on complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) and will be examining the possibility of a Task Force on Palliative Care Guidelines in Europe, possibly with the European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC).

**Cooperation:** EFIC is delighted to consider joint initiatives with other European and World bodies, but also recognises that we all compete for financial support and political patronage. We were concerned in February to learn of the formation of a new group, EULAP, whose by-laws are very similar to those of EFIC and the SIP. In view of the parallel goals, we felt there was a significant conflict of interest, and we are unable to co-operate with the organisation and asked Giustino Varrassi and Eli Alon, who are on its Executive Board, to step down from their EFIC positions. We have also noticed with concern the conflicting meetings, to an extent forced upon us due to IASP's new biennial meeting cycle, causing ourselves and NeuPSIG to take up the meetings in the even years. NeuPSIG had a successful meeting in May and also plan to have one in June 2017 in Scandinavia, which is less than ideal. ESRA also continues to hold meetings in September and with the simultaneous date of their meeting this year will clearly impinge on both organisations. We are in amicable discussion with our good friend José de Andrès, who is President of ESRA, to see if this conflict can be resolved. Good relationships exist with SIS (formerly known as ISIS!), FIMM, the European Academy of Neuroscience (EAN), and the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (ESPRM). We are seeking collaboration with EULAR and the European Association of Palliative Care in the coming months.

**Ninth European Congress:** The sponsorship and exhibition support for the coming ninth congress has risen in spite of difficult economic times and competing meetings; we are particularly delighted with this. While we have a slight reduction in delegates compared to the previous 2 meetings, partly because of direct conflict with ESRA, we will still obtain the same amount from Kenes to allow us to continue our many activities in support of our Chapters, members and projects.

Much work has been carried out by Chris Eccleston and his Scientific Programme Committee, by the Executive Board and myself on our 9<sup>th</sup> "Pain in Europe" Congress, which I think has a tremendous scientific programme. Our thanks to all concerned for that and in particular, Chris Eccleston. Initially there was perhaps under-promotion from Kenes, but this has been addressed during the last few months. We expect to have a new Kenes team going forward. We have adopted the use of social media, including Facebook and Twitter; other innovations include e-poster sessions with presentations, question and answer sessions, webcasting (which will appear on the EFIC website in the future) and abstracts, again being available on the EFIC website.

**Pain Schools:** We have expanded our Pain Schools. We have had 2 extremely successful new school themes. The first theme is cancer pain and we had the first cancer pain school in Liverpool in November 2014. We had a second successful cancer pain school in May this year, in Maribor, organised by Nevenka Krceviski-Skvarc. The other theme is science, and we recently held our first scientific pain school for many years; that was in Krakow in Poland, under the Chairmanship of Barbara Przewlocka and with great support from Andreas Kopf. These three schools have been of the highest quality and reflect well on the European Pain Federation.

**Office:** In the office, our Secretariat have continued to work tirelessly and we have revised many things. We have an insurance policy for the Executive Board members, employees, Council and volunteers. We have a new firm for tax and legal affairs, Van Havermaet Groenweghe, and will benefit from having all aspects managed by one organisation. We have a new IT consultant, Jeroen Devroede, and we have had an overhaul of our computer systems and are working on a new website.

**Patient Liaison Committee:** We have started a new group – a Patient Liaison Committee, which recognises the importance of the patient voice in our fight against pain. We have superb patient advocates serving on the committee and we will be holding our first sub-committee meeting in Brussels on 13<sup>th</sup> October, immediately before the Brain, Mind and Pain meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October. The committee will help us to reach out to Parliamentarians and providers to ensure better representation and hopefully funding for pain research and pain medicine throughout Europe.

**Contributing Members:** We have had many requests for people to join the European Pain Federation and to contribute both financially and with support. We think it is essential to expand the number of people involved in the federation, to maintain our premier position in European Pain.

The EFIC by-laws, Article 6, members, section B states that “any organisation or person who agrees to contribute financially or materially for a minimum period of 3 years may become a contributing member. Contributing members are subject to the Executive Board’s approval and are without voting rights”. We have defined the minimum contribution for an individual member as € 100 per year for 3 years. This category might be of interest to some, in addition to their existing membership, through their own national Chapter, especially for those who are looking for a closer relationship with the working Officers and the many exciting ongoing projects of EFIC. It will also be of interest to those wishing to contribute financially to the projects and EFIC’s work throughout Europe. We will also welcome members from outside Europe and from smaller countries within Europe, where there is no individual IASP Chapter such as Luxembourg or Malta. We note that many IASP members are not members of their own national Chapter and hope that these and others will join as contributing members to support and influence our work. We are also able to include individual patient advocates in this category, who may not be members of their own Chapter.

We are looking forward to an excellent congress with great science and wonderful social functions and I would like to thank our secretariat, Christel Geevels and Sarah Darley, your excellent Executive Board, all councillors past and present and also those serving on our committees and task forces, for their tireless work and their huge contributions to our success.

Dr Chris Wells  
President, European Pain Federation