Dear Friends of EFIC®!

It has been a busy year so far, with many meetings including NeuPSIG in Nice, an excellent Pain School in Maribor and the BISOP congress in Belgrade (see meeting reports). We have also been preparing for what will be a groundbreaking meeting in Vienna. We have a series of debates on best practice, and interactive sessions with voting, electronic questions and twitter feed! The whole congress takes place under the mantle of “translating evidence into practice”, and will enhance your ability to treat pain sufferers in the best way possible. We will also offer some webcast presentations for delegates and this will be available on our EFIC website in the future.

We are also planning a “pain knowledge” curriculum leading to an examination and certification, to be known as the European Pain Federation Diploma in Pain Medicine, across Europe. There are exams and degrees available in some European countries - but by no means in all - and this will be the first multidisciplinary medical certification (see article). We hope to publish our curriculum later this year, and to hold the first exam next year.

We have better delineated our by-laws and are further developing the concept of Contributing Members (defined as “any organization or person who agrees to contribute financially or materially for a minimum period of three years may become a contributing member. Contributing members are subject to the Executive Board’s approval and without voting rights”). Many of those who are already members through their IASP Chapter have expressed interest in a more personal interaction with EFIC and also the chance to support the Federation with contributions. There are also those in smaller countries which do not have an IASP Chapter, and even those outside Europe, who wish to contribute. We have set the minimum contribution for individual members at €100 per year for 3 years, but would also be delighted to have any larger contributions! It should be tax-deductible but do check in your individual countries.

Any Contributing Member will be entitled to view the European Journal of Pain and EFIC Newsletters (online), EFIC member reductions in congress fees for our organized events, and also to apply for Schools and for EFIC grants such as EGG, Greppi and IBSA, as well as support from the EFIC office and secretariat.

Hope to see you all in Vienna!

With best wishes,

Chris Wells
President of the European Pain Federation EFIC
A Word from the Editor

Dear readership,

Over the last years I had the honour to address a few words and thoughts as editor on this page of our newsletter. In my function of president-elect of our Pain Federation I'm getting more and more intensively involved in other projects and committees. In 2 months our council will elect a new member at large in the executive board with the specific duty to chair the Newsletter and Website Committee. This means that in fall you will find here on page 2 a new face. I will be back in fall 2017 on page 1 with presidential messages. Meanwhile, I want to thank all colleagues who contributed to the content of the newsletter. My special thanks go to Melinda Borzsak for her professional guidance, development of communication strategies and executive editorial work on the website, social media and this newsletter. As indicated before, we are health care professionals and scientists, and not communication specialists. Never forget, interdisciplinary cooperation is the key for success, both in communication as in pain medicine. I am confident that my successor will give a new momentum for improvement of our communication in style and content. Enjoy a relaxing summer and I look forward to meeting you in Vienna.

Have a good read!

Bart Morlion
Editor European Pain Federation EFIC Newsletter

Pain in Europe IX: 9th Congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC

By Chris Eccleston

Europe has a rich and vibrant scientific community. It is the home of innovation, creativity, and technological advance. Translating that science into the practice of pain management is what we in the European Pain Federation care deeply about.

Our 9th European Pain Meeting will soon be upon us, taking place in the beautiful city of Vienna on the 2nd to the 5th of September. Take a look at the packed program. We have everything from basic science developments to management science on the organization of care. All about pain. Although there is no doubt that our plenary speakers are world experts and leaders not only in science but science communication. They will give the anchoring performances. But there is also quality and variety to be found across the programme. I am personally delighted that there will be displayed more than a 1000 posters. These posters are the lifeblood of our scientific community. In the poster halls you will find the discoveries of tomorrow, the leading scientists we don’t know yet, people doing what you do in a far-away country, but most of all people wanting to share their experience, learn from each other, and invest in making pain science and practice better.

This meeting has something for everyone: from pain at birth to pain at the end of life, from genetics to behavioural therapy. All of the delegates will share the same passion – to further their understanding, improve their practice, and (re) engage with-like minded colleagues. Come and join us. I look forward to meeting as many people as possible in Vienna.
Vienna is Austria’s primary city, with a population of about 1.7 million and is by far the largest city in Austria, as well as its cultural, economic, and political centre. Art and culture have a long tradition in Vienna, including theatre, opera, classical music and fine arts. The Burgtheater is considered one of the best theatres in the German-speaking world alongside its branch, the Akademietheater. The Volkstheater Wien and the Theater in der Josefstadt also enjoy good reputations. Modern attractions include the Hundertwasserhaus, the United Nations headquarters and the view from the Donauturm.

Are you still not sure why you should? Here are a few very good reasons:

- EFIC® is the largest European Pain Congress.
- EFIC® shines a spotlight on current trends and future developments in pain medicine.
- Join other international physicians and scientists to be a part of this unique opportunity to share cutting edge research and network with distinguished experts in the field.

We hope you are going to join us at this outstanding pain congress in 2015!

Please click on the links below to quickly access the most important information on the 8th EFIC Pain in Europe Congress online:

Novel Approaches to CRPS Care

By Chris Barker and Andreas Goebel

UK patients with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome complain, that their General Practitioners neither understand the condition, nor realize its profound impact on their quality of life. Can Pain Specialist in Europe share care of patients who have Complex Regional Pain Syndrome with the General Practitioners, to improve overall management? We plan to address this question at the Vienna 9th congress of the European Pain Federation, in September 2015, as part of the workshop ‘Novel Approaches to CRPS Care’ (Saturday 13.15pm – 14.45pm).

The first three workshop speakers will outline neuro-modulation-, and immune-modulation technologies for the treatment of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome, and describe a model for investigating autoantibody contribution. These novel technologies are expected to provide powerful analgesic tools for our daily practice in the near future.

In a third part, we will then ask how Pain Specialists can involve General Practitioners in (i) early Complex Regional Pain Syndrome diagnosis and management, (ii) the management of patients with long-term disease. After summarizing current European guidance documents’ advice on this topic, we will present the workshop participants with five action-points for discussion. We hope, that the participants’ feedback will in the future enhance European Guidance-development for Complex Regional Pain Syndrome.
Those attending the workshop can prepare, by considering how they can in their own region improve both the long-term management of these patients, and early diagnosis.

**EFIC on Facebook**

Are you a fan of the European Pain Federation EFIC on Facebook?

Join our community online and stay up-to-date on recent developments, grants and all other news related to the European Pain Federation EFIC as well as the pain research and pain medicine sector. Is there anything else you would like to see on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/EFICorg](http://www.facebook.com/EFICorg)? Then please feel free to let us know!

**EFIC Fellowship Report**

The EFIC fellowship is an individual fellowship for medical doctors supporting a training at a European Pain Centre with specific expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of all pain related problems. The selected pain centres do have educational programs dedicated to the fellow. To find out more about where fellowships are possible and how to apply for one, visit the EFIC website.

**Department of Anesthesiology**
**Pain and Palliative Medicine at the Radboud University Medical Centre Nijmegen**
**The Netherlands**

By Jarosław Leś

On the first day I was introduced to the team working in the Department. Settled all administrative matters needed to be done in before start working in the hospital. I received program for every working day throughout my stay in Radboud University Medical Centre, which considered my fields of interest according to the earlier consultation. It is very well prepared timetable that include activity, name of training supervisor, location and working hours which begins at 08:00 and ends at 16:00. Every two weeks are planned meetings with Prof Kris Vissers to discuss objectives, goals to be achieve and coordinate changes in the program.

Till now I have possibilities to master pharmacological and invasive treatment as well as become acquainted with administrative management of patient with acute and chronic pain. I could observe new pain procedures such as: neuromodulation (implantation of Spinal Cord Stimulators), epiduroscopy, RFT, PRF and many different blocks.

The Department marvelous organization of work and professionalism of the staff members allow to become acquainted with the multidisciplinary approach to pain treatment (doctors, nurses, psychologists and physiotherapists). I have possibilities to ask questions and obtain explanations. Another important point is that I get to know therapeutic protocols, assessment tools, pre- and postoperative observations and prescriptions. I already have possibilities to work with: RUMC Acute Pain Team, RUMC Palliative Care Team, RUMC (Dekkerswald), Chronic Pain Team, Hospital Rijnstate (Velp) Pain Team. Also I had attended Pain Research Department.

I have been invited to Symposium on Quantitative Sensory Testing. As anesthesiologist I visited operation theatre and be familiarized with daily routine. During that visit I had been shown interested blocks for regional anesthesia. I am looking forward to see another Pain Centers and Palliative Centers in the coming weeks.
knowledge will be very useful for my work in Poland. I am satisfied to take part in the EFIC Fellowship program in Pain and Palliative Medicine run by Prof. Kris Vissers.

European Journal of Pain – News & Editor’s Choice Articles

By Bettina Haake-Weber and Hermann O. Handwerker

European Journal of Pain is online-only since January 2015

The key feature is the “enhanced HTML” format, which enables the subscriber to transfer articles to various kinds of portable devices, we have an “anywhere article”! Enhanced Article (HTML) One may jump between different sections of an article, export citations into a reference managing system, or link directly to “supporting Information” and cited references. The new portable HTML format opens the possibility to download figures in Powerpoint format for lecturing.

New: Virtual issue on “Pain in Children”

On the journal’s homepage you can find a new virtual issue on “Pain in children”. This issue contains a collection of 12 articles from issues published in the Eur J Pain in the past two years. These articles are still available for free.

Outlook: Special issue on „Itch“

After the special issue on „Fibromyalgia“ (issue 18/8) we will have a special issue on the topic „Itch“ published in one of the next two issues. Guest-Editor will be Earl Carstens. This special issue will contain eight „Mini-Reviews“, entitled as follows:

- An evidence-based review of systemic treatments for itch
- Placebo and nocebo effects on itch: effects, mechanisms, and predictors
- Role of personality and expectations for itch and scratching induced by audiovisual itch stimuli
- Malignancy-Associated Pruritus
- The pathogenesis of Prurigo nodularis-“Super-Itch” in exploration
- Evolving understanding on the etiology of heat-provoked itch
- Epidemiology of uremic itch: new data

EJP Editor’s Choice articles July 2015


Please read on to find out which articles are featured in this section in July 2015:

Recommendations on practice of conditioned pain modulation (CPM) testing (pages 805–806)


Article first published online: 20 OCT 2014 | DOI: 10.1002/ejp.605
Efficient information for recognizing pain in facial expressions (pages 852–860)
C. Roy, C. Blais, D. Fiset, P. Rainville and F. Gosselin
Article first published online: 23 FEB 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/ejp.676

Immobilization stress sensitizes rat dorsal horn neurons having input from the low back (pages 861–870)
Article first published online: 17 FEB 2015 | DOI: 10.1002/ejp.682

You can access all Editors’ Choice articles from past issues for free via the journal’s website.

Report on EFIC Pain School for Cancer Pain and Palliative Care in May 2015, Maribor, Slovenia
By Nevenka Krcevski Skvarc

Twenty attendees from 12 EFIC Chapters used the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills in the management of pain and palliative care in cancer patients. They had excellent teachers and mentors coming from 9 EFIC Chapters. On the local level, the school was supported by the national societies for pain management and palliative care as well as the University Clinical Centre and Faculty of Medicine of University Maribor where the school took place.

It was designed as interactive during the lectures and with active involvement during the workshops. The first day was dedicated to the background of cancer pain and the philosophy of palliative care. The second day was dedicated to the treatment options of pain in patients with cancer. The third day was dedicated to the palliative care of the patients with cancer. The fourth day was dedicated to the psychology and physical rehabilitation of the patients with cancer pain and to the pain management of cancer survivors. The latter was enhanced by an interview with a patient.

In the afternoons of the second and third day of school, the participants were divided into small groups for workshops on case studies and training in communication skills. After each school day and before the beginning of the daily school programme, the attendees had to complete a short questionnaire on the content of the previous day. At the end of school they made an assessment of the entire programme, presentations and teachers’ performances.

The school was a successful event with a comprehensive overview of pain management and palliative care in cancer patients. The participants and the faculty had the opportunity for additional contacts and social networking during dinners at the terrace of the City Hotel with a nice view of the river Drava and Maribor’s surroundings. As the programme was very intense, there was alas no time to do more socializing, however, all the participants experienced a sightseeing tour of Maribor by the city sightseeing train ”Jurcek” and from the boat tour on the river Drava.
News from our Chapters

Annual Meeting of the Belgian Pain Society

The annual meeting of the Belgian Pain Society ("When it burns and tingles, update on neuropathic pain") took place on June 13th. A great variety of topics, from basic science to clinical management, have been covered. During the general assembly, a new board has been elected. The new BPS president is Prof. G. Hans (Antwerp), the vice-president is Prof. P. Forget (Brussels). Other board members are Mrs S. Broekmans (Leuven), L. De Ruddere (Gent) & M.C. Schommer (Liège), Drs K. Lauwers (Brasschaat) & B. Leroy (Liège). We wish them full success for their tasks. The meeting was also an occasion to announce that the annual BPS award was attributed to the Prof. Joris Vriens for his brilliant work entitled "TRPM3 as a target for treatment of inflammatory pain".

New Pain Clinic in Tel Aviv

A new clinic for noninvasive brain modulation for the treatment of chronic pain is currently being launched at Institute of Pain Medicine in Tel Aviv Medical Center in Israel. The first in the country and one of only several worldwide, the new clinic applies cutting-edge noninvasive technologies that can induce changes in brain function in treating patients with chronic, debilitating, and often treatment-resistant chronic pain. Treatments include patient-specific protocols of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS), direct Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) and EEG/fMRI neurofeedback or a combination of which. While still a novel and rapidly evolving practice, these technologies have shown much promise in the treatment of neuropsychiatric disorders, including chronic pain. The new clinical service is a joint venture of the Institute of Pain Medicine and the Center for Brain Functions at the Tel Aviv Medical Center.
Serbia Holds Symposium on Neuropathic Pain

The Serbian Association of Pain Research and Treatment (SAPRT) and Deutsche Schmerz Gesellschaft E.V. (DGSS) held joint symposium "Clinical Aspects and Perspectives of Neuropathic Pain" in Novi Sad, Serbia, on April 18, that attracted experts on pain from Serbia and Germany.

Among the 100 participants were anaesthesiologists, primary care physicians, oncologists, neurologists, rheumatologists. They explored topics related to neuropathic pain such as epidemiology and pathophysiological aspects, mechanism based pharmacotherapy, neuropathic pain in chronic osteoarthritis, medical cannabis and neuropathic pain; Workshops: Complex regional pain syndrome, Postherpetic neuralgia, Neuropathic pain in cancer.

The symposium highlighted the commitment of health-care professionals in Serbia to improve the management of neuropathic pain. The event stressed the need to work together with the Ministry of Health and the Health Insurance Fund to recognize chronic neuropathic pain as a disease and to ensure patients to receive the same level of attention as those with other chronic diseases. The symposium received support from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Novi Sad and the Health Council of Serbia.

News from the Irish Pain Society

The Irish Pain Society 15th Annual Scientific Meeting takes place on Saturday 26th September 2015 in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 2, Ireland. In keeping with IASP 2014-2015 Global Year against Neuropathic Pain’ renowned specialist speakers from neuroscience, medicine, psychology, nursing, physiotherapy and pharmacology will speak on a range of topics about neuropathic pain. A launch of the new Irish Network for Pain Research will take place. Poster abstracts are invited on a competitive basis for awarded prizes. The submission deadline for abstracts is 14th August. Further information and registration details from and abstract submissions to: odoran@coa.ie or http://www.irishpainsociety.com/.

In Ireland pain was recognised as a medical specialty in April 2014. However, as yet, Ireland does not have a National Pain Strategy. Recently the committee of the Irish Pain Society, together with members of the Faculty of Pain Medicine, drafted an outline document which informed discussions at an invited meeting regarding the possibility of developing a National Pain Strategy for Ireland. The meeting, held at the Department of Health, Hawkins House, Dublin on 15th April 2015, chaired by Dr Siobhan O’Halloran, Chief Nursing Officer, was attended
by the Dean Dr Josh Keaveny, and representatives of the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM); Irish Pain Society (IPS) President Laserina O’Connor and Officers and representative Committee members; Dr Brona Fullen, IPS EFIC representative; Ms Cathy Sexton, President of the Irish Pain Nurses and Midwives Society (IPNMS) and Mr John Lindsay, Chairperson of the Patients’ Organisation Chronic Pain Ireland (CPI). Attendees agreed that urgent priority must be given to (a) education and upskilling of nurses across all care settings; (b) the need for more Advanced Nurse Practitioners to facilitate nurse-led pain clinics in primary, secondary and tertiary care settings; (c) improving pain services to reduce current, problematic waiting lists for multidisciplinary treatment of chronic pain. Additional points of concern are that, in Ireland, chronic pain does not yet have a recognised clinical care pathway. Also there are fewer numbers of Pain Consultants per head of population in Ireland compared with the UK. Discussions in the Department of Health between Chief Nursing Officer Dr Siobhan O’Halloran and Minister of Health Dr Leo Varadkar regarding a National Pain Strategy for Ireland are ongoing and the FPM, IPS, IPNMS and CPI will be kept informed.

Irish Pain Society committee member Dr Shelagh Wright, Registered Psychologist and retired nurse and lecturer and author of textbook ‘Pain Management in Nursing Practice’, an elaboration of the nursing curriculum of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP) co-published by SAGE with IASP, has been invited to the Scientific Committee of the quarterly online Italian journal ‘Pain Nursing Magazine’ (www.painnursing.it) an initiative of the Paolo Procacci Foundation. One of the objectives of the Mission of ‘Pain Nursing Magazine’ is to improve quality of care and quality of life of people suffering from pain. The Paolo Procacci Foundation aims to expand the reach of ‘Pain Nursing Magazine’ beyond Italy to nurses in other countries and would greatly appreciate submission of pain related nursing articles in English for peer review for publication in Pain Nursing Magazine. The Editor-in-Chief of Pain Nursing Magazine is Prof. Stefano Coaccioli. Lorenza Saini is the Managing Editor. Articles can be sent to info@fondazioneprocacci.org.

Shelagh Wright also gave her invited inaugural presentation as newly appointed Advisor (Nursing) at the recently established Acute Chapter of the International Advisory Board of Change Pain®. Issues regarding optimising multidisciplinary team and organizational communication, health care professional and patient education, simplifying pain measurement, documentation to facilitate rapid response to meet patient analgesic needs and benefits of establishing nursing pain metrics for electronic databases to measure and monitor quality of care were among the topics discussed. The Acute Chapter of the International Advisory Board for Change Pain® aims to raise awareness about unmet medical needs in post-operative pain management and to develop solutions to improve the management of acute pain in the hospital setting. The members of the newly established Acute Chapter of the International Advisory Board of Change Pain® include anaesthetists, surgeons and nurses representing EFORT®; ESRA®; IASP®; ESA®; ICN® and the European Pain Federation EFIC®. (for more information on CHANGE PAIN® please visit www.change-pain.com).

During the first 5 years the International Advisory Board for Change Pain® concentrated on enhancing the understanding of severe chronic pain patients’ needs and the development of solutions to improve chronic pain management. CHANGE PAIN® reached thousands of Healthcare Professionals in Europe in the past years promoting key insights recommended by the International CHANGE PAIN® advisory board. During these 5 years, as a result of the dedication and effort of the International Advisory Board, more than 40 international and national scientific publications were published, downloaded more than 10,000 times. CHANGE PAIN® was present in more than 185 national and international congresses during the last 5 years and more than 42,000 professionals obtained PAIN EDUCATION eCME certificates. The newly established Acute Chapter of the International Advisory Board for Change Pain® will now expand this success to address the key needs in post-operative pain.
European Pain Federation EFIC® endorsed Interventional Pain Management Symposium & Cadaver Workshops, Osijek, Croatia

From the 16th to the 19th April 2015 the European Pain Federation EFIC® endorsed Interventional Pain Management Symposium & Cadaver Workshop was held in Osijek, Croatia, organized by the Croatian Pain Society, The European Pain Federation EFIC®, the Faculty of Medicine in Osijek and Osijek University Hospital.

The set started 04.16.2015 with a Get Together, and the symposium was held on 17th of April 2015 at Hotel Osijek. 18th and 19th April the workshops were held at the Faculty of Medicine in Osijek, which is located within the University Hospital Osijek.

This is the first symposium and workshop on cadavers in interventional treatment of pain in the southeastern part of Europe, and is therefore not surprising that the meeting had participants not only from Croatia, but also from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia. The lecturers were recognized interventional treatment experts from Europe and America. With asst. prof. Nevenka Krcevski-Skvarc (Slovenia) Honorary Secretary of the European Pain Federation EFIC®, prof. Jose De Andres (Spain), president of the European Society of Regional Anaesthesia and Pain Therapy, prof. Leonardo Kapural (US) the Medical Director of the Chronic Pain Center at Wake Forest University Health Sciences in Winston-Salem, Adnan al-Kaisy (GB), clinical lead and consultant in pain medicine and neuromodulation at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London, Giorgio Lambru (GB) consultant neurologist at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London. The lecturers from Croatia was neuroscientist and radiologist asst. prof. Milan Rados, prof. of anatomy Radivoje Radic, neurosurgeon asst. prof. Karlo Houra, and the director of the symposium and workshop on cadavers asst. prof. Ivan Rados.
News from the British Pain Society

Several of the EFICs UK Chapter members benefited from the Pain Schools organized by EFIC. These are valued resources and the successful applicants were delighted to be accepted for these schools, covering a wide range of topics from research through to neuropathic pain.

The UK Chapter of EFIC – the British Pain Society (BPS) - ran its main event for the year the 48th Annual Scientific Meeting from 21st – 23rd April 2015 in Glasgow. The ASM was attended by 504 delegates, with very welcome support from trade delegates. Dr Beverly Collet, who had recently been bestowed with a National Award at Buckingham Palace for her services to pain (Officer of the British Empire), was awarded the British Pain Society Medal of Distinction. This is the third such award in our Society’s history, the other recipients being Professor Sir Michael Bond and Dr Douglas Justins. Two BPS members who excelled in services to the British Pain Society were bestowed Honorary membership of the Society. These two nurses Ms Felicia Cox and Professor Nick Alcock had carried out tireless work for the society through the development of the British Journal of Pain and the Communications Committee respectively. Congratulations to all.

The ASM opening address, The Patrick Wall lecture, was delivered by Professor Andrew Rice - covering research into neuropathic pain and its clinical potential. The ASM closing presentation (The British Pain Society lecture) was delivered by Professor Dame Cheryl Black who provided insight into the benefit of returning to some form of employment after an absence due to persistent pain. Over the 3 days between these presentations, there were plenary lectures and parallel sessions covering topics such as low back pain, opioid overuse, pain education, and neuropathic pain.

Five individuals were selected from the poster exhibition to give oral presentations of their research - first prize was awarded to Allen Dickie (Sex dependent regulation of rat c-fibre activity – dependent slowing in inflammatory pain). Others selected to give presentations were Abimbola Ayorinde, Fiona Bull, Polly Langdon and Fiona Purdie. Our next ASM will be held in Harrogate, 10th – 12th May 2016.

Our local chapter also runs Study Days and SIG meetings (we now have 14 SIGs), as well as having a good collaboration with commissioning leads, postgraduate educational colleges and other organisations associated with the research & management of pain. Further details are available via our website www.britishpainsociety.org.

EFIC-GRÜNENTHAL Grant – Nomination of winners
We are happy to share the news about the nomination of EFIC-GRÜNENTHAL Grant (E-G-G) winners 2014. The EFIC® Scientific Research Committee reviewed 100 completed E-G-G applications and selected 7 research projects for funding. The winners are:

- Jamila ANDOH, Germany
  Circuits of pain memory in chronic pain patients.

- Christopher BROWN, United Kingdom
  Markers of cortical reorganisation in Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS)

- Franziska DENK, United Kingdom
  Epigenetics & pain - uncovering the mechanisms.

- Katarina FORKMANN, Germany
  The attentional effects of peripheral and trigeminal pain in healthy subjects and patients with postherpetic neuralgia.

- Flavia MANCINI, United Kingdom
  Defining mechanisms of adaptive plasticity in the coding of nociceptive intensity and location

- Diana TORTA, Belgium
  Cortical and peripheral beta oscillations in pain.

- Andrea TRUINI, Italy
  Breaking dogmas: a neurophysiological and neuroimaging study showing that non-nociceptive Aβ-fibres mediate paroxysmal pain in healthy humans.

All parties are delighted with the number of applications submitted, which have exceeded our expectations for the E-G-G 2014 competition. The huge amount of research work which must be carried out underlines the importance of these grants in supporting ongoing pain research. The winners of the E-G-G 2014 will be presented during the Opening Ceremony of the 9th EFIC® Congress "PAIN IN EUROPE IX" (2nd-5th September 2015, Vienna, Austria).

Moreover, previous E-G-G winners will have the exciting opportunity to give insights into their awarded projects by presenting the progress and results at the EFIC® Symposium "New Findings in Clinical Pain Research" at the EFIC® Congress in Vienna on September 3rd 18:00 – 19:30.

For further information please visit www.e-g-g.info.
Meetings: Past and Future

By Arun Bhaskar

Past Meetings

There was a “heat wave” in the UK last week and we are starting to enjoy the glorious British summer, though the rains have been making an intermittent appearance. I am sure most of you are looking forwards to spending some well-earned time with the family as the school summer holidays are just around the corner. I hope you have a good break, as there are a host of meetings from September, kicking off on 02 September with the 9th Congress of the European Pain Federation in Vienna.

The Annual scientific meeting of the British Pain Society was held on 21-23rd April, 2015 at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow, which attracted specialists from various disciplines in pain medicine. There were several exciting plenary lectures with Prof. Andrew Rice and Prof. Per Hansson talking on various developments in the field of neuropathic pain. The other interesting plenary talks were by Dr. Jordi Serra talking on whether the abnormal peripheral nociceptors in fibromyalgia is a cause or epiphenomenon and Prof. George Ikkos debated on the issues of scientific knowledge and clinical practice in pain and psychiatry.

There were several workshop-based sessions – the ones I particularly found stimulating were the ones on “Dealing with diagnostic uncertainty” and also on “CBT, CAT, CFT, ACT – weaving together psychological therapies: in the management of chronic pain”. One of the highlights of the meeting was the debate “Should we be adopting novel pain interventions based on controlled trials only?” led by Prof. Turo Nurmikko and Dr. Raj Munglani. The meeting also offered plenty of opportunities to network with your peers and it was a great time to be in Glasgow. As a council member for the British Pain Society, I am also delighted to say that we are celebrating the 50th year in 2017, a possible first for any pain society in the world, and this promises to be a grand event in the academic calendar.

The 5th International Meeting of the IASP SIG for Neuropathic Pain (NeuPSIG) was held in Nice, France from 14-17th May 2015 and followed the theme of European Year against Neuropathic Pain. Prof. Nadine Attal and the scientific committee provided a fantastic programme that highlighted the advances in research and treatment guidelines in the field of neuropathic pain. Dr. Chris Wells is writing a piece on this meeting in greater detail.

The 14th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care was held on 08-10th May 2015 attracting not only experts in palliative care for cancer patients, but also in the field of dementia and other chronic illnesses. The content was a bit light on pain management but focused on supportive care and management of distressing symptoms in these patients.

The 10th Belgrade International Symposium on Pain (BISOP) was held on 22-23rd May 2015 in Belgrade,
Serbia. Dr. Wells and I enjoyed the city and the hospitality and the meeting attracted more than 400 delegates from Serbia and neighbouring countries. The meeting also hosted refresher courses for delegates who are new to pain medicine and this was very well received. One of the exciting talks was by Prof. Nebojsa Knezevic, Director of Anaesthesiology Research at the university of Illinois, USA on "The Efficacy and Safety of Corticosteroids in the Treatment of Acute and Chronic Pain".

It was a short flight for us to Vienna where the International Society for Interventional Spine had their 2015 European meeting, with the theme – Interventional Pain in the era of value based care. The speakers discussed not only the technical aspects and recent advances in interventions of the spine and neck, but also the various clinical, ethical, socio-economic and political dilemmas affecting the specialty of interventional pain medicine. Dr. Wells elucidated this quite eloquently in his talk “What is more Effective - Producing Evidence or Political Action?”. I would like to thank Dr. Tim Maus, organising chairman, and Dr. Josh Rittenberg for a wonderful time and putting together a highly educational meeting.

The 12th Biennial World Congress of the International Neuromodulation Society was held on 06-11th June 2015 at the Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Montreal, Canada. This was the largest congress of its kind attracting more than 1400 delegates from over 41 countries. The meeting started with a day on Innovations in Neuromodulation, which enabled researchers and industry leaders to showcase recent developments especially in miniaturisation of the technology and its novel applications. There were a lot of presentations and discussions on the mechanisms of neurostimulation and the role different targets play and it is to be said that we seem to be heralding an era where conventional pharmacological management for many disease states could be challenged successfully. There were more than 360 scientific posters and a third of them were given the opportunity to present as oral presentations. There was also a cadaver workshop to train delegates in neuromodulation techniques. Professor Alim Benabid received the prestigious honour, the third "Giant of Neuromodulation Award" for his pioneering work in neuromodulation looking at a cure for Parkinson’s disease amongst others. We owe a great deal of gratitude to Dr. Simon Thomson who has been the President of the INS for two terms and had overseen three successful World Congresses. I would also take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Tim Deer who has taken over as President of the International Neuromodulation Society and wish him all success and our support.

Future Meetings

It goes without saying that the biggest pain meeting of the year is going to be the 9th Congress of the European Pain Federation to be held in Vienna, Austria on 02-05th September. I am looking forward to see a lot of my friends, both old and new, at the Congress; Vienna is a beautiful and vibrant city with its architecture and cultural delights. The scientific committee has put together a diverse and interesting programme covering the various facets of pain medicine. I do hope many of you would try to make it to this meeting. You will hear more about it from Prof. Christopher Eccleston, chair of the scientific committee and also from Dr. Chris Wells, President of the European Pain Federation. Those of you who haven’t registered yet, the details can be found on the link below.

http://www.kenes.com/efic2015

The Neuromodulation Societies of UK & Ireland, Germany and Switzerland would be holding their annual scientific meeting at the Kings College Campus in Strand, London on 6-8th November 2015. The annual meeting of the Interventional SIG of the British Pain Society is also joining in on this meeting and would cover most topics in interventional pain medicine and neuromodulation for pain and functional disorders. This could very well be the largest neuromodulation conference in Europe to date and on behalf of the organization committee, I would
personally like to invite you all to London. Further details could be obtained from the following.  
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The Swiss Pain Congress 2015 will be held between 20-21st November 2015 in Montreux, Switzerland under the auspices of the Swiss Neuromodulation Society and the Swiss Society for Interventional Pain Medicine (SSIPM). This meeting organised by Dr. Christophe Perruchoud and Dr. Philippe Mavrocordatos have always been of a very high standard attracting high quality speakers from across the globe. Further details can be obtained from the link below.
Email: info@neuromodulation.ch
Web: http://www.neuromodulation.ch

The 15th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Irish Pain Society is being held on Saturday, 26th September 2015 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Dublin with the theme “Global Year Against Neuropathic Pain”. The programme is yet to be finalized, but speakers include Prof. Rolf Detlef Treede, President of IASP and other eminent figures in the field. This promises to be a good meeting and Dublin is a wonderful city to spend a long weekend and soak in the famous Irish hospitality and enjoy a pint or two of the famous Black Stuff. Further details of the meeting can be found at
odoran@coa.ie
http://www.irishpainsociety.com

There are three Interprofessional Pain Care symposia in the autumn of this year conducting two-day intensive refresher courses covering a wide variety of topics including acute and chronic pain states including oncological pain. It starts of on 11-12th of September at the Cristofori Concertzaal, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and is soon followed by another on 18 – 19th September, at the historic Gordon Museum of Pathology, King’s College London on the campus of the famous Guy’s hospital in London. This latter meeting is co-organised by the Pain Bridge Netherlands and the London Pain Forum and coincides with the first joint inter-professional conference. The third meeting is held on 20-21st September at the Austria Trend Hotel in Bratislava, Slovak Republic. Further information on these meetings can be sourced from the following links.
http://www.painbridge.nl/

The Fourth London Pain Forum Winter Symposium will be held in the resort of Tignes, France from 17th - 23rd of January, 2016. The previous meetings have been very successful in bringing together clinicians in pain medicine and neuromodulation and the delegate feedback on how they could interact one-to-one with some of the leading figures in the field and to each other has been overwhelmingly positive. The informal setting and also having plenty of time to hit the slopes can be considered as an added bonus. This meeting attracts 16 CME credits and is becoming one of the calendar events of the year. Further details of the meeting can be obtained below.
ciaranwazir@gmail.com
http://www.lpfwintersymposium.blogspot.com

I hope you have a fantastic summer holidays and time with your families and I look forward to meeting you at some of these meetings.
PAIN IN EUROPE IX
9TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION EFIC®
Vienna, Austria, 2 - 5 September 2015

EFIC-GRÜNENTHAL GRANT
NEW FINDINGS IN CLINICAL PAIN RESEARCH:
Results of the EFIC-Grünenthal Grants 2012

Co-Chairs:  
Dr Luis Villanueva, DDS, PhD (Paris, France)
Prof Esther Pogatzki-Zahn MD (Münster, Germany)

Speakers:  
Prof Samar M Hatem, MD, PhD (Brussels, Belgium)
Upper limb pain after stroke: should we act on pain or neglect?

Dr Lannie Ligthart, PhD (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
The development of pain, anxiety and depressive symptoms over time.

Dr Ann Meulders, PhD (Leuven, Belgium)
Fear generalization processes in chronic pain: an associative learning approach.

Prof Katharina Zimmermann, MD (Erlangen, Germany)
Ciguatera fish poisoning: novel insight into an old disease.

Guest-Speaker:  
Prof Esther Pogatzki-Zahn, MD (Münster, Germany)
Postoperative pain: From bench to bedside.

Dinner Buffet will be served from 19:30 h

Vienna, Austria, 3rd September 2015
18:00 - 19:30 h
Hall E

Contact: Mrs Gaby Erken | e-mail: admin@e-g-g.info | www.e-g-g.info | www.efic.org
How did you enjoy the EFIC Newsletter 02/2015? Let us know at newsletter@efic.org. We look forward to receiving your feedback on this issue.

The next EFIC Newsletter will be published in September 2015. The deadline for contributions is August 31, 2015. All contributions must be emailed to Bart Morlion at bart.morlion@uzleuven.be.

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Inner Circle Company Members of EFIC 2015: