



**EFiC**  
EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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FISCAL PERIOD: 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2020 – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021

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# 1 - PEOPLE

## 1.1 - EXECUTIVE BOARD

<b>President</b> .....	Brona Fullen
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Bart Morlion
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b> .....	Patrice Forget
<b>Honorary Secretary</b> .....	Silviu Brill
<b>Member-at-Large</b> .....	Magdalena Koçot Kepska
<b>Member-at-Large</b> .....	Thomas Tölle

## 1.2 - COUNCIL

Albania .....	Apostol Vaso	Lithuania .....	Arunas Sciupokas
Austria .....	Wolfgang Jaksch	Moldova .....	Adrian Belii
Belgium .....	Olivier De Coster	Norway .....	Audun Stubhaug
Bosnia-Herzegovina .....	Amira Karkin Tais	Poland .....	Andrzej Basinski
Bulgaria .....	Atanas Temelkov	Portugal .....	Ana Pedro
Croatia .....	Ivan Rados	Romania .....	Adriana Sarah Nica
Czech Republic .....	Richard Rokyta	Russia .....	Maxim Churyukanov
Denmark .....	Thomas Graven-Nielsen	San Marino .....	Daniele Battelli
Estonia .....	Kaire Pakkonen	Serbia .....	Snezana Tomasevic Todorovic
Finland .....	Marion Wuestefeld	Slovakia .....	Miroslav Ferencik
France .....	Luis Garcia-Larrea	Slovenia .....	Nevenka Krčevski Škvarč
Germany .....	Thomas Isenberg	Spain .....	Maria Luz Padilla del Rey
Greece .....	Emmanuel Anastassiou	Sweden .....	Anna Bjarnegård
Hungary .....	László Vécsei	Switzerland .....	Chantal Berna Renella
Ireland .....	David Finn	The Netherlands .....	Michiel Reneman
Israel .....	Elyad Davidson	Turkey .....	Gül Köknel Talu
Italy .....	Caterina Aurilio	United Kingdom .....	Arun Bhaskar
Kosovo .....	Adem Bytyqi	Ukraine .....	Volodymyr Romanenko
Latvia .....	Mihails Arons		

## 1.3 - EXECUTIVE OFFICE TEAM

Executive Director .....	Sam Kynman
Executive Secretary .....	Christel Geevels
Congress Manager .....	Inbar Caspi
Congress Operations and Scientific Programme Manager .....	Jennifer Simon
Congress Industry Liaison Manager .....	Maya Ravinsky
Communications Officer .....	Melinda Borzak-Schramm
Communications Assistant .....	Alberto Antonacci
Advocacy and Projects Assistant .....	Angela Cano Palomares
Societal Impact of Pain Project Manager .....	Jamie Wilkinson
Research Projects Advisor .....	Mary O'Keeffe

## 1.4 - INTRODUCTION

Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to address you today as President of the European Pain Federation EFIC. It is a great honour to serve the European pain community, and to build on the work of our past Presidents, who are now acknowledged on our website for their hard work and dedication.

Professor Bart Morlion has passed on a strong legacy to me and the current Executive Board, though of course we are still in the middle of a deep global crisis, with COVID-19 having continued effects on scientific societies and pain services.

Thankfully, EFIC expects to emerge from this crisis in a stronger position, and hopefully we will continue to have a positive impact on pain science and pain management.



**Brona Fullen**

President  
European Pain Federation EFIC



## 2 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 2.1 - MY VISION FOR EFIC

I will start by reiterating my vision for EFIC:

'Pain to be acknowledged and managed effectively at a societal and healthcare level.'

I hope this vision can be realised through four key areas of activity:

- Advancing our educational portfolio for physicians - increasing engagement with primary care colleagues & allied health professionals
- Providing leadership in the development of EU and national health policies, including via the Societal Impact of Pain and the European Pain Forum
- Expanding our profile as a research hub; as a developer of position papers and as a research grant collaborator and partner
- Empowering and further engaging with chapter members

I will take these four areas in turn:

#### **Advancing our educational portfolio for physicians - increasing engagement with primary care colleagues & allied health professionals**

Education has become a focal point for EFIC over the past year, and with our EFIC Academy project, we aim to deliver a comprehensive education programme that caters to physicians, as well as physiotherapists, psychologists, and nurses. The Academy was launched last year, with the virtual summit and education platform as the two key activities. The Academy not only delivers educational material to our audience, but it is also delivered interprofessionally, with colleagues across disciplines working together, and learners studying together with interprofessional materials. Our profession-specific educational groups are working hard on the development of further materials, as well on the future of our examinations, which will hopefully relaunch soon once the travel environment stabilises. The first virtual summit received overwhelmingly positive feedback and the second, in November 2021, will hopefully be even stronger. As part of our promotion of pain education, we are also hoping to reach more primary care healthcare professionals, including general practitioners. We aim to provide primary care-focused materials at our 2022 congress in Dublin and we have engaged with GP associations at European level to establish direct connections and hopefully promote our work to their audience.



**EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION  
ACADEMY**

#### **Providing leadership in the development of EU and national health policies, including via the Societal Impact of Pain and the European Pain Forum**

EFIC is an organisation with a social and political mission, and as such our work to influence policies and healthcare delivery continues. The Societal Impact of Pain project was relaunched in 2020 under EFIC's direct leadership, with sponsors providing a supporting role in the background.

### 2.1 - MY VISION FOR EFIC

Our Executive Office currently manage the project and have transformed the SIP platform into something which has a direct and continuous impact upon the EU institutions and policy landscape. We aim to roll-out SIP platforms at national level in all EFIC chapters that are willing and able to support it. Our team provide a coordinating role for these platforms and many chapters are now working with us to deliver a European-wide advocacy strategy. Our European Pain Forum project continues to grow under the leadership of Thomas Tölle, uniting almost all European-level scientific societies with an interest in pain. Its first major success was completed earlier this year, with the publication of our Clinical Practice Recommendations on Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain. These recommendations, led by Winfried Häuser, were endorsed by 10 major scientific societies, a huge achievement for Winfried and Thomas. Policy change is also a goal our health literacy campaign 'Plain Talking', through which we hope to articulate clear recommendations on how to improve the communication of pain science and clinical recommendations to patients.

#### **Expanding our profile as a research hub; as a developer of position papers and as a research grant collaborator and partner**

I have mentioned already the development of our new Opioids paper, but I would also like to draw attention to our recent Opinion Paper on the future of translational pain research, led by Thomas Graven Nielsen. This paper is one of the first major achievements of the Research Committee since its reorganisation under Bart's Presidency. We hope that it will act as a guide for the future coordination of pain research programmes. EFIC aim to continue with our work in setting the agenda on research as well as on clinical practice via our clinical task forces. We hope to identify new areas for the development of recommendations over the coming years. Our main focus right now in terms of research is the development of EFIC as a hub for research collaboration and networking. We have recently launched our 'Pain Scientist Network', where we aim to identify individuals on the basis of their research interests and expertise, in order to better network people and foster future collaborations. In addition, EFIC is currently engaged in a number of research collaborations, including IMI and Horizon 2020 projects, and is aiming to position itself as a crucial partner in future projects. We currently benefit from a research fellow joining our Executive Office after a highly successful EU-funded secondment. We hope that the benefits brought by EFIC's position as a hub for European pain research are felt by all chapters and research institutions to which our researchers are affiliated.

#### **Empowering and further engaging with chapter members**

Along with the Council brainstorm, we hope to establish stronger ties between EFIC and our chapters over the coming years. We hope that our chapters can benefit from the expertise and experience of our team, as well as providing tangible benefits to our chapters that materially benefit their own members. These include:

- Discounted congress registration
- Discounted academy registration
- Access to European Journal of Pain articles via national chapter journals

As noted above, we aim to roll-out further SIP national platforms, empowering chapters to take a stronger role in advocacy and mobilising to improve the pain management policy environment in their country. We also aim to build partners between chapters on an educational basis, lin-



## 2 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 2.2 - CONGRESS AND FINANCES

king countries with well-developed pain management educational frameworks and specialties to countries starting on that path.

A major factor in my first year as President has been the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

The first key change to our planning was made during Bart's Presidency; the movement of our congress from 2021 to 2022. The uncertain travel environment coupled with IASP's decision to postpone their meeting left us with little choice. As we approach April 2022, the environment looks more optimistic, with a successful vaccine roll-out in many countries. We hope therefore to have a successful and well-attended meeting. Nevertheless, we are taken precautions to be prepared for an uncertain travel regime.



Our meeting will have a hybrid character, providing participation options virtually. We are also working towards our 2023 meeting in Budapest, with a hope that this will be our first meeting in a post-COVID world, with numbers similar to our 2019 meeting in Valencia. Our finances have been ably guided by our current and past Treasurers, Patrice Forget and Elon Eisenberg, and despite the uncertain meetings environment, we are in a strong position financially. The move towards virtual meetings and the Academy has been an important stabilising factor and a new income source to balance our congress income. While our activities are currently reduced owing to the lockdown policies, our income and expenditure are currently well-balanced, and we hope to bounce back to a stronger position after the pandemic.

The European Journal of Pain (impact factor 3.93) continues to thrive as a leading pain science journal under the expert leadership of its Editor-in-Chief Luis Garcia-Larrea and the Editorial Board; many thanks for the great work you do.

### 2.3 - 'ON THE MOVE'

Bart Morlion leaves the Executive Board after his very successful term. Under his leadership the significant initiatives of expanding and professionalising the organisation, of stimulating multi-disciplinary at all levels and activities, and of developing educational initiatives have been hugely impactful and have transformed the organisation. Whilst too many to mention Bart has been actively engaged with many other EFIC task forces and working groups over the past 15 years. He will continue to lead the Education working groups for the Pain Schools and Pain Medicine and will chair the Diploma for Pain Medicine examination in the short-term. We owe him great thanks for

### 2.3 - 'ON THE MOVE'

his significant (and on-going) service to this organisation.

I would also like to acknowledge our Committee leadership. Frank Huygen steps up to the leadership of our Education Committee, following the long and productive term of Andreas Kopf. Paul Cameron takes over from Thomas Tölle on the Advocacy Committee, while Thomas will continue to build the European Pain Forum. Gisele Pickering will continue on the Research Committee, where our work is now supported by a Research Projects Advisor in Mary O'Keefe. You can find a full summary of Committee leadership in the section below.

Finally, EFIC is led and supported by a great team. In what has been an extraordinary challenging and yet very productive year I commend Sam Kynman our Executive Director for his leadership and thank the entire Executive Office for their hard work.

I am also grateful to the Executive Board, Committee Chairs and Working Groups for their support and engagement with EFIC's vision and mission.

Hopefully next year our Council meeting will be in-person in my hometown of Dublin. I look forward to continuing to work for and with you in building our Federation and to support your priorities nationally.

Go raith maith agat (Thank you)

#### Brona Fullen

President  
European Pain Federation EFIC





## 3 - COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

### 3.1 - ORGANIGRAMME – COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

#### CO RE COMM ITTEES – WORKING GROUPS & MAN DATES

#### CONGRESS COMMITTEES – MANDATES

**OPERATIONAL**  
Chair: Brona Fullen

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME**  
Chair: Eija Kalso

**LOCAL ORGANISING**  
Chair: Joanne O'Brien

#### EDUCATION Chair: Frank Huygen

**WG - PAIN MEDICINE EDUCATION**  
Chair: Bart Morlion

**WG - PAIN PHYSIOTHERAPY EDUCATION**  
Chair: Harriet Wittink (VC)

**WG - PAIN PSYCHOLOGY EDUCATION**  
Chair: Ed Keogh

**WG - PAIN NURSING EDUCATION**  
Chair: Emma Briggs

**WG - UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM**  
Chair: Andreas Kopf

**WG - COMMON TRAINING FRAMEWORK**  
Chair: Andreas Kopf

**WG - PAIN SCHOOLS**  
Chair: Bart Morlion

**WG - PATIENT EDUCATION**  
Chair: Petra Mandysova

**WG - ONLINE EDUCATION**  
Chair: Morten Hoegh

#### RESEARCH Chair: Gisèle Pickering

**WG - RESEARCH S TRATEGY AND  
PRIORITY SETTING**  
Chair: Gisèle Pickering

**WG - RESEARCH F UNDING & PRIZES**  
Chair: André Mour aux (VC)

**WG - CLINICAL AF FAIRS**  
Chair: Vacant

**WG - TRANSLATIO NAL RESEARCH**  
Chair: Thomas Gra ven Nielsen

#### ADVOCACY AND LIAISON Chair: Paul Cameron

**WG - SOCIAL IMPACT OF PAIN**  
Chair: Patrice Forget (VC)

**WG - EUROPEAN PAIN FORUM**  
Chair: Thomas Tölle

**WG - EYAP 2021**  
Chair: Paul Cameron

**WG - CANCER PAIN**  
Chair: Silviu Brill

**WG - HEALTH LITERACY**  
Chair: Laura Mackey

**WG - 'ON THE MOVE'**  
Chair: Vacant

#### OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES – MANDATES

**ELECTION NOMINATIONS**  
Chair: Arūnas Ščiupokas

**AUDIT**  
Chair: Laserina O'Connor

**ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY**  
Chair: Hans Georg Kress

**SUSTAINABILITY AND FUNDRAISING**  
Chair: Patrice Forget

**EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT**  
Chair: Magdalena Kocot-Kępska

## 4 - MAPPING OUR PROGRESS

In order to better understand the impact EFIC has, we have decided to start including in our annual report a series of performance metrics related to our key projects and objectives. We may expand on these as we go forward, but for now we stick to a few for which we have measurable data. Where no new data is available for 2021, we use the last available metric. Please note that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many activities have had to be postponed, for that reason, some activities still display 2019 figures.

### 4.1 - ACADEMY MEMBERS

The EFIC Academy scheme is our latest educational and community building project. As of 4 June 2021, we have 1014 members. This means that over 1000 people have access to EFIC's education platform and virtual summit.

**1014**  
**2021**

### 4.2 - CONGRESS ATTENDEES

Over **25%** more clinicians and researchers were able to benefit from the scientific and educational content of the EFIC congress, compared to the previous meeting.

**2706**

**2017**



**3407**

**2019**

### 4.3 - ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS

There were **26%** more abstracts submitted for presentation at the 2019 congress compared to the previous meeting, suggesting a stronger interest in our meeting amongst the scientific community and a growing pain science environment.

**1014**

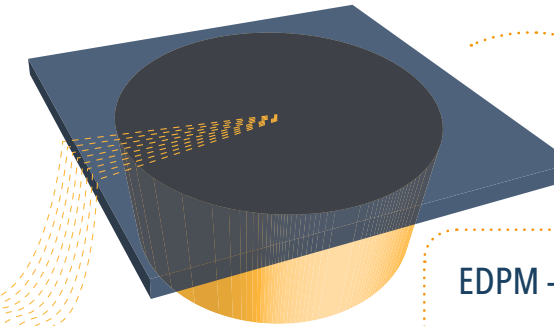
**2017**



**1280**

**2019**

### 4.4 - DIPLOMATES



**EDPM - 19 IN 2019 (48 IN TOTAL)**  
**EDPP - 9 IN 2019 (11 IN TOTAL)**

48 medical doctors have achieved the European Diploma in Pain Medicine, and 11 physiotherapists have achieved the European Diploma in Pain Physiotherapy meaning EFIC recognise that they have adequate training and knowledge to manage the care of patients with all types of pain. This is tested through our Examinations which cover both knowledge as well as clinical management skills.

### 4.5 - EDUCATION PLATFORM



We have closed down our previous Education Platform as it has now been superseded by the EFIC Academy Education Platform. We will discontinue this metric from this year onwards.

### 4.6 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN IMPACT FACTOR

**3.2**

**2019**



**3.49**

**2020**

While the European Journal of Pain (EJP) is editorially independent of EFIC, it is our house journal and intrinsically linked to the Federation. The impact factor rose by approximately 0.5 since 2019 and the journal is ranked in the top 10 in the anaesthesiology category, as well as in the top tiers in clinical neurology.



## 5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

### 5.1 - ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Dear colleagues

Like all of you, we have been affected by COVID-19 in our working modalities. Our team and our organisation as a whole has proven very resilient in how we have adapted to remote working. Since March 2020 we have held 11 virtual Executive Board meetings, a Council meeting and a Council brainstorm, not to mention various Committee meetings and project meetings. Virtual is now the norm and we expect many of these changes to have long-term significance in how the organisation is managed. While it can be challenging and tiring, there are many advantages to minimising travel.

Our work is facilitated by virtual meeting programmes (GoToMeeting and Zoom) as well as increased use of Microsoft OneDrive and Slack for remote collaborative working. Our Executive Office team are also making better use of CRM tools for the management of contact data, which allow EFIC to use data in a more responsible and efficient way. In this regard, EFIC also updated its privacy policy earlier this year, to ensure that it is reflective of the full extent to which EFIC uses data, including around items such as website cookies and related tools.

In terms of our Executive Board meeting, we have moved to a 'sandwich' schedule, whereby every second meeting is an expanded meeting covering our full Committee updates on education, research and advocacy. This allows us to focus more on urgent items every other meeting. We have also moved to holding parts of our meetings 'in camera' with only elected board members and the Executive Director to cover sensitive items.

A final administrative change was the approval of our bylaws at the last Council meeting in 2020. The bylaws were approved unanimously by our Councillors and apply to all EFIC governance matters from September onwards, including the elections to the Executive Board in 2021. The bylaw changes are designed to reflect more accurately the functioning of EFIC in its current status.

### 5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS

The Communication team of the European Pain Federation continued building on the previous year's work by successfully managing communications around the Virtual Pain Education Summit. In addition to Communications Officer Melinda Borzsak-Schramm, Alberto Antonacci was added to the team as Communications Assistant. With the support of Ángela Cano Palomares as Advocacy and Projects Assistant, this allowed us to distribute the team's overall responsibilities more efficiently and resulted in a more professional and strategic promotional approach.



## 5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

### 5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS

*EFIC Virtual Pain Education Summit 2020*

In the leadup to the Virtual Pain Education Summit as well as during the virtual event, all communication channels were used to promote sessions, highlight activities, and engage with our audience. Video content was heavily featured by using statements from track leaders and speakers highlighting sessions and other parts of the programme. As a result, the European Pain Federation was able to attract more subscribers and followers to the Education Platform, the mailing list and our social media channels.

*Social media*

Our social media channels have been growing continuously, increasing the number of our followers on all channels (in total approx. 13,500, up from 10,000 last year). Instagram has already proved successful in engaging with a younger audience, especially during the Virtual Pain Education Summit where attendees shared their "Work-from-Home" setup and participated in online Yoga sessions. The continuous use of visual templates for social media further solidified the European Pain Federation brand online, making





our content stand out visually on all channels. Video content continues to be a main pillar of our online communications and is used extensively to provide more information on current activities, projects and upcoming events. Additionally, webinars have been launched on topics such the EFIC-Grünenthal-Grant and selected sessions from the Virtual Pain Education Summit 2020.

	Audience size			
	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	Linkedin
Jul-20	4403	4501	552	764
Jun-21	5195	5454	1255	1655
Growth in %	18%	21%	127%	117%

Website

Both the general EFIC website as well as the EFIC Congress website are now managed in-house, allowing us to implement necessary updates and news much faster than before. Several technical upgrades and content updates have also been added to make sure it stays up-to-date on all current standards regarding usability, design and accessibility. Additionally, there have been many updates behind the scenes to make sure that all programs used for communication and promotion are connected and exchanging necessary information seamlessly. "WooCommerce" has been added as a new payment and registration system, allowing us even more in-house control of managing Academy membership and possible future event registrations.

New projects and sections launched on the website:

- › **What is Pain?** – Introductory material aimed at clinicians who want to give their patients some basic introductory information on pain.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/history/what-is-pain/>
- › **EFIC at a Glance** – An animated explainer video has been created to summarise our main activities and goals.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/history/efic-at-a-glance/>
- › **Pain Champions and Past Presidents** – Two pages have been added to honor those who have significantly contributed to the European Pain Federation EFIC.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/organisation/pain-champions/>  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/organisation/past-presidents/>
- › **Privacy Policy** – In order to reflect additions and changes related to GDPR, the privacy policy has been updated in April 2021.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/how-we-work/privacy-policy/>

5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS

- › **"Plain Talking": Health Literacy** – A new section on President Bróna Fullen's campaign on Health Literacy has been added with many resources and a survey.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/advocacy/current-projects/efic-plain-talking/>
- › **COVID-19** – The section on COVID-19 has been completely updated to increase usability.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic-pain-research/covid-19/>
- › **EFIC Pain Scientist Network** – A page collecting information from researchers interested in connecting with other scientists in their field has been created.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic-pain-research/pain-scientist-network/>

Silviu Brill

Honorary Secretary

5.3 - COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- [www.europeanpainfederation.eu](http://www.europeanpainfederation.eu)
- <https://efic-congress.org/>
- [www.facebook.com/EFICorg](https://www.facebook.com/EFICorg)
- [www.twitter.com/EFIC\\_org](https://www.twitter.com/EFIC_org)
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/efic2021/>
- [www.europeanpainfederation.eu/newsletter/newsletter](http://www.europeanpainfederation.eu/newsletter/newsletter)
- [https://www.instagram.com/efic\\_org/](https://www.instagram.com/efic_org/)
- <http://academy.europeanpainfederation.eu/>





## 6 - SUPPORT FOR EFIC'S CHAPTERS

The beneficiaries of EFIC's educational support are young clinicians and researchers from the 37 chapters of EFIC. Funding for education is provided through the following activities:

- Places at EFIC Pain Schools
- EFIC Fellowships at approved pain clinics
- Speakers at national scientific meetings funded by EFIC
- Financial support bursaries for congress attendees

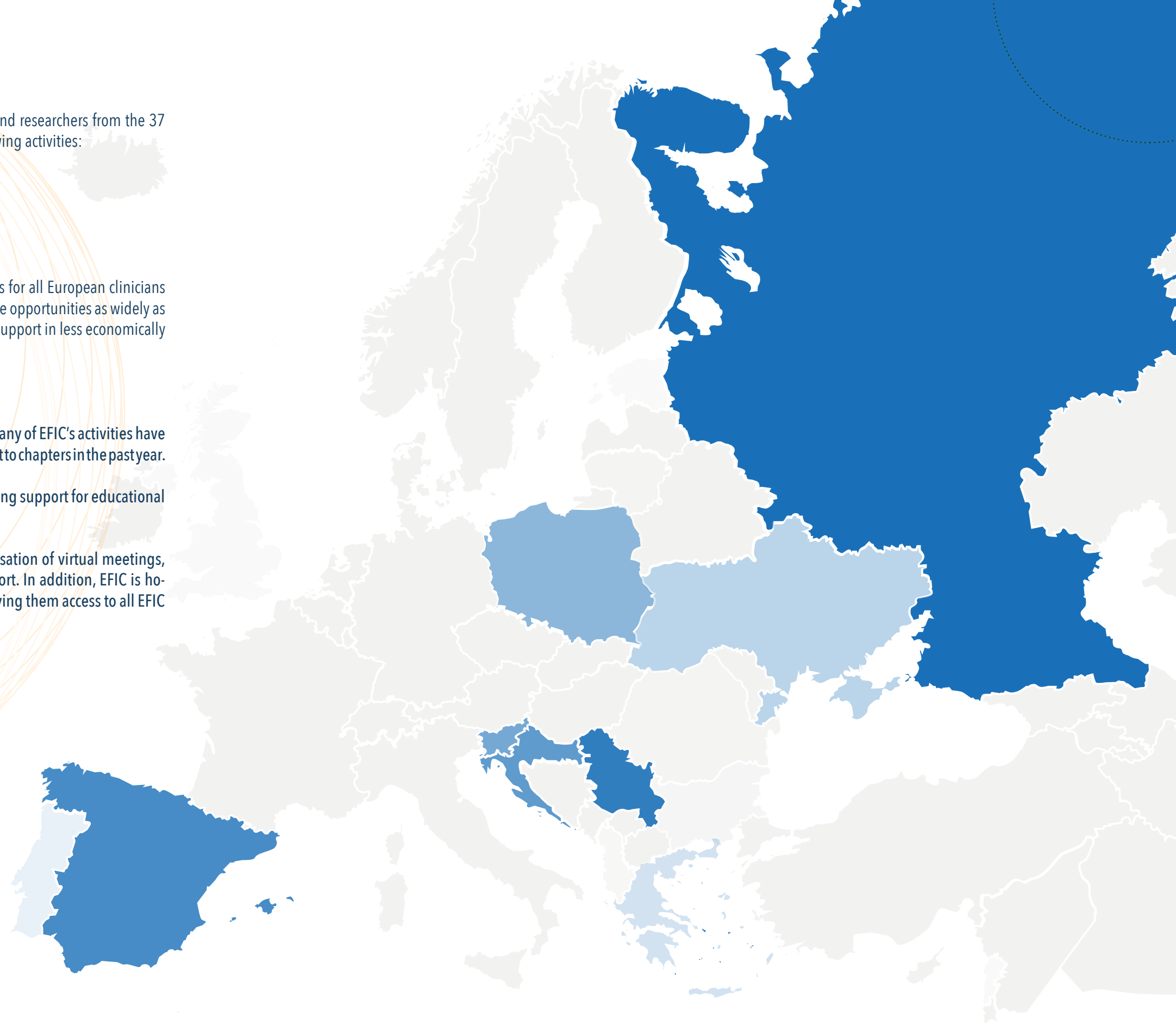
EFIC provides high quality interprofessional educational opportunities for all European clinicians and researchers working in the field of pain. EFIC aim to distribute these opportunities as widely as possible across its 37 chapters, noting the need for stronger financial support in less economically developed countries.

\*\*\*

Due to the ongoing disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of EFIC's activities have been postponed, meaning that we have not provided the same support to chapters in the past year.

We hope to return to a normal schedule in 2022, including distributing support for educational opportunities to chapters members.

In the meantime, EFIC is hoping to support chapters in their organisation of virtual meetings, either through the provision of speakers or through logistical support. In addition, EFIC is hoping to provide discounted Academy access to chapter members, giving them access to all EFIC materials at a lower price than non-chapter members.





## 7 - PATIENT INCLUSIVITY

### 7.1 - OVERVIEW

The European Pain Federation EFIC strives to be as patient inclusive as possible. We do this through various actions:

- By taking into account the patient voice when putting together our projects
- By building relations with patients' organisations
- By providing tools for patients to spread knowledge of pain science
- By providing materials to patients to learn more about pain management and treatment

These actions are under development, and we intend to provide updates on these on an annual basis.

### 7.2 - TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PATIENT VOICE

As we strive to continue to include patient representatives in our scientific congresses and increase the input of patients in our scientific programme, taking into account the patients' voice is a matter of great importance to EFIC. Once again, we are including a 'patient track' in the programme for our 2022 congress.

Patient representatives have been providing valuable input to some of our main projects, including the 'Plain Talking' campaign. They have been guiding each step of the way and making sure the activities of the working group were patient focused and appropriate. Moreover, patient representatives will now be part of the development process of new valuable materials following the initial phase of the campaign.

Patients were also present on the recent opioids task force which delivered the Clinical Practice Recommendations on Opioids for Chronic Pain. As well as providing insight to the authors, patients helped develop a 'patient version' of the recommendations suitable for dissemination by patients' organisations themselves.

### 7.3 - RELATIONS WITH PATIENTS' ORGANISATIONS



Our main partner in this field is Pain Alliance Europe (PAE), the main umbrella organisation of 41 national and regional associations in 18 European countries, concerned with chronic pain, regardless of the underlying condition. Since November 2019, PAE have joined EFIC by establishing their office in the same building, bringing both organisations closer together under one roof. EFIC provides secretarial support services to PAE. This close relation has been noticeable since PAE is involved in some of our major projects providing feedback and valuable input.

The EFIC and PAE teams work closely together on projects such as the Societal Impact of Pain platform, our COVID-19 work and through various other collaborations. EFIC support the PAE team in terms of advice and administrative support when required.

### 7.4 - TOOLS FOR PATIENTS

Our Patient Education working group are working on a series of informative brochures on different conditions and treatments, in order to educate patients on pain management interventions and key information about living with certain conditions. The working group will also organise a workshop later this year focusing on self-management.

At the start of 2021 we created a series called 'What is Pain' on our website, in order to inform patients and the general public on basic pain knowledge. We disseminated the information through our social media platforms, creating a series of videos called '#EFICPain101', which have proven to be a great success online.



Patient webinars, EFIC Congress 2019 Valencia

## 8 - COMMITTEES

### 8.1 - EDUCATION COMMITTEE – CHAIR: FRANK HUYGEN

#### 8.1.1 - STRUCTURE

Working Groups	Chair
Pain Medicine Education.....	Bart Morlion
Pain Physiotherapy Education.....	Harriet Wittink (Vice Chair)
Pain Psychology Education.....	Ed Keogh
Pain Nursing Education Working Group.....	Emma Briggs
Undergraduate Curriculum.....	Andreas Kopf
CTF.....	Andreas Kopf
Pain Schools.....	Bart Morlion
Online Education.....	Morten Høgh
Patient Education.....	Petra Mandysova

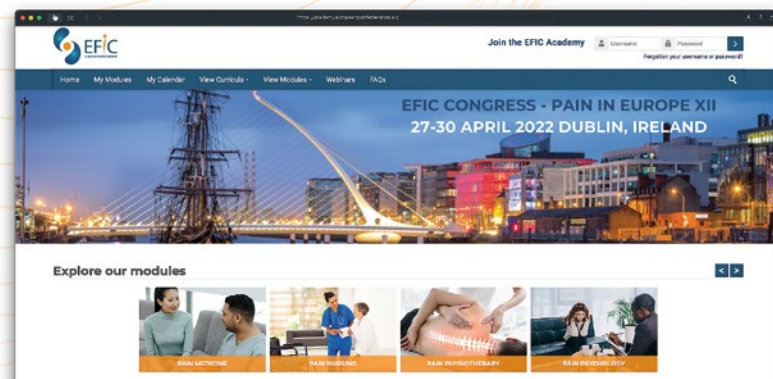
#### 8.1.2 - EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues

It is an honour to address you all for the first time as Education Committee Chair for EFIC. After a successful 2019 congress programme, I am pleased to continue my mission within the organisation. I am thankful for the work that Andreas Kopf did to build a strong foundation. I am fortunate to work with Harriet Wittink as my co-chair for the next three years.

As you know, COVID-19 has transformed our world dramatically. In terms of EFIC's education programme, it forced us to rethink many of our plans, which led to the creation of the EFIC Academy. In the absence of a stable congress environment, and with live meetings impossible, EFIC decided to launch a membership scheme linked specifically to educational projects. As a first benefit to Academy members, we organised the Virtual Pain Education Summit last year, which transformed how EFIC deliver education but also motivated us to try something new; to provide a specifically interprofessional learning experience. We will repeat the summit this year and from hereon carry it out at least every 2 years.

The Academy also galvanised our plans to launch a new education platform. This has been on our agenda for a few years, but COVID forcing us to work remotely motivated us to speed up our plans. The education platform was launched in May this year as a benefit provided to Academy members. The content is organised along the lines of our curricula and is currently populated with the material from the first summit. As we go forward, we will build on this content with new modules and new interactive learning formats. This work has been steered by Morten Høgh with a lot of background work from the EFIC Executive Office. We have also created a new group known



as the 'Academy Board'. This group is made up of high-level educators from across Europe who are committed to developing future materials for Academy members.

With the summit and education platform inspiring EFIC to work interprofessionally, we reorganised the committee to represent the roles played by the four initial key profession-focused groups. Rather than have an 'exam working group' or a 'curriculum working group', our groups play a role across multiple aspects of our education programme; feeding into the summit, the platform, the refresher courses, pain schools and exams. Interprofessionalism is now our key word and all groups are working extremely hard and cooperatively. We hope to build the community of physiotherapists, psychologists and nurses within EFIC.

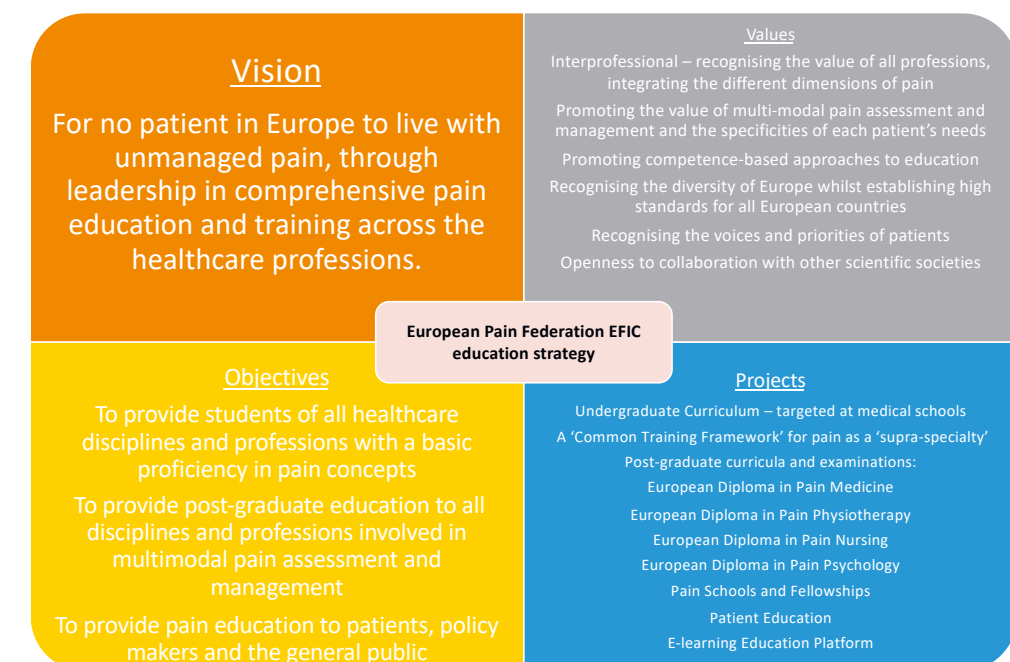
The measures undertaken in response to the pandemic have meant that our activities requiring in-person meetings are currently on hold. Our Pain Schools will hopefully return in 2022, with a new interprofessional school being launched as a flagship educational model. Our exams will also hopefully return in full in 2022, with an online examination lined up for Q4 2021 in the meantime.

Our patient education work has been relaunched, with Petra Mandysova leading a new group, aiming to develop new useful patient materials for use across Europe. A train-the-trainer self-management workshop is also planned. Bróna's health literacy project will also overlap nicely with this group, ensuring that EFIC's materials are designed to promote the best forms of communication that are understood by patients and that facilitate their uptake and adherence.

**Frank Huygen**

Chair, Education Committee

#### 8.1.3. - EFIC EDUCATION STRATEGY





## 8 - COMMITTEES

### 8.2 - RESEARCH COMMITTEE – CHAIR: GISEÈLE PICKERING

#### 8.2.1 - STRUCTURE

##### Working Groups

##### Chair

Research Strategy and Priority Setting .....	Gisèle Pickering
Research Funding and Prizes.....	Andre Mouraux
Clinical Affairs .....	Vacant
Translational Research .....	Thomas Graven Nielsen (vice chair)

#### 8.2.2 - RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues

Under Brona's Presidency we have re-organised our Committee and we are working on a number of foundational activities to help build EFIC's capacities in research collaboration. Our work is now supported by Mary O'Keefe, a research fellow who recently undertook a secondment with EFIC as part of an EU-funded Mary Curie fellowship. Mary's time with EFIC was very productive and now we are benefitting from her support directly. We hope that this fellowship acts as a template for future projects, with EFIC playing a role as a host location and/or partner in research collaboration.

In order to get there, we have started a number of foundational activities. These include developing an offering for research consortia, on 'why you should include EFIC in your research consortium'. EFIC holds a lot of strength in terms of its network, its access to expertise, its communication channels and its events. We already play a role within the EU-funded IMI-PainCare project, though hopefully this will be matched by many others, with EFIC's attributes clear to partners. In addition, we have launched our 'Pain Scientist Network', where we aim to build a database on individual pain researchers across Europe as a means to foster future collaboration and networking. The database is organised by scientific interests, along with information on professional role and discipline/practice. An additional foundational activity will be the launch of a 'Pain Research Directory', where we hope catalogue the various research institutions, universities, clinics, funders and other organisations active in pain research. A listing on this directory should be seen as a mark of quality and significance, and will hopefully make EFIC a go-to hub for those interested in the European pain research community.

We are also due to launch our pain research strategy in the coming year. We are reviewing existing documents in this field and will hope to provide something with added value that sets the direction for the pain community. The working group on translational research led by Thomas Gra-



ven Nielsen has already completed an exciting piece of work in our Opinion Paper on Challenges and Opportunities in Translational Pain Research. This paper focuses specifically on the issues and bottlenecks in translational research and provides recommendations for how research should be organised in the future to make the most of our knowledge of basic pain science and clinical experience, considering the issues inherent to translation and back-translation. It is a landmark piece of work and I thank all his co-authors for their input. We aim to pass this papers on to funders and policy makers involved in pain research.

Our work in organising grants and prizes continued under Andre Mouraux's leadership. Applications for the EFIC Grunenthal Grant are due to be reviewed later this year, and Andre has stepped up to ensure the review process identifies the applications of the highest quality. The EJP award and congress prizes are due to be organised next, and we thank all reviewers who have supported our work recently. In addition to EFIC's current grants and prizes, Andre has outlined potential future grants and prizes which could compliment our current portfolio. We hope to establish blueprints for these in the coming months. We have also recently contributed to additional reviewing processes by partner organisations. These include the EU-funded EIT Health WildCard project, which focused on pain management this year. EFIC experts contributed to the review panel, picking out potential projects aiming to develop innovative technology for pain management.

Finally, our clinical task forces have delivered a few recent outputs, including our recent Clinical Practice Recommendations on Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain as well as our ongoing COVID-19 review work, where we identify papers of significance for the pain science community and attempt to synthesise key developments in how pain management has been affected by the crisis. Moving forward, a new joint survey between EFIC and PAE will capture a more up-to-date image of the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and draw joint recommendations for policy and practice. We will soon relaunch our clinical affairs work, seeking new proposals and areas of unmet need in terms of clinical guidance. I would like to thank Tony O'Brien, who served as chair over the past two years and helped establish new processes for the working group, in order to better manage new projects and COIs.

#### Gisèle Pickering

Chair, Research Committee

**European Pain Federation**  
**EFIC**  
**Pain Scientist**  
**Network**



## 8 - COMMITTEES

### 8.3 - ADVOCACY COMMITTEE – CHAIR: PAUL CAMERON

#### 8.3.1 - STRUCTURE

##### Working Groups

##### Chair

Social Impact of Pain .....	Patrice Forget (Vice-Chair)
European Pain Forum .....	Thomas Tölle
'On the Move' .....	Vacant
European Year Against Pain 2021 – Low Back Pain....	Paul Cameron
Cancer Pain .....	Silviu Brill
Health Literacy .....	Laura Mackey

#### 8.3.2 - ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

I am honoured to address you today as the chair of the advocacy committee. I am pleased to build on the work of Thomas Tölle and to guide some large-scale successful projects. I am supported by Patrice Forget, who helps guide much of our work,

Despite yet another difficult year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, within the advocacy committee we have made progress in a number of areas, for example, renewing the membership of the committee, holding regular online committee meetings, and establishing new working groups, such as the Health Literacy working group as part of the Presidential campaign. We also established a series of advocacy objectives to guide our work in the future (see below).

Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) remains our primary advocacy vehicle for achieving policy change. Following the change of governance model for the SIP platform in July 2020, SIP activity has continued under the leadership of EFIC and Pain Alliance Europe (PAE). EFIC have hired a project manager dedicated to the day-to-day management of the European platform and the interactions with the national platforms. Moving forward, we expect SIP to have multiple sponsors with continued strengthening and expansion of the SIP stakeholder network.



In 2020 and 2021 the big policy priority of the European Commission (besides COVID-19) was cancer. We have taken part in various consultations to ensure the European Commission's Beating Cancer Plan takes cancer-related pain into account. SIP and EFIC have also built relations directly with European Institutions and policymakers on this topic, for example, in organising a multi-stakeholder event on 2nd March 2021. SIP will remain active in this area to support the implementation of the Plan, additionally, SIP has also produced two position papers on a) workplace integration and adaptation and b) digital health and pain as a quality indicator and will continue to work on these topics throughout 2021/2022.

The European Pain Forum brings together European medical societies and patients' organisation relevant to pain, to work together and promote cooperation on issues where we share a common scientific understanding. The Forum had its first major success in 2020, bringing together a group of scientific societies to develop clinical practice recommendations on opioids for chronic non-cancer pain. Both parts of the paper are now published and EFIC will be organising a series of meetings with relevant stakeholders, organisations and European Institutions, in order to convey the key messages to policymakers and interested parties.

The recommendations were endorsed by:

- European Academy of Neurology
- European Federation of Addiction Societies
- European Psychiatric Association
- European Region - World Confederation of Physical therapy
- European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine
- European Society of Regional Anaesthesia & Pain Therapy
- European Federation of Psychologists Associations
- European Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care
- Pain Alliance Europe
- European Headache Federation
- European Specialist Nurses Organisations

The European Year Against Pain (EYAP) has been a collaborative project with our partners at IASP. The 2021 campaign will focus on Back Pain. We look forward to continuing our work in this important project and to disseminate the outcomes of this campaign with our pain community.

Our 'On The Move campaign' has been a key project which we will continue to work on in the future. The 'On The Move' materials are now available in different languages in order to reach our national audiences and to be shared by our National Chapters. Further actions will be organised in the future with the theme being present again at future congresses.

A new project on health literacy was launched as part of Brona's presidency priorities. The project is called 'Plain Talking', and aims to improve HCP-patient communication, to improve health literacy and patient outcomes. The Health Literacy working group published an in-depth survey to better understand the needs and the challenges of people living with pain and how they interact with their healthcare professionals. The survey was translated to 14 different languages and it remains open with more than 490 responses. Following the success of the survey, the working group conducted a workshop for patients in March 2021. The outcomes of both the workshop and the survey, will guide the development of a series of informative videos and brochures, as well as a booklet on 'The Journey' of the patient through pain treatment, management and healthcare services.

Our work has carried on strongly in spite of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. We hope to continue on this course and to have an even stronger impact in the future.

**Paul Cameron**

Chair, Advocacy Committee





## 8 - COMMITTEES

### 8.4 - OBJECTIVES

#### 8.4.1 - INTERNAL OBJECTIVES

1

Be a trusted scientific partner for policy makers on policy issues related to pain prevention, management and treatment

2

Unify and represent the voices of healthcare professional organisations in Europe around the idea of 'pain as a biopsychosocial phenomenon'

3

Be an inclusive organisation, recognising the value of all professions involved in pain management, as well as the voice of patients

## 8 - COMMITTEES

### 8.4 - OBJECTIVES

#### 8.4.2 - EXTERNAL OBJECTIVES

1

Foster the uptake of pain education for healthcare professionals in Europe at all levels of education

2

Promote pain as a priority research area, and encourage European and national research funding bodies to include pain as priority area

3

Campaign for (access to) multiprofessional and multimodal pain management

4

Promote the concept of 'pain as a condition in its own right' to empower patients with chronic primary pain

5

Engage in an evidence-based approach to opioids and cannabinoids to inform public understanding and prevent misuse

6

Promote the role of physical activity and low-risk interventions in pain management

7

Promote improved health literacy amongst HCPs, patients and general public to improve adherence to treatment and better self-management

## 9 - CONGRESS – PAIN IN EUROPE

### 9.1 - PAIN IN EUROPE XII – TARGETING PAIN AND ITS COMORBIDITIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE SPC CHAIR REPORT

**The SPC for the scientific programme consists of the following members:**

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Prof. Katja Boersma         | • Dr. Michaela Kress        |
| • Dr. Emma Briggs             | • Dr. Rohini Kuner          |
| • Prof. Victoria Chapman      | • Prof. Stefan Lautenbacher |
| • Prof. Albert Dahan          | • Prof. Bart Morlion        |
| • Prof. David Finn            | • Dr. Christopher Nielsen   |
| • Prof. Egil Andreas Fors     | • Prof. Tamar Pincus        |
| • Prof. Brona Fullen          | • Dr. Heike Rittner         |
| • Anja Geisler                | • Prof. Andrea Truini       |
| • Prof. Thomas Graven-Nielsen | • Prof. Harriet Wittink     |
| • Prof. Eija Kalso            |                             |

The SPC is chaired by professor Eija Kalso.

The SPC has had two remote meetings, one in March 2020 before the Congress was rescheduled to April 2022 and changed into a hybrid meeting. The second meeting was held on June 9-10, 2021.

The theme of the Congress is "Targeting pain and its comorbidities in the digital age". This is highlighted throughout the programme, including plenaries and topical workshops. In addition to paying attention to the theme, the principles of the SPC have been to prioritise high scientific quality, to ensure that both basic, translational, and clinical aspects are covered, that both genders are equally represented, and that also young researchers are included in the programme. Also, the SPC has invited new speakers including those outside the "core pain field".

A new feature is the organisation of the plenaries into 6 plenary sessions with 3-4 speakers in each. These sessions are:

- Sleep and pain
- From peripheral nociceptors to brain plasticity
- Novel tools for pain relief in the 2020s
- New research methodologies in pain management
- Digitalised services in the management of pain and comorbidities
- Depression and pain

We received 82 free topical workshop proposals. 24 of them were accepted as TWs and a few more were

accepted as EFIC-related activity workshops or being considered more appropriate as part of the refresher course or core curriculum programme. The SPC has also planned nine topical workshops that will complement the free topical works regarding the main themes of the Congress and to improve the balance of the programme. For example, 3 basic research topical workshops were created to compensate for the low number of free topical workshop proposals.

Another new feature of this programme is to target primary care by involving general practitioners in the planning of at least 3 topical workshops. This was considered important as the themes of the Congress should interest GPs and also because GPs have the greatest responsibility and role in treating patients with chronic pain. The GP liaison of the SPC is Dr. Egil A Fors.

The fact the EFIC 2022 will be a hybrid congress poses both challenges and possibilities. We plan to use as much new interactive tools as possible in order to involve and activate the audience. We plan to organize the refresher courses also in a novel way: the lectures will be pre-recorded and the actual session are dedicated to questions and answers with the speakers.

I would like to thank EFIC for the opportunity to chair this SPC. I would also like to express my gratitude to the members of the SPC for their excellent work and ability to collaborate and reach consensus. Jennifer Simon has provided superb support for the SPC.

#### **Eija Kalso**

Chair, SPC of EFIC Pain in Europe XII

### 9.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

Dear colleagues

Taking into account the pandemic and vaccine progress as well as the needs of our audience, we explored different options to run the EFIC 2022 congress.

While we cannot influence the reality of world travel and the impact of the pandemic in 2022, the EFIC Board needed to decide whether we keep our 2022 congress online, make it a physical congress in Dublin or have the combination of two, a hybrid meeting with a physical congress in Dublin while allowing participants and poster presenters to participate remotely if they have travel restrictions.

We believe that economies and travel will be partially back with limited physical attendance before April 2022. Therefore, the Board has decided to proceed with a hybrid onsite congress model while hedging the financial risk. Accordingly our planning is taking the following scenario as our working plan:

1,000 paying participants onsite and 2,000 participants joining remotely, online for reduced registration fees. In case we have more registration onsite, we can easily adapt the operation. If we have less participants onsite, our budget will be affected.

#### **What a hybrid congress is:**

The Hybrid congress format includes two separate experiences: onsite and online participation. Both onsite and online participants enjoy the full experience – not necessarily an equal experience but a complimentary one.

Both onsite and online participants enjoy a full and coherent learning experience. Online participation does not necessarily need to provide access to all sessions or all the benefits, but the online



## 9 - CONGRESS – PAIN IN EUROPE

### 9.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

programme needs to make sense as a standalone learning experience.

Hybrid events are much more than the fusion of physical and virtual gatherings. They open new opportunities & quantitative extension in audience reach:

- Attendees connect and share information across the globe. There are equal opportunities for all as there are no barriers such as geographical distance, limited resources, etc.
- Recorded content by default is available. Attendees can focus on their preferred content at their convenience and according to their personal schedule.

#### ***Influence of the Hybrid model on the scientific programme***

Our aim is to create a programme that gives value to online and onsite participants and build quality interaction between them. We want to allow them to meet, exchange ideas learn from each other, no matter if they are in the congress centre or their office. Therefore, we will also use technology that enhances the experience both online and onsite to amplify the personal learning experience.

The programme structure will be adapted to the hybrid model and will include interactive sessions that are directed toward education with clear learning outcomes.

Below are some of the formats we plan to implement:

	Physical	Virtual
<b>Plenaries <sup>1</sup></b>	Access to all	Remote access to all
<b>Workshops <sup>2</sup></b>	Access to all incl. audience engagement	Remote access to all incl. audience engagement remotely (zoom wall)
<b>Refresher courses <sup>3</sup></b>	Access to all pre-meeting lecture materials and access to interactive live discussions on site	Remote access to all incl. audience engagement remotely (zoom wall)
<b>Meet-the-expert sessions <sup>4</sup></b>	Access to all (possibly with pre-registration needed)	No access to sessions (possibly replaced with meet-the-expert zoom webinars) or access to a few of the sessions that happen live in the networking lounge or EFIC booth.
<b>Poster presentations <sup>5</sup></b>	All presenters get poster board with fixed time for presentation Eligibility for prizes (with oral presentation on stage if selected)	Posters included on platform digitally, with on-platform, Q&A/comments No fixed presentations and no live engagement Not qualified for prizes

#### **Session description (PROPOSAL):**

<sup>1</sup> – Live presentation on stage, 15 minutes for discussion with the chair

<sup>2</sup> – Hands on format, discussion of a topic or a case, free discussion with audience

<sup>3</sup> – Limited number of participants, pre registered. Blended learning with reading/video materials send to participants. 3 weeks before congress. Need to discuss the live session format

<sup>4</sup> – ‘Free style’ session happening in lounge sitting in the networking lounge or EFIC booth. Speaker had the freedom to choose how he presents the topic and lead a discussion. It is not a closed session

<sup>5</sup> – Format for discussion – Do we have poster walks or poster discussion? Do they happen next to the physical poster board or in a session hall (broadcasted to audience at home). Do we allow remote participants to participate in the discussion.

Additional ideas that will support the hybrid interactivity:

- Meet the expert session with interactive discussion with full interactivity with on line and onsite participants
- Hybrid hands-on workshops where participants are divided up into smaller groups
- Career development sessions
- Oral poster discussions - thematic nano poster sessions answering questions
- TV studio with interviews:
  - SPC members interview speakers
  - Board members interview keynotes
  - Panoramic view of a topic or a day

#### ***Financial and contractual commitments***

##### ***Congress center – CCD***

- The CCD Dublin was chosen to host the 2021 congress already in 2018. We held back signing the contract. COVID-19 pushed us to postpone the congress to April 2022.
- Our aim is to sign the contract while sharing the risk with the CCD. In order for EFIC to move forward and sign the contract, the congress center offers a very generous ‘risk sharing’ model.
  - The full cost of renting the congress center according to the space outlined in the bid is 300,000 Euro.
  - The CCD agrees to reduce the rental of the space by 50% for the use of the same space up to 1,500 onsite attendees.
  - The CCD will hold the entire space for EFIC up to 1 February 2022. On that day we will be able to estimate how many people will be onsite and which halls will be used or should be released and may be rented to another customer. The Rental Fee in that case will still remain at €150,000, notwithstanding the reduction in space.
  - The Rental Fee of €150,000 is on the basis of 1,500 (or less) registered delegates attending in person. If there are more delegates than 1,500 onsite, then the Rental Fee goes up in direct proportion to the number of delegates that register. The Rental Fee will increase by €15,000 per 100 delegates or €150 per delegate.
  - The Cancellation Fee is €150,000. (in any case other than Force Majeure)
  - In the case that there is a Force Majeure, and the event does not proceed, then EFIC agrees to renew the contract for 2025 with an increase of 5% on the original Rental Fee (2.5% per year from 2024)
  - Pre-payment - CCD agrees to delay the deposit - the 30% payment date to 1 February. So, our pre-financing is minimal

## 9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

### 9.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

#### Contract with KIT

KIT gives us operational services for the congress (registration, abstracts handling, finance and banking, tax operation, exhibition operation, sourcing and management of technical suppliers and other operational activities).

- f. The contract is for 2 congresses (2022 in Dublin and 2023 in Budapest)
- g. EFIC is following the process of taking ownership on the congress management that started in 2017. We take in-house all the strategical and important aspects of the congress management. Accordingly, for 2022 and 2023 we further minimize our dependency on KIT and take over more tasks in-house, such as full handling and coordination of all speakers and invited faculty, full operational handling of all sponsors, communication (website and promotion) and many more. We use KIT as an extension to EFIC team for financial or operational assignments that has value to outsource.
- h. KIT offered a discount for committing to 2 congresses as the following:
  - flat rates for the management fees (logistics, industry support, accounting) and the agreed PCD services (according to the approved working hours of the .xls list)
  - a 10% discount for 2022 (Dublin) on all flat rates to acknowledge the exceptional pandemic situation
  - freezed net rates - they will be valid for 2022 and 2023 (plus applicable tax)
- i. Full cost of KIT can be found in Annex

#### Adapting exhibition and sponsorship

One of our challenges is to keep the satisfaction of sponsors while giving them real value, exposure and engagement opportunities with online and onsite audience. Accordingly we have adapted our offer to include a combination engagement opportunities. Through online and hybrid sessions. Ability to have short presentation in an open theater in the exhibition, TV studio and many more.

#### Inbar Caspi

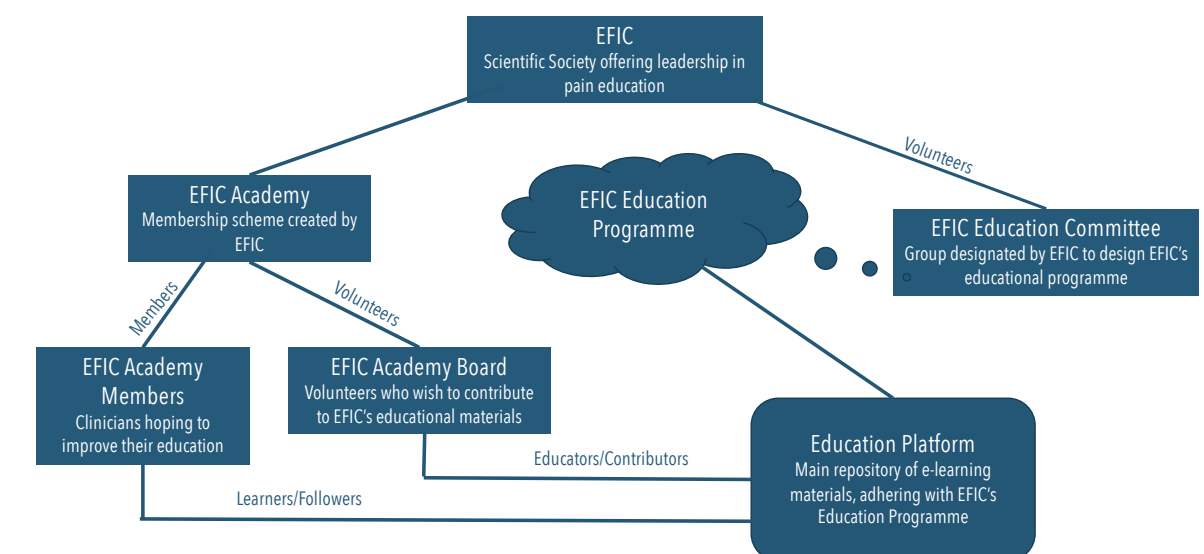
Congress Manager, EFIC

## 10 - EFIC ACADEMY

### 10.1 - INTRODUCTION

In the post-COVID-19 era, online education is entering a new era of relevance and potential dominance as a paradigm for education and learning. Healthcare professionals are in greater need than most with regards to online educational opportunities. The demands of national authorities concerning CME, as well as the personal responsibility clinicians take with regards to their own knowledge and competences, makes education a life-long pursuit and one which takes place largely outside of the classroom or traditional learning institution.

The European Pain Federation Academy is our flag-ship education programme bringing together everyone who wishes to advance their competences through the Federation's comprehensive multi-professional education programme. Membership of the EFIC Academy allows individuals to have access to our most comprehensive educational projects, and to receive discounts on various events. All individual healthcare professionals and researchers looking for high quality pain education provided by leading European educators are invited to join the EFIC Academy Board. At present, we have dedicated content streams targeted at physicians, physiotherapists psychologists and nurses.



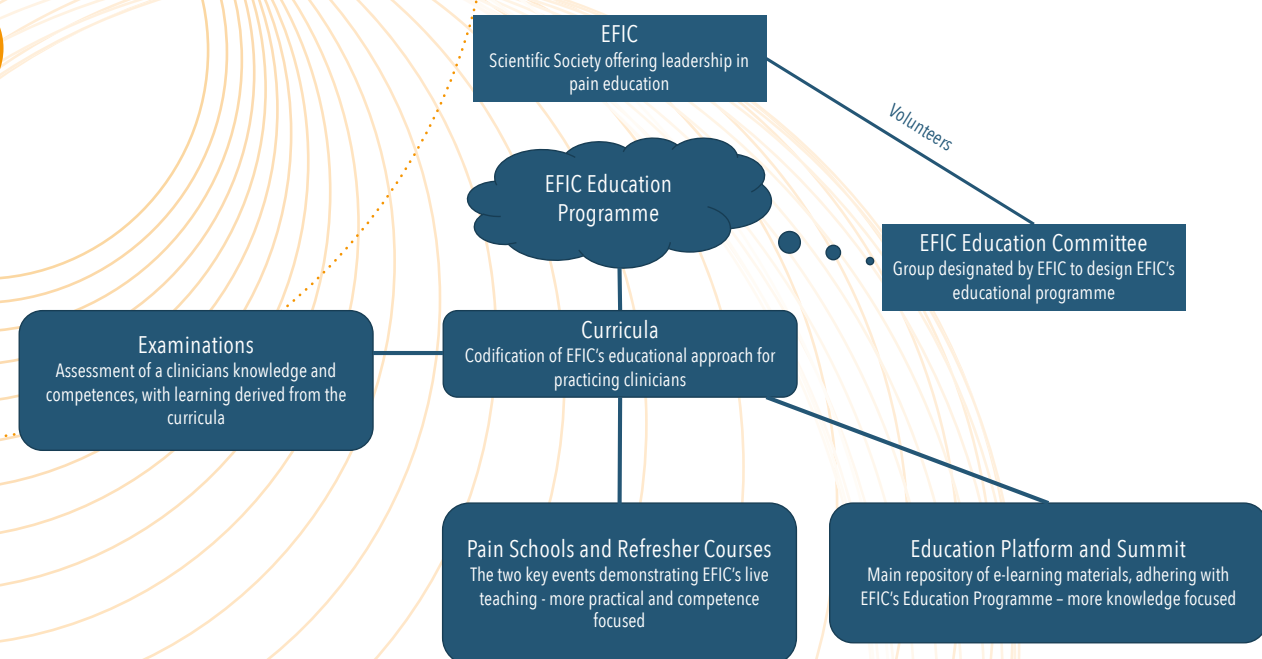
### 10.2 - BENEFITS

Current benefits include:

- Free attendance to the EFIC Virtual Pain Education Summit of the year in which the membership is active
- Free access to the EFIC Academy Education Platform
- Reduced fees for the EFIC Congress "Pain in Europe" - 10% discount on the fee (excl. VAT)
- Reduced fees for the EFIC exams - 25% discount on fees (excl. VAT)
- Networking and mentoring opportunities (TBC)

Benefits will be articulated further in the future.





### 10.3 - PRICING

Pricing is structured to be affordable to all clinicians regardless of profession and geography.

Catagory	Rate per annum
Regular (physicians from World Bank High Income Countries and pharmaceutical/ MedTech industry professionals)	145.00 €
Discounted (physicians from World Bank Lower- and Middle-Income Countries)	85.00 €
Allied Professionals (physiotherapists, psychologists, nurses)	75.00 €
Students	35.00 €

Prices do not include VAT.

### 10.4 - ACTIVITIES SINCE LAUNCH

Since the Academy was launched in summer 2020, we have held the first Virtual Pain Education Summit, which was the first fully interprofessional education event, providing tailored education for four different key professions, whilst bringing all groups together for interprofessional learning.

Between November 2020 and May 2021 we developed the Moodle-based EFIC Academy Education Platform. The platform structures EFIC's online learning material around EFIC's curricula, allowing each profession to learn according to their own approach, while also benefiting from the cross-overs with material developed for other professions. The Platform will continually be impro-

## 10 - EFIC ACADEMY

### 10.5 - NUMBER OF MEMBERS

ved, with new functions and new content.

Starting in early 2020, we have organised a series of Academy-only webinars on a variety of subjects. These will soon be hosted directly on the Education Platform linking to the sessions and subjects of relevance.

As of summer 2021, we are preparing the details for our upcoming congress and exam registration processes, wherein Academy members will be offered the chance to redeem various discounts available to them.

As of June 2021, the EFIC Academy has 1,015 members broken down by these categories:

Catagory	Number of members
Regular	450
Discounted	30
Allied Professionals	390
Students	145



## 11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

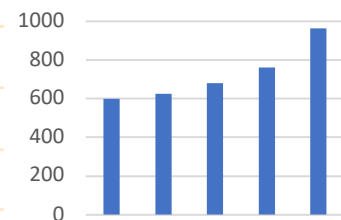
### 11.1 - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REPORT

#### 11.2 - CONTENT

- 1 Submission figures, rejection rates, Impact Factor
- 2 Editorial Board – Section and Managing Editors
- 3 Advisory Board
- 4 New features implemented (2020)
- 5 Position papers, Virtual Issues
- 6 Conclusions

#### 11.2.1 - SUBMISSION FIGURES, REJECTION RATES, IMPACT FACTOR

Total number of submissions received (2016 - 2020)



The number of papers submitted to the European Journal of Pain (EJP) steadily increased in the past years. This number went up from 760 in 2019 to a total of 963 submissions in 2020. Besides the increased attractiveness of the Journal, this might also reflect an effect of the Covid-19 pandemic conditions, which has allowed authors to find more time at home to work on their research! In 2021 EJP

received 360 submissions within the first five months.

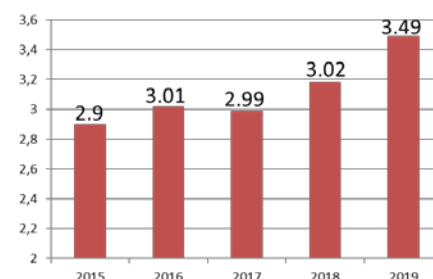
There is no negative effect of the Covid-19 pandemic conditions on the decision workflow of EJP so far: The average response time from reception to first decision was 36 days in 2019 and 34 days in 2020. It is of 24 days so far in the January-June 2021 period, but likely to increase until the end of the year.

The rate of rejections remains stable at ~80%, hence we are accepting one in five articles. In 2020 and 2021 up to 70% of rejections were proposed directly by the Section Editors or Editor-in-Chief before sending out the paper for external review; these "Editorial rejections" correspond to manuscripts that are judged not to have reasonable chances to pass successfully external refereeing or are considered of too small added value to existing literature.

Editorial rejections are meant to save time to authors and spare time and energy to external experts. We do our best to notify Editorial rejections to the authors in less than 10 days.

Unlike most other journals, the editorial rejection letter is always accompanied by a brief commentary indicating the reasons for such a quick decision, possible ways to overcome them, and suggesting if possible other journals that might be better targets for the manuscript. Starting at the end 2021 an agreement with our publisher Wiley & Sons will be effective, whereby a "Transfert Desk Assistant" will automatically indicate, if the authors wish so, other possible journals from Wiley's

IF 2015 - 2019



#### 11.2.1 - SUBMISSION FIGURES, REJECTION RATES, IMPACT FACTOR

where the manuscript can be addressed after revision. This possibility will be optional, the authors being always able to choose the 'no transfer' option.

The Journal's Impact Factor increased again from 2019 and is now 3.93. The European Journal of Pain is now one of the top 10 journals in the Anesthesiology category, and is in the top tiers (60/204) in Clinical Neurology.



#### 11.2.2 - EDITORIAL BOARD – SECTION AND MANAGING EDITORS

As president of EFIC, Brona Fullen joined the Editorial Board as Deputy Editor in 2020. For the first time, and due to the pandemic situation, the Editorial Board could not hold its annual meeting in praesentia, but was able to meet for a virtual meeting in November 2020. Of note, the meeting had to be scheduled at a time allowing for the participation of colleagues in countries with a time difference of 16h! (from Seattle, USA, to Fukuoka, Japan)

Managing editor Dr Bettina Haake-Weber and Assistant Editor Dr Koichi Hagiwara keep working as pillars of the EJP day-to-day logistics. Their proficiency should be underscored in this report: their continual interaction with Chief and Section Editors, Authors and Publisher, including responses to multiple (and often repetitive) author queries ensure a smooth editorial process under a continuous increase in number of papers to handle.

##### The panel of Section Editors as of August 2020:

- Ulf Baumgärtner, Hamburg, Germany
- Didier Bouhassira, Paris, France
- Daniel Ciampi de Andrade, São Paulo, Brazil
- Michele Curatolo, Seattle, USA
- Kate M Dunn, Staffordshire, UK
- Jörn Lötsch, Frankfurt, Germany
- Rafael Maldonado, Barcelona, Spain
- Lance McCracken, London (UK) – Uppsala (Sweden)
- Bart Morlion, Leuven, Belgium, (Deputy Editor)
- Michael Schäfer, Berlin, Germany
- Petra Schweinhardt, Zurich, Switzerland
- Luis Villanueva, Paris, France
- Tine Vervoort, Ghent, Belgium

You can see them all at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15322149/homepage/editorialboard.html>



## 11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

### 11.1 - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REPORT

#### 11.2.3 - EJP ADVISORY BOARD

The EJP Advisory Board (AB) is currently composed of 82 members, who represent a first line of high-quality potential reviewers for submitted papers. We have pursued the policy of replacing long-standing AB members with little or no late activity, who are being progressively substituted by young colleagues, in particular young she-doctors. The AB was last revised in February 2021. Decisions to update the Advisory Board are taken collegially, during the annual Editorial Board meeting, by the Board of Section Editors and the Editor-in-Chief. Managing and Assistant Editors (Dr Bettina Haake-Weber and Dr Koichi Hagiwara) keep statistics of the relative contribution of AB members each year, and give useful advice to take such decisions. The 2021 Advisory Board can be consulted at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15322149/homepage/editorialboard.html>

#### 11.2.4 - NEW FEATURES

**Dissemination of Table of Contents:** Uncontrolled channels of scientific information are continuously appearing, with increasing pressure from 'pay-for-publish' predatory journals more interested in the authors' money than in scientific ideas. These journals cleverly camouflage themselves by closely approximating the titles of existing credible journals, and tap into well-intentioned enthusiasm for the 'open access' publishing movement. While most of the manuscripts submitted to these journals would have been rejected in EJP, we are probably missing a small but significant number of potentially interesting pieces of work, which get trapped in such expensive holes. Dissemination of the EJP Table of Contents is one of a number of strategic moves we have implemented to enhance the visibility of the Journal and counteract predator publicity.

From 2018 to 2020, the Table of contents of EJP was circulated via e-mail among EFIC members, authors and participants to EFIC congresses. After being processed manually by Chief and Managing editors during 4 years, the EJP Table of Contents is now being included as a clickable link in the EFIC Newsletter, along with a brief comment on the most relevant EJP papers recently published. To access the Table of Contents of the current issue go to: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15322149/current>

**Rapid PubMed access of accepted manuscripts:** All accepted articles are now posted online in PubMed / Medline within 7 days of acceptance and release to Wiley's. This posted version is a PDF of the accepted files, before typesetting. The PDF of the accepted article has a DOI number, and hence becomes fully citable.

**Access of EFIC members to full text:** Member of national pain societies contributing to EFIC are entitled to free access to papers published in the EJP. The ergonomics to get full pdf access, however, still needs to be improved, as it remains long, and may detract potential readers from reading the full papers, to the detriment of the EJP visibility and citation. We are working with the EFIC managing team to improve accessibility before the end of 2021.

**Video Abstracts:** Starting 2021, the authors of accepted papers are invited to produce a short video-abstract summarising the results of their article. Melinda Borzsak-Schramm, Communications Officer from EFIC ([Melinda.Borzsak@efic.org](mailto:Melinda.Borzsak@efic.org)) provides support and advice to develop and disseminate the videos in optimal technical conditions.

#### 11.2.4 - NEW FEATURES

**The EJP translated:** Cooperation between EJP-EFIC with our Publisher Wiley and external sponsors was put forward to have selected EJP papers translated in Portuguese/Brazilian. Papers are selected with attention to their didactic value, under the supervision of Pr Daniel Ciampi de Andrade, Section Editor of the Journal, who acts as Chief Editor of its Portuguese version. In 2021 we started contacts to explore the possibility of implementing translation of EJP papers to Polish and French, so as to have them incorporated to the official journals of the respective pain societies. This is now being discussed between EFIC, Wiley's and representatives of both Societies (Pr Barbara Przewlocka, Pr Pierrick Poisbeau).

**Automatic reminders to reviewers:** Delay in the reception of articles' reviews is an everlasting problem for all major journals. EJP Assistant Editor Dr Koichi Hagiwara introduced in 2020 automatic reminders in Editorial Manager, as a test to improve response delays. Thus, each reviewer receives two automated emails reminders ('no respond'), one three days before due date ("Reviewer Reminder Before Due Date") and the other on the due date ("Due Date for the Review").

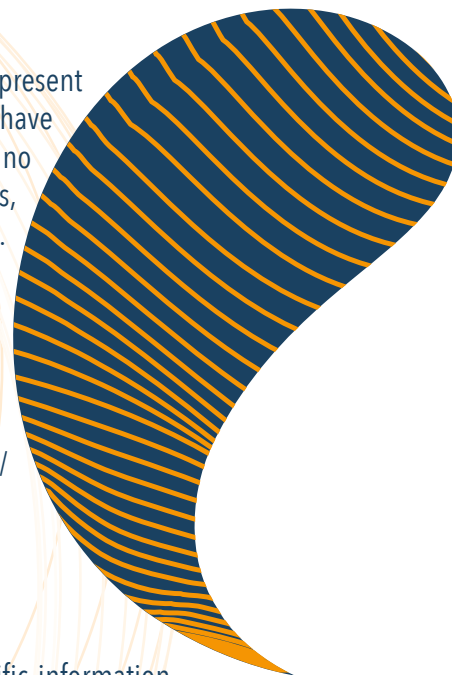
**Novelties in instructions for authors:** After including specific standards for studies in neonates and infants, whereby the EJP excludes from eligibility papers not including appropriate analgesia in control groups (2019), other changes were incorporated in 2020, including the decrease in numbers of references allowed in letters to the editor (to avoid their being considered as full papers), and the introduction of the ARRIVE guidelines for submission of papers on research in animals models. Also, stricter rules for the submission of review papers, and liberalisation of the number of words for position papers or very comprehensive reviews was discussed and accepted in the last Editorial Board meeting (November 2020). These and other improvements in the instructions for authors can be accessed in <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15322149/homepage/forauthors.html>

#### 11.2.5 - POSITION PAPERS, VIRTUAL ISSUES

The Journal initiated in 2018 a policy of publication of articles reflecting the position of the European Federation on a number of important and timely items. Recent position papers have appeared on the use of opioids (updated in 2021), the management of cancer pain, and the use of cannabis-derived medicines. These contributions appear in the context of semi-monographic issues including 4-6 papers original contributions, reviews and points of view on the same topic.

Homogenous series of papers on a given topic from different EJP issues are joined together as "pain collections", which are virtual issues that assemble papers on a same topic having appeared in different issues of the EJP. These collections can be consulted in full from the Journal's Web page to provide a broad and immediate access to the subject. Current collections on Cancer pain, Pain in Children, Cannabis-derived medicines and Complex regional pain syndrome are already available.

([https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15322149/homepage/virtual\\_issues.htm](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15322149/homepage/virtual_issues.htm)).



## 11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

### 11.1 - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REPORT

#### 11.2.6 - CONCLUSIONS

The European Journal of Pain remains in a position of scientific excellence, but also confronted to multiple challenges, in particular the increasing concurrence of periodicals attracting authors via less stringent requirements to publish. We pursue an active strategy to gain visibility, enhance content dissemination, and optimise papers' selection to improve our position in the fields of pain science and pain clinics. This energetic policy is accomplished by a panel of high-level Editors, and has translated in a substantial increase of the number of submissions and enhancement of impact factor. The European Pain Federation Councillors and Board members have a crucial role to play by enhancing the recognition of the Journal in their respective countries, prompting talented colleagues to submit their best productions to EJP, and citing the Journal in their own papers, to keep the EJP as the indisputable reference of pain research and clinics in Europe.

#### Luis Garcia-Larrea

Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Pain

- L. Garcia-Larrea, Editor-in-Chief
- Bettina Haake-Weber, Managing Editor
- Koichi Hagiwara, Editorial Assistant

## 12 - FINANCES

### 12.1 - HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues

It is an honour to address you for the first time as Honorary Treasurer of the European Pain Federation EFIC. I have the good fortune to follow Elon Eisenberg, who put in place various plans which should help improve the long-term position of the organisation. We are still in precarious times societally and economically. Thankfully, EFIC have embraced change during this period and we find ourselves in a reasonably strong position, considering how challenging these times have been for the scientific community.

#### 12.1.1 - 2020 PERFORMANCE

We end the financial year with assets of 4,646,543.34 euros, with a loss of 321,287.13 euros of the period. Our performance is measured on a biennial cycle, owing to the fact that the majority of our income tends to come from our congress which occurs every two years. By this metric, we are in a good position. We have analysed our biennial balance, from 2011 through to today. Between 2011 and 2018, net profit was decreasing, from a high of 900,000 in 2011-2012, to a loss

#### 12.1.1 - 2020 PERFORMANCE

of almost -500,000 in 2017-2018. Our goal was to stem these losses and achieve budget parity within the coming years. We reached this target early, with a balance of 72,000 in profit across the 2019-2020 cycle. We do not rest on our laurels, and note that it has been an unusual period. We had a very successful 2019 congress which cannot be repeated in Dublin due to the ongoing restrictions. Likewise, our activities were limited in 2020 owing to limited travel and meetings. Likewise, our income in the 2020 financial period is inflated somewhat due to SIP income falling within this window but partially covering the 2021 financial cycle. We will continue to strive for sound financial management of the organisation and hope to continue this upward financial trend across the coming years.

In 2020 specifically, our expenditure was well contained in administrative areas, where we made efficiencies during the height of the pandemic and lockdowns. We moved entirely to virtual meetings, capped the team size, and held back from making large unurgent expenditure for items like the office until the post-COVID picture is a little clearer. The most important long-term strategic development initiated in 2020 was the launch of the EFIC Academy project, which aims to consolidate and boost our educational work, whilst creating a reliable source of income that will benefit EFIC during a period when congresses and partnership with industry are less reliable. In the future we will be careful to balance any spending commitments from the Academy, such as the education platform and summit, with the income received through this source.

#### 12.1.2 - 2021 PERFORMANCE

Looking ahead to 2021, in normal times this would have been a congress year, with a large impact on our finances. We would have hoped for a congress profit that would have made 2021 a strong year. As the congress was moved back to April 2022 in order to adapt to the amended IASP congress schedule, 2021 is an unusual year financially. We continue to maintain our cost containment plans whilst focusing on the Academy as a new source of income and activity. However, the most unusual aspect of our 2021 finances is that, owing to EFIC now managing its congress budget entirely, the income and expenditure for that meeting are likely to be split across two financial years. Income, such as registrations and sponsorship, is booked in EFIC's name, and invoiced in advance of the meeting. Therefore, this shows up on our books ahead of April. However, expenditure is primarily managed by a professional congress organiser, with a reconciliation of the finances after the meeting. We therefore see a large amount of income in 2022 that is now a true reflection of the performance of our congress. In 2021 expenditure, we budget for a small amount of pre-financing of expenses, but the vast majority of congress expenditure is not listed. Therefore, the budget should be read in context, with performance only really scrutable after the 2022 books are complete in spring 2023. We are taking measures to provide a stronger advance long-term analysis of our financial picture as our previous biennial approach is difficult to maintain with these changes.

#### Patrice Forget

Honorary Treasurer



## 12 - FINANCES

### 12.2 - 2020 ACCOUNTS CLOSE

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2020 Budget	2020 Actuals
Office expenses	44,050.00	14,423.60
Website, Software & Online Subscr.	37,000.00	32,052.79
Communications, Marketing & Publ.	28,000.00	12,857.02
Service providers and consultants	251,500.00	241,511.75
Meeting expenses	145,000.00	8,531.00
Events	0.00	0.00
EJP	91,000.00	71,482.50
Educational programs	138,000.00	119,537.98
Salaries	299,341.19	327,283.03
Depreciation	27,857.66	27,857.66
EXB expenses	52,500.00	28,101.63
Taxes	15,250.00	7,807.89
Financial costs	19,000.00	2,330.92
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>1,148,498.85</b>	<b>893,778.38</b>
PROJECT EXPENDITURE		
EGG	0.00	9,600.00v
SIP	170,000.00	136,669.84
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,318,498.850</b>	<b>1,040,048.22</b>
OPERATING INCOME	2020 Budget	2020 Actuals
EJP	148,000.00	206,105.97
Industry support	225,000.00	75,216.58
Miscellaneous		
- Contributing members	100,000.00	79,518.20
- Examinations	20,000.00	-15,000.00
- IMI-PainCare	3,500.00	1,287.98
- Rental income	30,000.00	30,000.00
- Secretarial services	18,000.00	20,208.00
- Other	0.00	0.00
Events	80,000.00	54,982.94
Financial income	2,300.00	21,120.41
<b>Total Operating income</b>	<b>626,800.00</b>	
PROJECT INCOME		
EGG	0.00	5,000.00
PAIN OUT	0.00	-1,410.00
SIP	170,000.00	212,556.01
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>796,800.00</b>	<b>719,586.09</b>

### 12.3 - AUDITOR'S REPORT



**STATUTORY AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT ASSOCIATION EFIC EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**  
**(TRADE REGISTER OF BRUSSELS, DUTCH DEPARTMENT – VAT BE 0470.073.480)**

In the context of the statutory audit of the annual accounts of EFIC European Pain Federation (the Organisation), we hereby present our statutory auditor's report. It includes our report on the annual accounts as well as on the other legal and regulatory disclosure requirements. This forms an integrated whole and is indivisible.

We have been appointed as statutory auditor by the general meeting of members of 8 September 2020, following the proposal formulated by the board of directors. Our statutory auditor's mandate expires on the date of the general meeting of members deliberating on the annual accounts closed on 31 March 2023. We have performed the statutory audit of the annual accounts of the Organisation for 10 consecutive years.

**Report on the annual accounts – Unqualified opinion**

We have audited the annual accounts of the Organisation, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2021, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of € 4.646.543,34 and profit and loss account showing a loss for the year of € 321.287,13.

In our opinion, the annual accounts give a true and fair view of the Organisation's net equity and financial position as at 31 March 2021, as well as of its results for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

**Basis for unqualified opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Statutory auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts' section in this report. We have complied with all the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of annual accounts in Belgium, including those concerning independence.

VGD Bedrijfsrevisoren BV  
 Neerhoflaan 2, 1780 Wemmel - BTW BE 0875 430 443 - RPR Brussel, Nederlandstalige afdeling - Iban BE64 7370 1584 1052 - BIC KREDBE33  
 vgd.eu

## 12 - FINANCES

### 12.4 - AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Dear Colleagues

As Chair of the Audit Committee, it is my duty to provide the Council with a statement on the accounts for the last financial year; in this case, from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021. I can confirm that our statutory auditor, VGD, declare that the Federation's accounts give a true and fair view of the organisation's net equity and financial position, without qualification. I have discussed the accounts directly with the Treasurer and Executive Office and I am happy with the status of the 2020 accounts. On that basis I recommend the Council approve the accounts for the last financial year.

**Laserina O'Connor**

Chair, Audit Committee

### 12.5 - 2021 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENDITURE		2021 Budget
Office expenses		43,800.00
Website, Software & Online Subscr.		37,000.00
Communications, Marketing & Publ.		30,000.00
Service providers and consultants		257,000.00
Meeting expenses		25,000.00
Congress		150,000.00
EJP		79,333.00
Educational programs		197,080.00
Salaries		326,951.24
Depreciation		28,000.00
EXB expenses		52,500.00
Taxes		15,500.00
Financial costs		9,000.00
Total Operating Expenditure		<b>1,251,164.24</b>
PROJECT EXPENDITURE		
EGG		180,000.00
SIP		180,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>1,611,164.24</b>

### 12.5 - 2021 BUDGET

OPERATING INCOME		2021 Budget
EJP		153,000.00
Industry support		65,000.00
Miscellaneous		
– Contributing members		120,000.00
– Examinations		0
– IMI-PainCare		5,000.00
– Rental income		30,000.00
– Secretarial services		18,000.00
– Other		0.00
Congress		1,600,000.00
Financial income		2,300.00
Total Operating income		<b>1,993,300.00</b>
PROJECT INCOME		
EGG		200,000.00
PAIN OUT		0.00
SIP		180,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>2,373,300.00</b>



## 13 - TRANSPARENCY

The European Pain Federation EFIC is a strong believer in the value of transparency in order to establish trust in the scientific world, and in particular the role of medical societies. The information provided below aims to provide a coherent insight into the Federation's activities and finances, in particular concerning our relationship with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

What percentage of EFIC's income comes from the pharmaceutical and medical device industries?

EFIC's main sources of operating income are our congress, our Academy scheme, our journal income and industry partnerships.

Across 2019-2020, EFIC had a total operating income of 3,062,882.91 euros.

- Approximately 1.8 million euros came from EFIC's congress.
- Approximately 80,000 euros came from our Academy scheme
- Approximately 273,000 euros came from industry partnerships.
- Approximately 358,000 euros came from our Journal (royalties and expense budget)
- The remaining income comes from smaller sources such as office rental income and secretarial services, our examinations, EU-funded projects and others.

Of the congress income, approximately 61% came from ticket sales and approximately 39% (648,000 euros) came from sponsorship and exhibition.

Therefore, approximately 921,000 euros of our operating income came from the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, which comes to around 30% as a percentage of total income.

How does EFIC work with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries?

Our congress is organised in line with all relevant compliance codes and laws concerning scientific meetings. Sponsorship and exhibition activities are labelled appropriately to avoid any confusion between the official scientific programme organised by EFIC and activities promoted by industry.

Our industry partnership scheme is a means of receiving financial support from industry for our educational and scientific projects in a transparent and respectful way. EFIC retains independent control of its core work and objectives in the fields of education, research and advocacy. The scheme helps support existing work and defines mutually beneficial projects that can supple-

ment the core work of the Federation and contribute to the fulfilment of its objectives. At present, Sanofi is a member of this scheme.

Increasingly, EFIC aims to work with industry on the basis of defined projects, with terms established by EFIC and its experts, with financial support coming from industry for those defined projects. An example of this would be the Competitive Grant for Education in Pain associated with Osteoarthritis, which we launched in 2020. This Grant provided 500,000 euros in funding to educational projects across Europe. The funding came from Pfizer and Lilly, with EFIC managing the project, including independently defining the review criteria and identifying the successful projects. EFIC were provided with project management costs for their work in managing the project.

How does EFIC ensure it remains independent whilst working with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries?

Any financial support from or collaboration with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries is reviewed thoroughly by the EFIC Executive Board following advice from the Ethics and Transparency Committee. Engagement with companies is managed professionally by our experienced Executive Office team, to ensure that EFIC's values and objectives are followed. EFIC's educational, scientific and political direction is developed independently by EFIC's experts.

EFIC is not beholden to any particular company or treatment. Multimodal pain management as supported by EFIC includes a wide variety of treatments including opioids, low strength analgesics, antidepressants, anti-epileptics, cannabinoids, and other treatments. EFIC also promotes non-pharmaceutical-based treatments such as physiotherapy, counselling, and distractive techniques such as meditation and mindfulness. Any engagement between EFIC and the pharmaceutical and medical device industry should reflect this broad biopsychosocial approach to pain management.



