

The President's Corner

Dear Friends of EFIC®!



The period from September to November is the busiest time for the European Pain Federation, EFIC, both at the headquarters in Diegem, Brussels, and for your President. I have visited three brilliant Pain Schools in Klagenfurt, Bergamo and Liverpool; also three lovely but quite different EFIC Chapter meetings, in Lisbon Portugal, Bucharest Romania and Eilat Israel. I have also spoken on behalf of the Federation at the Spine Intervention Society in Lisbon, the Pain Hub research meeting in Tel Aviv, and recently at the Brain Mind and Pain meeting at the EU Parliament in Brussels.

In the UK I have attended meetings at the Department of Work and Pensions regarding return to work for people in pain, and we have just completed the [NICE Guideline on Low Back Pain and Sciatica](#) which emphasizes self-help and exercise, but also the importance of assessment and pain specialists' interventions.

An example of how on some days I'd like to be in three places at once came on 20th October- there was an event at the Pain Relief Foundation, Liverpool to mark the European Year against Joint Pain, and in memory of Jean Marie Besson. Serge Perrot spoke eloquently about combined management of pain from the joints, whilst in Brussels the SIP team met to formulate the next meeting in Malta (ably attended by Bart Morlion on our behalf) and in Moldova there was an excellent meeting of the Moldovan Pain Society, with the Romanian and Ukrainian chapters (attended by Arun Bhaskar on our behalf, please see his report).

We continue to develop our Task Forces (TFs), and our first TF publication on Opioids will be on "Open Access" in the European Journal of Pain. Other TFs include those on Cancer, Back Pain, CRPS, Acute Pain and Cannabinoids- the latter Chaired by Winfried Hauser who would love to hear your experiences on the use of cannabinoids in your country. We plan to have articles from the Chair of the TFs in the Newsletter as time goes on.

We have our first examination for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine (EDPM) in Madrid, March 31st and April 1st; [registration is now available online.](#)

The increasing workload of the Federation has put a huge burden on our excellent and hard-working office staff, and we will move to relieve this by appointing an Executive Director for EFIC, to work under the mantle of the President and the Executive Board - for all our members, not only in Belgium but also throughout the whole of Europe. We will let you know, on the website, when a successful candidate is appointed, and hope you all make her or him most welcome.

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IMPRESSUM

Editor: Brona Fullen



Now things will quieten down a little in the run up to Christmas and New Year. The poet Dryden said, in 1665, "For all the happiness mankind can gain, is not in pleasure but in rest from pain" and we can wish this rest for all our patients, but to you all, I wish the best of health, happiness and pleasure with family and friends at this holiday time.

I look forward to writing again in 2017.

**With best wishes,
Chris Wells
President of the European Pain Federation EFIC**

A Word from the Editor



Dear readership,

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2016. Many thanks for the news and updates from your national chapters. It demonstrates the significant multidisciplinary activity in the field of pain science across Europe. Please continue to share this information with us. As you know now the European Pain Federation EFIC®s has developed a new Diploma in Pain Medicine. Details regarding the application and examination processes are enclosed, and the first exam is scheduled for March 2017 in Madrid Spain.

Hopefully as another busy year is drawing to a close you are busy clearing the decks at work and planning a break from routine over the holiday season.

With best wishes for a successful and peaceful 2017!

**Brona Fullen
Editor European Pain Federation EFIC Newsletter**

**European
Journal of Pain**

**Pain in Europe X
2017**

EFIC Diploma in Pain Medicine



Requirements for examination and application protocol
Date of first examination: March 31st, April 1st 2017 - Madrid, Spain

Registrations:

[Registrations can be done HERE!](#)

Examination Requirements:

1. Medical Degree - details and certification, proof of medical registration.
2. Curriculum Vitae - detailing experience of pain management in current and previous posts.
3. Letter of support or endorsement from two referees. For example, a head of department, clinical director or senior colleague. One could also be an EPF (EFIC) Councillor or Chapter Executive Board member. This should state that the candidate is in good standing in their country, and in their department, and is involved in seeing and managing patients with pain on a regular basis.
4. Completion of application form online
5. Non-returnable fee of €600
6. Visa letter if required
7. Online file of 5 case histories of patients assessed and treated personally by candidate, including presenting symptoms, brief details of disability and distress, differential diagnosis, management and outcome. History usually not to exceed 500 words for each case history. Candidates will be examined on one of the case histories, and will be expected to show knowledge about the type of case submitted. Submission to be at least 2 weeks before examination.
8. All information to be in English, or translated to English.

The Examination:

The first examination will take place on Friday March 31st and Saturday April 1st, 2017, in Madrid, Spain. It is envisaged that candidates can fly in on the morning of 31st, stay over for one night and depart after 13.00 from the examination venue on 1st April.

The venue is University Hospital HM Montepincipe (hmmontepincipe.com), Av. De Montepincipe, 25, 28660 Boadilla del Monte, approximately 20 km from Madrid International Airport. The recommended hotel is [Marriot A C La Finca](#) but alternative accommodation can be researched by the candidate.

Examination Coverage:

The MCQs will cover the curriculum. Knowledge requirements are broad but not deep. All MCQs will be based on the curriculum and the reading list; answers will be supported by the reading list. Fifty questions will consist of a stem, followed by 5 individual statements, to be marked by the candidate "True" or "False" (info re own computer). There will be 2 Vivas, oral examinations. Both will last for 10 minutes. One will be a discussion on one of the candidates' submitted case history. The other will cover general pain medicine. The Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE's) There will be 6 stations, each representing a simple clinical situation. Each station will have a 5 minute period of questions, scored in an objective fashion.

EFIC on Social Media

Are you following of the European Pain Federation EFIC on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube yet?

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:

www.facebook.com/EFICorg

www.twitter.com/EFIC_org

www.youtube.com/user/eficorg



Is there anything you would like to see more of on our social media channels? If so, please feel free to let us know!

A great experience at the Bergamo Pain School 2016

By Aleksandar Knezevic

I am very grateful for having the opportunity to attend Bergamo Pain School and for that I would like to thank everyone in both European and national associations. Professor Casale and his team were excellent hosts. They made us feel very welcome and they led us through everyday activities quite smoothly. A lot of experience and knowledge which was integrated in interactive workshops have helped us enrich our knowledge, as it was rather clinically oriented. We enjoyed a beautiful town of Bergamo. The accommodation was very good and all the people were very kind.

We were provided with information incorporated in practical advice related to the diagnosis of neuropathic pain, from patient's history, to questionnaires, clinical examination and objective diagnostic tools, such as electroneurography somatosensory evoked potentials, QST, fMRI, skin biopsy, autonomic nervous system testing etc. Dr Hansson patiently guided us through theory of the QST, and afterwards we had an opportunity to test QST and to personally feel sensation from it. We broadly discussed about available therapy for neuropathic pain as well as targets for potential new drugs. Furthermore, we had a chronic pain patient where we could test our ideas about the causes of pain and discuss potential therapy.

Also, we had opportunity to exchange experience with participants from other countries. On the other hand, during lectures, we learned a lot of about differences in organisation, treatments or procedures in different countries. During our visit to Habilita Hospital in Bergamo, we had a lecture about the assessment of the patients with barriers to communicate and had chance to see the organization and available equipment. We had an opportunity to observe botulinum toxin ultrasound guided injection in a patient with spasticity after stroke.



One of the greatest impressions from this pain school was definitely a discussion section. We actually discussed about all topics, even during the lectures and every professor encouraged us to stop him during the lecture and ask if something was not clear. In this manner the majority of the lectures became a broad discussion where everyone had the opportunity to ask question, state their opinion and share their experiences. These circumstances relaxed the atmosphere and every student could ask even "trivial" questions. Every professor generously shared their

experience with us and we did not hesitate to ask. For such a healthy atmosphere, we can be thankful especially to Dr Casale, Dr Hansson, Dr Bouhassira, Dr Garcia-Larrea and Dr Hanna.

We have seen many potential solutions for organization problems back home. Finally, we have seen through the complexity of the chronic neuropathic pain therapy and more importantly, we have recognized our place as physical medicine and rehabilitation specialists in multidisciplinary team which should struggle with this overwhelming problem. This recognition will provide us with the determination and motivation for continuous studying and practicing, as well as scientific work in this field in the future. Once again thank you very much for this great opportunity.

European Civic Prize on Chronic Pain - Collecting Good Practices



Active Citizenship Network is launching the project "EU Civic Prize on Chronic Pain - Collecting good practices". The aim is to give evidence of existing good practices in European countries in terms of struggle against pain.

Establishing a "European Civic Prize on Chronic Pain", based on the selection of the practices presented by different healthcare stakeholders (patients' associations, health professionals, private and public hospitals, universities, etc.) will provide an occasion for demonstrating what this community can offer in terms of good practice and experiences which are useful in raising awareness about the condition, enhancing the body of knowledge of positive cases and success, and strengthening commitment to this topic.

The public European celebration of the Prize (final event planned for June 2017) will represent the recognition of ongoing excellence. We like to think that this will be the first in a series of prizes – perhaps every two years – awarded to celebrate progress in the treatment and manage of chronic pain. We will invite most of the representatives of the collected good practices to this event. This will start the creation of a network of best practice practitioners, able to provide information, advice and practical help to each other. A Jury, composed of international experts in chronic pain (from universities, healthcare professionals and providers' organisations, civic and patients' associations etc.) will choose the winners. The winners will be given an expenses-paid visit to another winner and a publication in English in a suitable journal.

New closing date: we are looking forward to receive your submission until December 31st, 2016! **Tell us about your way of working with chronic pain and win!**

[Read this brief guide to fill in the Form](#)
[Click here to submit your Good Practice!](#)
[Download the leaflet](#)

For more information, please contact Daniela Quaggia: d.quaggia@activecitizenship.net

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

By Bettina Haake-Weber



Editorial Board meeting

The Editorial Board of the European Journal of Pain (EJP) met for a strategic meeting in Lyon on 18-19 November this year. The meeting was hosted by the Editor-in-Chief (E-i-c) Luis Garcia-Larrea and virtually all Section Editors could attend the meeting, including the President-elect of EFIC Bart Morlion, the Managing Editor Bettina Haake-Weber as well as former E-i-C Hermann Handwerker and two representatives of the Publisher Wiley-Blackwell. The meeting was mostly conducted in brain storming mode and lively discussions lead through the agenda that included a number of points crucial for the future development of EJP:

- launching of a new Web interface for the Journal by Wiley,
- renewal of the Advisory Board,
- new strategies improving impact, citation index and visibility, including a simple procedure to get EJP full-text access for EFIC members,
- launching of a letter-from-the Editor to all subscribers, potential readers and authors,
- dissemination the EJP Table of Contents through mail and the EJP App



The faces of the European Journal of Pain (from left to right): Bettina Haake-Weber (Managing Editor), Danielle van der Windt, Christiane Hermann, Luis Villanueva, Daniel Ciampi de Andrade (Section-Editors), Luis Garcia-Larrea (Editor-in-chief), Ulf Baumgärtner, Bart Morlion, Stephen Morley, Jörn Lötsch (in the back), Didier Bouhassira (Section-Editors), Lena Jacobsen (Wiley-Blackwell), Per Hansson (Section Editor), Griselda Campbell (Wiley-Blackwell). Missing Section-Editors: Frank Birklein, Theodore Price



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EJP Editor's Choice articles January 2017 (issue 21-01, published online on Dec 12th)

Please read on to find out which articles are featured in this section in January 2017:

"European Pain Federation (EFIC) position paper on appropriate opioid use in chronic pain management"

by O'Brien, T., Christrup, L.L., Drewes, A.M., Fallon, M.T., Kress, H.G., McQuay, H.J., Mikus, G., Morlion, B.J., Perez-Cajaraville, J., Pogatzki-Zahn, E., Varrassi, G., Wells, J.C.D.

Significance:

This position paper provides expert recommendations for primary care physicians and other non-opioid specialist healthcare professionals in Europe, particularly those who do not have ready access to specialists in pain medicine, on the safe and appropriate use of opioid medications as part of a multi-faceted approach to pain management, in properly selected and supervised patients.

"Blockade of sigma 1 receptors alleviates sensory signs of diabetic neuropathy in rats"

Paniagua, N., Girón, R., Goicoechea, C., López-Miranda, V., Vela, J.M., Merlos, M. and Martín Fontelles, M.I.

Significance:

Blockade of $\sigma 1R$ avoids the development of diabetic neuropathy in rats, and may represent a potentially useful therapeutic approach to peripheral neuropathies in diabetic patients.

"Neuropathic pain prevalence following spinal cord injury: A systematic review and meta-analysis"

Burke, D., Fullen, B.M., Stokes, D. and Lennon, O.

Significance:

This systematic review and meta-analysis records pooled point prevalence of neuropathic pain post spinal cord injury at 53%. Additional pooled analysis shows that neuropathic pain is more common below the level of lesion, in patients with tetraplegia, older patients and at 1 year post injury.

"Restoring movement representation and alleviating phantom limb pain through short-term neurorehabilitation with a virtual reality system"

Osumi, M., Ichinose, A., Sumitani, M., Wake, N., Sano, Y., Yozu, A., Kumagaya, A., Kuniyoshi Y., and Morioka, S.

Significance:

There was no objective evidence that restoring movement representation by neurorehabilitation with virtual reality alleviated phantom limb pain. This study revealed quantitatively that restoring movement representation with virtual reality rehabilitation using a bimanual coordination task correlated with alleviation of phantom limb pain.

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GRANT WINNER

www.e-g-g.info

News from our Chapters



News from the Slovenian Pain Society (SZZB)

The Slovenian Pain Society (SZZB) is celebrating its 20th birthday. To mark the occasion, we will organize a small celebration next March. Meanwhile on 11th of November our 19th annual meeting took place in Ljubljana. This year's topic was on joint pain. We are currently updating the guidelines for prescribing opioids for chronic non-cancer pain. We used the opportunity to outline these guidelines that will be published next year. The main session of the meeting was a discussion between general practitioners and various specialists. A GP opened the discussion by presenting interesting cases of patients with joint pain. The main points of discussion included the appropriate treatment options and when to refer the patient to a specialist. The meeting continued with an orthopaedic surgeon, a physiatrist, a rheumatologist, a neurologist and an anaesthesiologist presenting various cases. Questions from the audience facilitated a debate. At the end of the program, a popular Slovenian singer and songwriter Vlado Kreslin performed some of his songs.





News from the Romanian Pain Society

The annual conference of the Romanian Association for the Study of Pain (ARSD) was held in Bucharest, Romania from 27-29th October. Over 200 participants from different specialties attended: Rehabilitation Medicine, Anesthesiology, Orthopedics, Obstetrics - Gynecology, Rheumatology, Neurology, Neuro – Surgery, Internal –Medicine, Family Medicine and General Surgery.

A pre-conference course was held on the Day 1 on the different aspects of musculoskeletal pain; from medical evaluation and therapeutic solutions to socio-economic and societal consequences of chronic pain.

The official opening of the Conference was held on Day 2 with Prof. Chris Wells, the President of EFIC (England) and Prof Roberto Casale (Italy) in attendance. Prof. Chris Wells succinctly presented general information on the EFIC organization as well as the consequences of SDL in general pathology. He reviewed the role of EFIC in an international context, focusing on the training of the young doctors through participation in the EFIC Pain Schools in Klagenfurt, Bergamo, Krakow, Liverpool and Maribor. Both a University Curriculum (appearance in 2014-2015) and a Postgraduate curriculum have been developed (Publishing 2016). In this context Prof Chris Wells announced that the first Diploma in Pain Medicine will take place in Madrid (March 31 to April 1, 2017). Prof. Roberto Casale (Neurology and Medical Recovery specialist) presented very interesting data relating to both experimental and clinically focused research in the correlations between chronic pain and functional somatic aspects, (joint pain, joint mobility, muscle strength and endurance and movement).

In Part 2 conference speakers from different specialties (Medical Rehabilitation, Anesthesiology, Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Occupational Medicine) presented on the topic of joint pain and the need to address the inter and multidisciplinary concerns relating to conservative and surgical issues. In Part three resident doctors were invited to present. This facilitated an effective dialogue between generations and between medical and surgical clinical specialties. New topics included pain in obstetrics and gynecology and postpartum recovery. The following day focused on the many aspects of somatic and visceral pain in traumatology and orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology.

Over 16 speakers discussed the role of the interdisciplinary team including patient flow and the role of each member of the interdisciplinary team in patients with central and periarticular joint pain. The overall theme of the conference included the importance of appropriate training, improving information and communication and providing models of different medical practice specialties to target articular and periarticular pain.



News from the Professional Health Association, Kosovo

The 6th International Conference the Treatment of Pain was held on 28th and 29th October in Prizren, Kosovo. The meeting was organised by The Professional Health Association, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Kosovo, the European Pain Federation, EFIC, the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), and the Patients' Rights Association in Kosovo (PRAK). Twenty-four international experts and 12 local experts in the field of pain spoke at the meeting. The conference was attended by 800 participants from various clinical areas including anesthesiologists, neurologists, surgeons, gynecologists, Otolaryngologist, dentist, neurosurgeon, physiotherapists, pharmacists, nurses and other health workers who have a special interest in the diagnosis and treatment of pain.



The conference addressed various topics for pain management while its main topics was "Treatment of pain in the joints". The PHA has joined the campaigns of IASP and EFIC; "Global Year Against Pain in the Joints." The event was accredited by the Ministry of Health (Board for continuing professional education) with 15 points credit for participants, and 20 points credit for lecturers.



News from the Association of Pain therapy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (APTBH)

2016 is the European Global Year against Joint Pain and this was marked through these activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim is to train doctors in Bosnia according to the EFIC pain medicine curriculum; improve physicians' and clinical specialists' knowledge and skills, to advance the understanding of pain mechanisms, prevention and the treatment of Joint pain, the assessment of a range of joint pain syndromes as well as the cost of chronic pain. The education sessions included workshops for a range of practicing health care workers for more disciplines. Teaching and training in Interdisciplinary PM on Joint pain during of 3 all day courses with 5 sessions and hand workshops. Three all day workshops with 5 sessions took place from 6-9th September 2016 at 3 locations in Sarajevo. The sessions included 5 lectures lasting 45 minutes each, an interactive lecture and Workshop, case studies, interactive knowledge test, and discussions. Five clinical "Hand Workshop" lasting 90 minutes each also took place, with multidisciplinary participants including, anesthesiology, rheumatology, rehabilitation specialists, and neurologists. Between 20-25 doctors participated in each group.



News from the Ukrainian Association for the Study of Pain

The Second East-European Congress on Pain took place at the beginning of June 2016 in the sunny city of Odessa. This Congress was one of the biggest pain meetings in Eastern Europe. It featured 3 days of fruitful discussions, lectures, topical seminars and hands-on workshops. Best clinical practices, truly multidisciplinary scientific program and outstanding social activities made the Congress really successful.

The Congress was organized by the Ukrainian Association for the Study of Pain under the auspices of the European Pain Federation EFIC, and with support of the Moldavian and Latvian associations for the study of pain. Throughout the three days the latest pain research from around the world was discussed, covering a wide variety of topics from the fundamentals of pain to pearls of wisdom in the pharmacological and non-pharmacological management of pain. The Congress program featured 17 plenary and topical sessions, satellite symposia, hands-on workshops and video cases presentations. The Multidisciplinary program attracted basic scientists and clinicians from 21 medical specialties.



Almost 300 participants from 15 countries attended in the Congress; Austria, Belarus, Canada, Germany, Israel, India, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Moldova, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom and Ukraine. In total 48 speakers from 12 countries shared their best experiences with the Congress participants. A special issue of the Ukrainian Journal of Pain was presented at the Congress. Aside from original papers, abstracts of the Congress were also published.

Throughout the Congress the presentations featured simultaneous translation, so a language barrier was not an issue. A warm atmosphere facilitated the establishment of new acquaintances and promoted productive discussions. All the presentations had a practical perspective that promoted lively discussion. The organizers would like to thank all the participants, speakers and partners for their contribution and invite everybody to take part in the Third East-European Congress on Pain in Kyiv in 2018.

Subscribe to UASP page in Facebook (www.facebook.com/ukrpain) and follow news at the official Congress web site (www.paincongress.com). You may feel the spirit of the Congress by watching video about it here: <https://youtu.be/UN3JM8qnKI8>.



See you at Third Eastern European Congress on Pain in 2018!

Meetings: Past and Future

By Arun Bhaskar



Past Meetings

Seasons Greetings from a sunny winter morning in London and I hope this finds you well. After the colors of the fall, the trees are devoid of leaves, the days are now getting shorter and the nights are getting colder and each day starts with the crisp chill of a winter morning in England, though we are still waiting for the first snowflake. There have been several meetings in October and November which I have been privileged to attend and I am sharing some of my thoughts here. After the successful meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia of the First EFIC Topical Symposium, it was a long flight to Yokohama, Japan to attend the 16th World Congress on Pain under the auspices of the International Association for the Study of Pain. This was also my first visit to Japan after a very long time and I did have the opportunity to see the sights of Mount Fuji-san, take ride on the Shinkansen "bullet train" and enjoy the sights of Tokyo and Kyoto.

The meeting was attended by more than 4400 delegates from across the globe. Dr Roger Fillingim from the University of Florida gave a wonderful talk on the individual differences in pain and about understanding what makes pain a very personal experience. It was interesting to hear the varying perspectives from various corners of the world at the Special Session on Opioids from renowned experts including Drs Jane Ballantyne, Sushma Bhatnagar, Penny Briscoe, Doug Gourlay and Thomas Tolle. It was an enlightening talk by Dr John Cryan from Cork describing the role of gut microbiota as a key regulator in visceral pain. The two plenaries on the afternoon of Wednesday 28 September was also very interesting. Prof Herta Flor delivered the John D Loeser Distinguished Lecture – "Pain has an element of Blank: A Biobehavioural approach to chronicity". This was followed by a plenary lecture by Dr Patricia Lavand'homme on the transition from Acute to Chronic pain after surgery. This was further discussed at the topical workshop hosted by the Acute Pain SIG by Drs Dominique Fletcher, Joel Katz and Esther Pogatzki-Zahn on Acute and Chronic Pain after Surgery: Risk Factors and Preventive Strategies.

Prof Frank Porreca delivered the Ronald Melzack Distinguished Lecture on Reward and Motivation in Pain and Pain Relief. Prof Stephen McMahon delivered the John J Bonica Distinguished Lecture titled "Why Me? Neurobiological Mechanisms of Pain Vulnerability". I was also interested to listen again to Prof Mike Bennett talking on mechanism-based cancer pain therapy and Prof Lorimer Moseley talking about Innovative Treatments for Back pain. There were several lectures and workshops that covered a wide range of subjects including paediatric pain, post-amputation pain, mechanism of neuropathic pain and immune system and pain amongst other subjects. It was a very enjoyable congress and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof Rolfe Detleef-Treede, Immediate Past-President of IASP, Prof Claudia Sommer, Chair of the Scientific Committee and Prof Noguchi, Chair of the local organizing committee for putting together a wonderful meeting.

The second International Congress of Moldovan Society for the Study and Management of Pain in partnership with EFIC, Ukrainian and Romanian Associations and the Moldovan Society of Anaesthesiology was held in 20-22 October at the Palace of National Trade Union Confederation of Moldova in its capital Chisinau. The meeting was attended by more than two hundred delegates. The President of the Moldovan Pain Society, Prof Adrian Belii and Dr Iana Burmistr have worked hard to make this meeting a success and it was great to see eminent colleagues like Prof Silviu Brill (Israel), Prof Adriana Sarah Nica (Romania), Prof Igor Romanenko and Dr Vladimir Romanenko working together to make this meeting a great success. It was a great pleasure to receive the plaque on behalf of Dr Chris Wells as he was made an honorary member of the Moldovan Pain Society. Further details of this meeting and the Molodovan Pain Society are highlighted by Dr Iana Burmistr in her article in this issue. The Spinal Intervention Society 2016 European Congress was held on 21-23 October at the Sheraton Lisbon Hotel & Spa in Lisbon, Portugal. This was attended by several members from the European Pain Federation fraternity including the President, Dr Chris Wells. I was unable to attend this meeting as I attending the meeting in Chisinau in Moldova.

The Neuromodulation Society of UK and Ireland (NSUKI) ASM was held on 03-04 November 2017 at the picturesque and grand venue at the Manchester's historic Town hall, Manchester. The NSUKI had a combined meeting with the neuropathic pain SIG of the British Pain Society attracting more than two hundred delegates who have been interested in neuromodulation. The meeting started with two fantastic talks from Prof Tony Dickenson and Dr Andrew Marshall and was followed up by Prof Sam Eldabe on "Future Clinical Research in Neuromodulation: What is needed and what is achievable?" Prof Richard Rauck finished the first day with a talk on the role of spinal cord stimulation in cancer pain. The second day had several talks on brain stimulation and management of central neuropathic pain (Dr Bernard Frank) as well as talks on MRI conditionality (Dr Ashish Gulve) and on various stimulation systems (Dr Baranidharan). It was evident from the interest and support that neuromodulation is a rapidly growing field and this meeting showcased the latest advances in the field and the best research and evidence on the subject.

Future Meetings

I shall be writing about the various meetings happening in 2017 in detail the coming issues. There are several meetings in Europe in 2017 including the 10th Congress of the European Pain Federation (EFIC 2017) in Copenhagen from 06-09 September 2017; the details of this meeting, which could be the largest pain meeting for 2017, can be found here on <http://www.efic2017.kenes.com>. The 13th World Congress of the International Neuromodulation Society is held from 27th May – 01st June 2017 in Edinburgh, Scotland. The details of this meeting can be found on the link given here <http://www.neuromodulation.com/ins-congress>. But before that, there are several other interesting meetings and I am giving a taster here; more details would be available in the subsequent issues.

For those of who have an interest in Neuromodulation, the New Year kick starts with the North American Neuromodulation Society meeting at the famous Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada from 19-22 January 2017. Usually this meeting is held in December, but is now heralding the meetings calendar for 2017 in January. The details of this meeting can be accessed via the link below.

<http://www.neuromodulation.org/meetings.aspx>
info@neuromodulation.org

The 12th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Neuromodulation Society of Australia and New Zealand is being in Adelaide, Australia on 08-09 April 2017. Further details of this meeting can be obtained below. Some of the pioneers in the field of neuromodulation including Dr Elliott Krames, Dr George Foreman and Dr Bengt Linderroth are speaking at this meeting.

<http://www.dconferences.com.au/nsanz2017/>
<mailto:nsanz2017@dconferences.com.au>

The 17th edition of WCO-IOF-ESCEO, World Congress on Osteoporosis, Osteoarthritis, and Musculoskeletal Diseases is being held on March 23-26, 2017 in Fortezza de Basso, Florence, Italy. This is the world's largest event in the field of osteoporosis, osteoarthritis, frailty and sarcopenia. Prof Jean-Yves Reginster (ESCEO

President) and Prof John A. Kanis (IOF President) have put together a great programme and those with a specialised interest in musculoskeletal pain would be able to interact with some of the leading experts in the world. Further details of the meeting can be obtained from the link below.

<http://www.wco-iof-esceo.org>
info@humacom.com

The IX SIMPAR - ISURA Congress in Florence, Italy brings together two well-renowned international meetings to give a unique opportunity to choose the most updated talks about perioperative care and chronic pain from March 29th to April 1st, 2017. SIMPAR (Study In Multidisciplinary Pain Research) is the first bench to bedside meeting where a real translational approach let attendants to understand how to change clinical and daily activity with the last meeting attracting more than 500 delegates from 30 different countries. ISURA (International Symposium of Ultrasound for Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine) is the first large meeting completely dedicated to the application of ultrasound for regional anesthesia and pain medicine. Pre-Courses will be held on March 29th, 2017. The details of the meeting can be obtained from the link below.

<http://www.simpar-pain.com>

The 50th Anniversary Annual Scientific Meeting of the British Pain Society is being held at The ICC in Birmingham, England on 03-05 May 2017. The meeting has an exciting line-up of speakers including Prof Frank Porreca, Prof Stefan Schug, Dr Jane Ballantyne, Prof Sam Eldabe and Prof Lance McCracken to name a few. Further details of the scientific programme will be published in the coming issue. I look forward to see you in Birmingham. The details of the meeting can be obtained from the link below.

<https://www.britishpainsociety.org/2017-asm-birmingham/>

The 12th Belgrade International Symposium on Pain (BISOP) meeting organized by the Serbian Pain Society is being held at the Concert Hall of Kolorac Foundation in Belgrade from 13-14 May 2017. This meeting attracts an international faculty under the guidance of the scientific committee chaired by Prof Nebojsa Ladjevic and has been previously attended by delegates in excess of four hundred from the Baltic states. This meeting also provides a unique platform to teach budding pain clinicians as well as interacting with professionals from various specialties to improve the development of pain medicine in the region. The details of the meeting can be obtained from the link below.

<http://pain-belgrade.info>

The 15th World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care is being held in Madrid from May 18 – May 20, 2017. The details of the meeting can be obtained from the link below.

<http://eapc-2017.org/>
eapc2017@interplan.de

A final reminder about the 5th Winter Symposium on “Advances in Pain Medicine” organised by The London Pain Forum; it is scheduled on 15-20 January 2017 in Tignes, France. The details of the meeting can be obtained from the link below.

<http://www.winterpainsymposium.com>

I hope all of you had a great year and you must be looking forward to spending time with your friends and family during the festive season. I am looking forward to see you at some of the meetings in 2017. Let me sign off wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year in 2017.

How did you enjoy the EFIC Newsletter 04/2016? 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 March 2017. The deadline for contributions is February 24, 2017. All contributions must be emailed to Brona Fullen at brona.fullen@ucd.ie.

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Inner Circle Company Members of EFIC 2016:



LAST CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

E-G-G

EFIC-GRÜNENTHAL GRANT

EFIC-GRÜNENTHAL GRANT 2016

RESEARCH GRANTS FOR CLINICAL AND
HUMAN EXPERIMENTAL PAIN RESEARCH

- These biennial grants totalling € 200,000 from Grünenthal GmbH are supporting young scientists early in their career to carry out innovative clinical pain research in any member country of the European Pain Federation EFIC®.
- Individual research grants are valued at up to € 40,000 per project for a duration of up to two years.
- Research Grants are intended for clinical and human experimental pain research. Research proposals on animals, computer simulations, cell lines etc. will not be considered.
- Applicants should be a citizen of any member country of the European Pain Federation EFIC® member country, should have obtained a PhD, MD or equivalent postgraduate degree, and not be older than 40 years.
- The decision of the awards is made independently by the Scientific Research Committee of the European Pain Federation EFIC®.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 31st December 2016
GUIDELINES, QUALITY CRITERIA,
ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS: www.e-g-g.info

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