

logistic support, preparation and organisation. The objectives of the symposium are to discuss the key challenges, goals, policy instruments with budget holders, strategic decision makers and representatives of stakeholder organisations to improve pain care in Europe.

After the tremendous success of the first SIP symposium in 2010 EFIC® and Grünenthal have committed to organise and support the 2nd SIP Symposium to be held on the 3rd and 4th of May, 2011 in Brussels. For managers and administrators involved in strategic decision making on pain related issues from the perspective of national health care systems the symposium will be a good opportunity to network and share best practices with health care authorities, insurances, budget holders from all over Europe. For health care professionals, patient and consumer representatives the symposium will form a platform to interact and present their work on improving pain care.

For further information see: [www.SIP-Meetings.org](http://www.SIP-Meetings.org)

## Website

EFIC's website, rebuilt in 2006 contains information on EFIC's members, chapters, general information about pain, full information about Europe against Pain initiative, yearly activities for the European Week against Pain, EFIC publications, meetings/ congresses of EFIC and announcements of other pain meetings in Europe, plans in education and research and news alerts. Plans to include a CME accredited education and full information resources on pain are in the pipeline. [www.efic.org](http://www.efic.org)

## Newsletter

EFIC produces an online newsletter, twice per year, outlining various activities of EFIC, reports on achievements and special highlights. The renewed newsletter is only available on the website via registration.

### EFIC Executive Board 2008-2011

- Prof. Giustino Varrassi, President – Italy
- Prof. Serdar Erdine, Immediate Past President – Turkey
- Prof. Hans Kress, President Elect – Austria
- Prof. Per Hansson, Honorary Secretary – Sweden
- Prof. Eli Alon, Honorary Treasurer – Switzerland

For any further information regarding EFIC®, please consult the EFIC website: [www.efic.org](http://www.efic.org) or contact the EFIC office:

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## What is EFIC? (European Federation of IASP® Chapters)

The European Federation of IASP® chapters (EFIC®) is a multidisciplinary professional organization in the field of pain science and medicine, made up of the 31 European Chapters of National Pain Societies of IASP (International Association for the Study of Pain). Established in 1993, EFIC's 31 constituent chapters represent Pain Societies from 31 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.

## EFIC's Aim

EFIC's aims are to advance research, education, clinical management and professional practice related to pain, and to serve as an authoritative, scientifically based resource concerning policy issues related to pain and its management.

## EFIC Activities

- **THE EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN (EJP)**  
The European Journal of Pain published since January 1997, is ranked no.5 in the category Anaesthesiology by ISI\* (*© Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports, Science Edition (2010)*). It currently publishes 10 volumes per year and is cited in Pub Med and other leading scientific reference facilities on the web. For more information on the EJP, please consult the website [www.europeanjournalpain.com](http://www.europeanjournalpain.com). The online subscription to the EJP is free of charge for EFIC National society Members and can be claimed by registering for at the official EFIC website. More information on the printed version of the EJP can be found on [www.europeanjournalpain.com](http://www.europeanjournalpain.com).
- **THE "EUROPE AGAINST PAIN" INITIATIVE (EAP)**  
Launched in 1991 at the European Parliament, the concept behind the "Europe against Pain" (EAP) initiative is to focus on activities at European Union level, in order to use EU institutions and programs in the field of public health to leverage our efforts at influencing knowledge, opinion, and ultimately policy and practice concerning pain at both pan-European and national levels. This initiative brings together pain professionals, patients and industry to work towards the common objective through the agreed modalities. These partnerships undertake educational and European public affairs activities with the view to raise the profile of pain on future health agendas in Europe. This is achieved through:

### ✚ Informative tools

The 1<sup>st</sup>. step, essential to all aspects of the EAP initiative, was the preparation of information resources on pain and its management. EFIC produces on a periodical basis and for specific campaigns, various information resources including:

- ↳ Briefing packets (media packs) for representatives who will meet face-to-face with EU decision makers.
- ↳ Compilations of existing published data on pain and its costs in Europe in an easily accessible summary format.
- ↳ Other information for pain patients and the general public on the steps to pain treatment.

### ✚ Network dissemination

EFIC has identified and is in contact with key decision makers in the European arena. EFIC has recruited skilled and high profile spokespersons from among the members of EFIC, who are willing to represent our message effectively. This network enables the planning across Europe of the European Week against Pain (EWAP). In addition EFIC's bi-annual pan-European conference is an appropriate venue to announce the continuing EAP plans.

### ✚ Awareness Campaign: The European Week against Pain

Each year, EFIC holds a centrally coordinated event namely "The European Week against Pain" (EWAP). The 1<sup>st</sup>. European Week against Pain was launched at the European Parliament in 1991 and since then, European Chapters from all over Europe have held national activities each year during the defined week to gain attention amongst the medical community, the general public and local media. Each EWAP has a defined theme and EFIC provides briefing packs on that theme, so that a general message can be unified across Europe. In 2010 EFIC will promote the theme "Societal Impact of Pain".

## Pain in Europe – EFIC's congress

Since 1995, EFIC has held 6 congresses with the next one "Pain in Europe VII" planned in Hamburg 21-24 September 2011. EFIC's congress has become a popular forum in Europe attracting over 3.300 participants in 2009 and with an average growth of 30% for each congress. Congress participants are mainly from Europe, but with representation from 73 countries worldwide in 2009, the congress can be viewed as an international educational exchange on pain issues. For further information on the next congress, please consult the website: [www.efic.org](http://www.efic.org) or [www.kenes.com/efic](http://www.kenes.com/efic)

## EFIC Educational initiatives

**Fellowship for Eastern European countries:** Individual fellowships for medical doctors supporting a 3-6 months of training at important European pain centres to learn and practice clinical personnel methods in experimental pain methods or research pain management. Application forms can be found on the EFIC website: [www.efic.org](http://www.efic.org).

**EFIC International Pain Schools:** are basic-level courses aimed at young European medical doctors and paramedical personnel who are interested in the field of pain and want to get more experience. These are at least 5 days international schools regarding basic treatment of pain patients and all aspects of pain development. To be eligible for the school you need to be an EFIC Chapter member. Successful applicants may be eligible for a grant.

**Master Classes:** ITEM (IntraThecal EFIC Master Class) advanced-level courses aimed at European medics who have at least 2 year's experience in intrathecal drug delivery. Medical doctors and nurses with several years experience with intrathecal analgesia and an endorsement from the Head of Department may also be eligible. All courses will be taught in English so proficiency in English is required. Successful applicants may be eligible for a travel and accommodation grant. Application forms are available on the EFIC website: [www.efic.org](http://www.efic.org).

## EFIC GRÜNENTHAL GRANT (E-G-G) - Research Grants for clinical and human experimental pain research

These bi-annual grants totalling up to € 200,000 from EFIC in cooperation with Grünenthal GmbH, Germany, are aimed at supporting young scientists in carrying out innovative and exploratory clinical pain research projects in any EFIC chapter country (see [www.EFIC.org](http://www.EFIC.org)).

The decision on the awarding of grants is made entirely by the EFIC Sub-Committee on Research.

Research grants are intended for clinical and human experimental research projects on the subject of pain. Research grants are valued at up to € 30,000 per project.

The duration of projects should not be longer than two years.

Further information and the online application procedure can be found on the website [www.e-g-g.info](http://www.e-g-g.info)

## Symposium "The societal impact of pain"

The European Federation of the Association for the Study of Pain, EFIC® is firmly convinced of the importance of discussing the 'Societal Impact of Pain' with authorities, insurances, budget holders and strategic decision makers within national health care systems.

In order to provide a platform for this discussion the Symposium "The societal impact of pain" (SIP) has been initiated. The scientific framework of the two-day event is designed under the responsibility of the European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC®)". Grünenthal is responsible for