



**EFiC**  
EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL PERIOD: 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2021 – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022

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# 1 - PEOPLE

## 1.1 - EXECUTIVE BOARD

<b>President</b> .....	Brona Fullen
<b>President Elect</b> .....	Luis Garcia-Larrea
<b>Honorary Treasurer</b> .....	Patrice Forget
<b>Honorary Secretary</b> .....	Silviu Brill
<b>Member-at-Large</b> .....	Magdalena Kocot-Kępska
<b>Member-at-Large</b> .....	Thomas Tölle

## 1.2 - COUNCIL

Albania .....	Apostol Vaso	Latvia .....	Mihails Arons
Austria .....	Wolfgang Jaksch	Lithuania .....	Arunas Sciupokas
Belarus .....	Siarhei Hapanovich	Moldova .....	Iana Burmistr
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 Ferenčík
France .....	Valéria Martinez	Slovenia .....	Nevenka Krčevski Škvarč
Germany .....	Thomas Isenberg	Spain .....	Maria Luz Padilla del Rey
Greece .....	Kyriaki Vagdatli	Sweden .....	Anna Bjarnegård
Hungary .....	László Vécsei	Switzerland .....	Chantal Berna Renella
Ireland .....	David Finn	The Netherlands .....	Andre Wolff
Israel .....	Elyad Davidson	Turkey .....	Gül Köknel Talu
Italy .....	Caterina Aurilio	Ukraine .....	Volodymyr Romanenko
Kosovo .....	Adem Bytyqi	United Kingdom .....	Arun Bhaskar

## 1.3 - EXECUTIVE OFFICE TEAM

Executive Director .....	Sam Kynman
Executive Secretary .....	Christel Geevels
Congress Manager .....	Inbar Caspi
Congress Operations and Scientific Programme Manager ...	Lauriane Nallet Khosrofian
Congress Industry Liaison Manager .....	Maya Ravinsky
Communications Manager .....	Melinda Borzsak-Schramm
Advocacy and Projects Officer .....	Angela Cano Palomares
Research Projects Advisor .....	Mary O'Keeffe

## 1.4 - INTRODUCTION

Dear colleagues,

I address you today as President of the European Pain Federation at the end of my second year in office as we emerge from a deep global crisis.

While the pandemic has certainly caused us to adjust our path and speed of progress, I am very happy with the many accomplishments we have secured as an organisation in the past year. We succeeded in organising a successful scientific congress in Dublin, bringing together the pain community in-person for the first time since COVID-19 changed all of our lives.

As President and as an Irish woman, I was proud of this achievement. However, our congress is not our raison d'être, and I will cover other key aspects below.



**Brona Fullen**

President  
European Pain Federation EFIC®



## 2 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 2.1 - MY VISION FOR EFIC

I will start once again by reiterating my vision for EFIC:  
'Pain to be acknowledged and managed effectively at a societal and healthcare level.'

I noted that this would 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 provide an update below on how we have progressed in these areas:

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

Our EFIC Academy project goes from strength to strength, with the number of members growing month-on-month. The Academy education platform provides a solid foundation of educational materials for physicians, physiotherapists, psychologists and nurses, and this resulted in the number of Academy members from those communities growing across the board. Along with educational material, the Academy also offers individual mentorship for those at the early stages of their professional careers. EFIC is a multidisciplinary community, and it is rewarding to see all professions finding a home in the Academy.

In addition, our refresher course programme in Dublin was organised for the first time interprofessionally, with colleagues from physiotherapy, psychology and nursing collaborating with physician colleagues to develop the programme, including both monodisciplinary and multidisciplinary sessions. Dublin also saw us reach out to General Practitioner colleagues for the first time formally, working with WONCA Europe to develop a General Practitioner-focused programme of workshops.

Finally, our examinations are now back up-and-running after a 3-year hiatus. Following a successful part 1 (virtual MCQ examination) for physicians and physiotherapists in November 2021, we have organised full in-person part 2 examinations in Leuven in September 2022, with much pent-up demand. Our nursing colleagues, led by Emma Briggs, are also making strides towards a nursing examination based upon the core curriculum for the European Diploma in Pain Nursing, aiming for spring 2023. Ed Keogh and colleagues are also in the development phase for a psychology exam.



### 2.1 - MY VISION FOR EFIC

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

Our impact on policy-making and our response to social and political issues continues to be a major priority. My Presidential campaign theme on the topic of health literacy has been realised by our 'Plain Talking' campaign led by Laura Mackey. If you attended the Dublin congress you will have seen how our key messages were represented across the programme and within the design of the event. In my final year as President, we aim to disseminate the campaign at national level, providing chapters with the tools to broadcast the Plain Talking message within their national environment.

The Societal Impact of Pain project continues to be our primary vehicle for policy change, with EFIC and Pain Alliance Europe working together to influence health policies at European level. This has resulted in EFIC having a tangible impact on the Commission's flagship Beating Cancer Plan, with the European Parliament's position on the plan making direct reference to pain. In addition, we have seen various EU-funded research projects linked to the Beating Cancer Plan having relevance for the pain management community, with EFIC being a partner in at least two confirmed projects so far. We continue to support our chapters in the implementation of SIP campaigns at national level via their own dedicated national platforms.

Finally, we can't talk about political developments without reference to the war in Ukraine. We continue to observe with grave concern the conflict and its devastating impact on civilians. EFIC was quick to lend support to our friends in Ukraine, via tools and materials to support the psychosocial response, including post-traumatic stress disorder and acute pain with acute trauma. We also aimed to support the clinical and scientific community directly via complimentary access to our educational projects and congress. This offer was taken up widely and we hope to have played a small role in supporting education during a period of immense stress for those working in the clinic. We remain available to Vladimir and the Ukraine Association for the Study of Pain.

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

EFIC's work in research has matured significantly in the past year. Firstly, our development of a European Pain Research Strategy has commenced in earnest, with a formal roadmap and methodology in place, along with ethics approval of the project. Gisèle Pickering, supported by Mary O'Keeffe, is leading this project and together, they will certainly deliver a Strategy that has an impact for years to come.

In addition, EFIC's role as a participant in research consortia grows stronger. We have articulated the active role that EFIC can play as a civil society stakeholder and nexus within the pain community, and this has been formulated within new proposals that have been brought to us. We have participated in a larger number of proposals and have succeeded with many, including;

- HaPpY, a Marie Curie Innovative Training Network focused on chronic pain and mood disorders (led by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique CNRS)
- INTERACT-EUROPE, an EU4Health project aiming to develop interdisciplinary cancer training (led by the European Cancer Organisation)
- SMART-CARE, an EU4Health project aiming to develop a cancer survivor's smart card (led by the European Cancer Organisation)



## 2 - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 2.1 - MY VISION FOR EFIC

Finally, we are developing EFIC's internal resources as a networking hub for the pain research community. Our Pain Scientist Network database now has 600 scientists grouped by their research expertise, allowing us to consult internally on subject-matter enquiries, provide experts for new projects, and provide informed responses to consultations. Eventually, this network will also allow for stronger networking between experts, hopefully initiating new collaborations. In addition, we are working on our Pain Research Directory, with the aim of publishing it online by the end of 2023. This directory will serve as the best one-stop-shop for basic information on the most important organisations engaged in pain research.

#### Empowering and further engaging with chapter members

National chapters are the bedrock of the European pain community, and we hope to contribute to their success in 2023 and beyond. Following our previously published plans, EFIC has initiated the following actions:

We have succeeded in renegotiating our contract with our publisher to provide articles from the European Journal of Pain (EJP) for translation in national journals. After a lengthy discussion on the legal and administrative details, we finally kicked this off in July 2022. Chapters will now have up to 3 high quality articles selected by our Editor-in-Chief available for translation, a win-win for the EJP and chapter members.

We have started to open up the EFIC Academy project as something with tangible benefits to chapters and chapter members. Firstly, we are offering chapter member discount codes that are only shared with chapter members via their newsletters. We will accompany this with explanatory webinars organised specifically for chapters members, with the cooperation of chapter leaders. We are also piloting translation of our e-learning materials to open up the Academy to chapter members who may not be fluent in English.

### 2.2 - CONGRESS AND FINANCES

As noted above, our delayed congress took place in Dublin after the disruption of the pandemic. In what was a first for EFIC the congress was a hybrid format which allowed us to expand our reach. For those attending in person the atmosphere was like nothing we have experienced in recent times. Jubilant attendees were so happy to be meeting, learning, discussing their research and networking with their peers for the first time in 3 years. The congress had 1929 attendees both onsite and online, which was a major decrease since Valencia, but also a reasonable outcome considering the uncertainty and continued pressures of the pandemic on attendees and their schedules. In financial terms, the congress was challenging. The congress has been the largest contributor to the EFIC budget since its inception, and moving forward without a financially stable congress would call for a rethink about its structure and activities. For now, we remain optimistic about 2023 in Budapest and beyond.

In financial terms, 2021-2022 was the first year in which the pandemic has taken a serious toll on EFIC's financial position. We expect another loss in the current financial year, as it is a year without a congress. However, our pandemic preparations and continued progress is beginning to bear fruit financially. The Academy is soon to constitute 10% of EFIC's income, and our income from examinations and EU-funded projects continued to expand.

### 2.3 - FINAL THOUGHTS

The past two years have been challenging for the organisation, for our national chapters and the many volunteers who support our initiatives. Nonetheless EFIC has delivered impactful outputs, and as the impact of the pandemic recedes, we will continue to develop, expand and move forward. I would like to pass on my regards to Claudia Sommer who concludes her term as president of IASP in September 2022. I look forward to working with Catherine Bushnell to continue to foster a good working relationship between EFIC and IASP which is important in strengthening both our organisations.

In preparation for taking over the helm in 2023 Luis Garcia-Larrea is stepping down this year as Editor-in-chief of the European Journal of Pain. Thank you, Luis, for your skilled stewardship and leadership that has served to make this journal one of the top ranked journals in anaesthesiology and clinical neurology. Sincere thanks also to the section editors and team of reviewers who have all contributed to, and share in this success.

Luis's position has been filled by another esteemed member of the European pain research community. In January 2023, Didier Bouhassira will take over as Editor-in Chief of the EJP from Luis Garcia-Larrea. Luis has served as the EJP Editor-in-Chief since 2016 and will now continue in his role as President Elect of the European Pain Federation EFIC. I would like to thank Luis Garcia-Larrea for his skilled stewardship and leadership. I'm convinced the European Journal of Pain will continue to flourish under Didier Bouhassira and I'm honored to be serving as Deputy Editor alongside him.

Reflecting back on what was a congress year I would also like to sincerely thank Eija Kalso (SPC Chair 12th Pain in Europe Congress) for her outstanding commitment to EFIC. It was a privilege for all of us involved to draw on her expertise, her wise pragmatism, and unrelenting faithfulness to EFIC's ideals in producing, with the support of the scientific programme committee, an excellent scientific programme.

I would also like to acknowledge the EFIC executive office and the congress organising committee (led by Inbar Caspi) in all its guises. Building a hybrid scientific conference programme in effect meant organising two conferences in one, and this ambition and singular drive to bring this to completion required nothing less than a full team effort. We are already planning with Esther Pogatzki-Zahn and her scientific programme committee for our 13th Congress next September 2023 in the magnificent city of Budapest and already it is promising to be an unmissable event!

I am also grateful to the Executive Board, Committee Chairs and Working Groups for their support and engagement with EFIC's vision and mission. Frank Huygen is ably leading our expansive Education Committee. Paul Cameron has transformed our Advocacy Committee into a body with multiple projects and objectives. Gisèle Pickering is spearheading our research work, as acknowledged above. You can find a full summary of Committee leadership in the sections below.

Finally, while the situations remains challenging for EFIC, we remain indebted to our Executive Office team, led by Sam Kynman who provide a level of professionalism to our work that will continue to attract new volunteers, Academy members and congress attendees.

It was a shame not to have our Council meeting in person in Dublin, though it was a pleasure to catch up with so many of you for an update on EFIC's work. 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

##### CORE OPERATIONAL

Chair: Brona Fullen

##### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

Chair: Esther Pogatzki Zahn

##### LOCAL ORGANISING

Chair: László Vécsei

#### 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: Vacant

##### WG - ONLINE EDUCATION

Chair: Morten Hoegh

#### RESEARCH

Chair: Gisèle Pickering

##### WG - RESEARCH STRATEGY AND PRIORITY SETTING

Chair: Gisèle Pickering

##### WG - RESEARCH FUNDING & PRIZES

Chair: André Mouraux (VC)

##### WG - CLINICAL AFFAIRS

Chair: Elon Eisenberg

##### WG - TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Chair: Thomas Graven-Nielsen

#### ADVOCACY

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: Henrik Bjarke Vægter

#### OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES – MANDATES

##### ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Chair: Arūnas Ščiupokas

##### AUDIT

Chair: Ana Maria Pedro

##### ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY

Chair: Nevenka Krčevski Škvarč

##### SUSTAINABILITY AND FUNDRAISING

Chair: Patrice Forget

##### EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

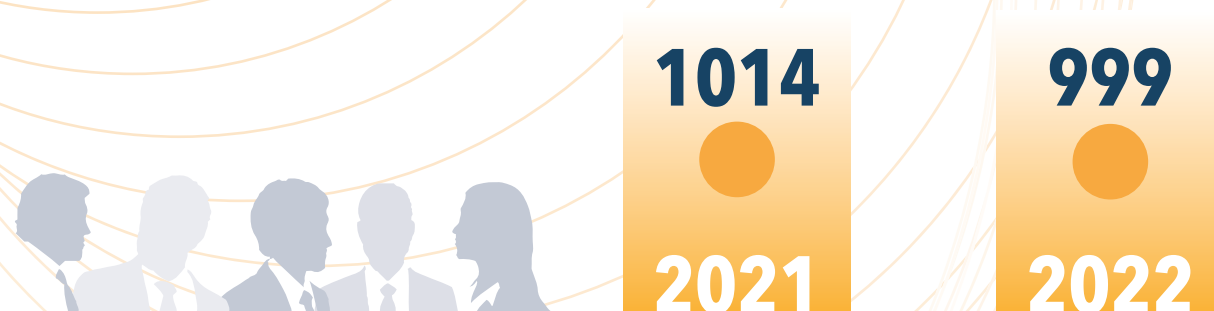
Chair: Magdalena Kocot-Kępska

## 4 - MAPPING OUR PROGRESS

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 will stick to a few for which we have measurable data. Where no new data is available for 2022, 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 figures from previous years.

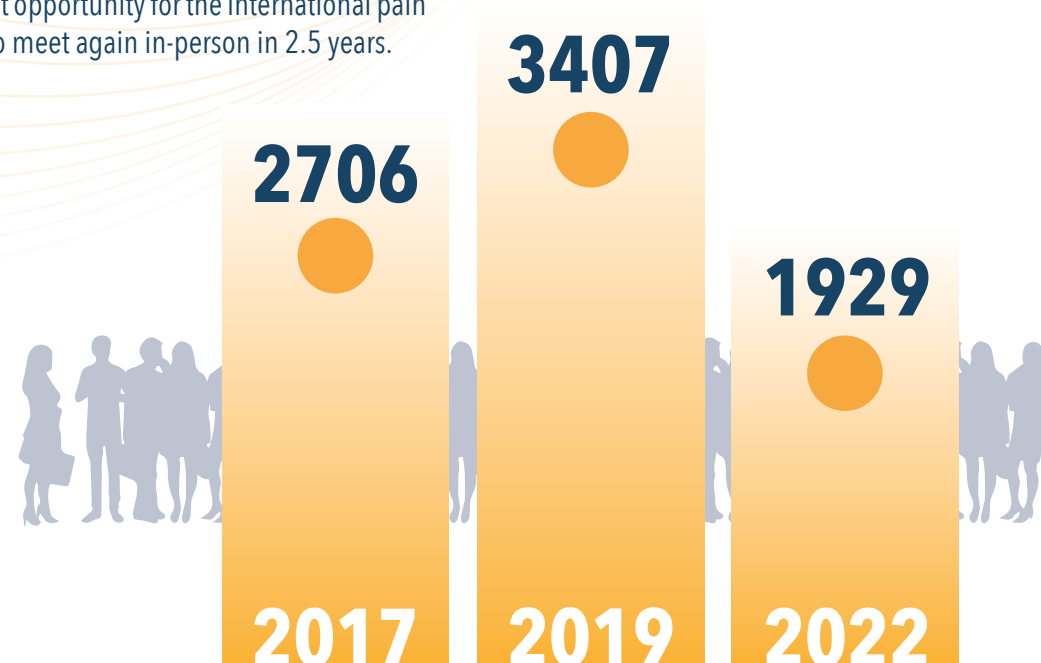
### 4.1 - ACADEMY MEMBERS

The EFIC Academy scheme is our latest educational and community building project. As of 28 July 2022, we have 1002 members. This means that almost 1000 people have access to EFIC's education platform, the European Journal of Pain as well as webinars and Q&As. We saw a slight decrease compared to 2021, after a dip following the last summit, though we have been steadily increasing.



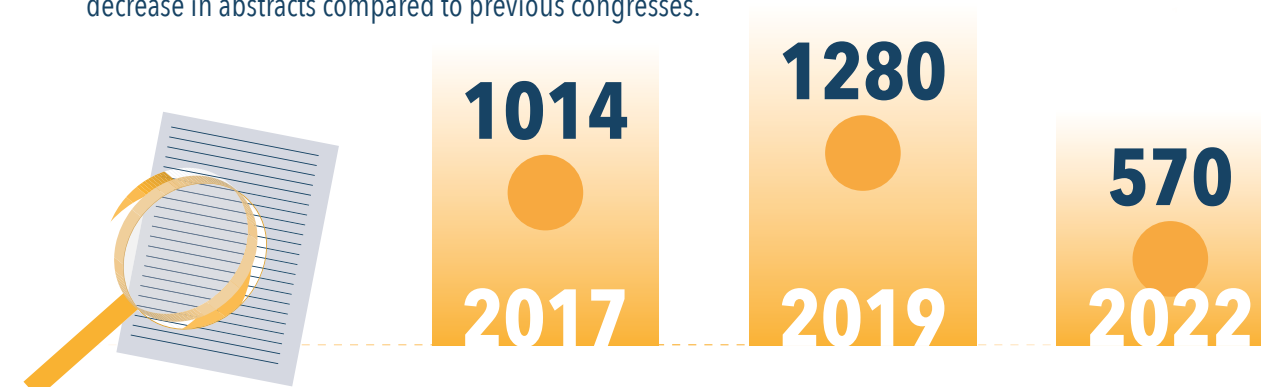
### 4.2 - CONGRESS ATTENDEES

While still dealing with extremely uncertain circumstances and planning for multiple settings, we were able to organise a hybrid EFIC congress in April 2022 with a significant on-site element, making it the first opportunity for the international pain community to meet again in-person in 2.5 years.

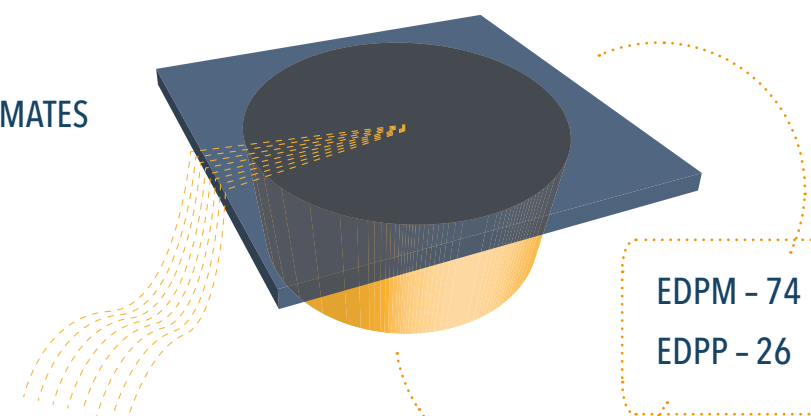


### 4.3 - ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS

As the abstract submission period for the congress fell during a spike of the pandemic, we saw a decrease in abstracts compared to previous congresses.



### 4.4 - DIPLOMATES



74 medical doctors have achieved the European Diploma in Pain Medicine, and 26 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 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN IMPACT FACTOR



While the European Journal of Pain (EJP) is editorially independent of EFIC, it is our house journal and intrinsically linked to the Federation. The 5 Year Impact Factor is 4.169 and the journal is ranked in the top 15 in the anaesthesiology category, as well as in the top tiers in clinical neurology. Please note that the scale has been adjusted to reflect the year for which the impact factor was calculated, rather than the year of the report's update.



## 5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

### 5.1 - ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Dear colleagues

The pandemic has transformed all of our organisations and forged new ways of working. We expect many of these transformations to be permanent. The Executive Board continues to meet remotely in most cases, and most projects are forced to proceed without in-person meetings. Dublin showed us what value there is in meeting face-to-face, so we hope that there is still a place for such occurrences in whatever future awaits us. In any case, concerns about the climate should not be forgotten and we should seek to maximise virtual engagement and reduce airmiles if we can.

Our Executive Office continues to work primarily virtually, though thankfully they are able to work from the EFIC Office in Brussels whenever they choose to. Our Executive Office has evolved over the past year, with an increased use of trainees, with two ideally support our work at all times. Our trainees have very high satisfaction ratings of their time with EFIC, and they become fully immersed in our work. In addition, our Executive Office now plays a stronger role in our research activities, such as task forces and involvement in research consortia. This is currently led by Mary O'Keeffe, but may eventually require additional team members as our success in obtaining funding increases.

Our working modalities as an Executive Board and Council are largely unchanged since 2021. Our bylaw changes took effect in advance of the 2021 Council meeting, meaning new election rules governed the elections that took place. Those rules will govern also the next round of elections in 2023.



### 5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications team of the European Pain Federation EFIC continued building on the previous years' work by successfully managing promotion and communications around the 2022 EFIC Congress – Pain in Europe XII. With Communications Manager Melinda Borzsak-Schramm and additional support from Communications Assistant Alberto Antonacci (who left the team in December 2021) as well as Advocacy and Projects Officer Angela Cano Palomares and Communications and Advocacy Trainee Laura Thyssen Thorøe, the team was able to form a comprehensive promotional strategy for all of EFIC's projects and activities and implement it on a multitude of communications channels ranging from mailings to cross-promotion to social media.

## 5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

### 5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS

*#EFIC2022 Congress – Pain in Europe XII*

In the leadup to the #EFIC2022 Congress in Dublin, communications played a major role during every phase. As in previous years, advertising important deadlines around workshop submission, abstract submission as well as registration was a crucial aspect in the promotion; additionally, the nature of #EFIC2022 being a hybrid congress had to be factored in and communicated effectively and consistently to manage attendees' expectations and needs. All communication channels were used to promote the programme, highlight social activities, and engage with our audience. Video content was also featured to introduce the theme, the programme and give speakers a chance to highlight their sessions. The feedback during and after #EFIC2022 on social media was overwhelmingly positive.





## Social media

Our social media channels have been growing continuously, increasing the number of our followers on all channels (in total just over 17,000, up from 13,500 last year). At the same time, we have been able to increase the engagement and interaction with our community on social media, especially on Twitter and Instagram which are the two most active EFIC social media channels. The continuous and strategic use of hash-tags such as #EFIC2022 for the Congress or #EJPain for content pertaining to the European Journal of Pain has further increased visibility, thus steadily increasing our online audience.

### Audience size

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	LinkedIn
<b>Jun-21</b>	5.195	5.454	1.255	1.655
<b>Jul-22</b>	5.992	6.473	2.329	2.381
<b>Growth in %</b>	15%	18%	85%	43%

## Website

As expected, the in-house management of both the general EFIC website as well as the EFIC Congress website has resulted in a more streamlined process and effective content management. After the EFIC Congress 2022, it was decided to combine both websites and house everything under one well-structured website, thus increasing usability, accessibility and optimise all EFIC resources for search engine ranking and results. The combined usage of our website, online store system, CRM database, education platform and newsletter programme has resulted in more in-house control and data protection.

New projects and sections launched on the website:

› **Single-sign-on for our EFIC Academy Education Platform** – A simplified login option for users of our online education platform has already led to an increase in activity.  
<https://academy.europeanpainfederation.eu/>

› **EFIC 2023 Congress website** – The congress website was merged with the general EFIC website to simplify the user journey for website visitors, increase online search rankings and streamline maintenance efforts.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic2023/>

› **Measuring Pain in the Clinic** – Introductory material aimed at non-specialists who wish to gain more basic information on measuring pain.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/measuring-pain-in-the-clinic/>

› **EFIC Webinars** – An overview of future and past webinars with the opportunity to either register or watch on-demand.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic-webinars/>

› **Job Listings** – A page advertising job listings in pain science in Europe.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/job-listings/>

# 5 - HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

## 5.2 - COMMUNICATIONS

› **World Health Days** – On this page, readers can find important resources pertaining to pain management and pain research for world health days highlighting important health issues.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/health-days/>

› **Collaborate with EFIC** – Information on how to include EFIC as a partner in research consortia/grant application and an overview on current and past projects.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic-pain-research/collaborate-with-efic/>

› **Advocacy Case Study** – An overview on why we do 'Advocacy' at EFIC using Europe's Beating Cancer Plan as a case study.  
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/current-projects/cancer-pain-policy/>

## Silviu Brill

Honorary Secretary

## 5.3 - COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- [www.europeanpainfederation.eu](http://www.europeanpainfederation.eu)
- <https://efic-congress.org/>
- [www.facebook.com/EFICorg](http://www.facebook.com/EFICorg)
- [www.twitter.com/EFIC\\_org](http://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 38 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 aims to distribute these opportunities as widely as possible across its 38 chapters, noting the need for stronger financial support in less economically developed countries.

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Due to the ongoing disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, many of EFIC's activities were postponed again in 2021, meaning that we have not provided the same support to chapters in the past year.

Thankfully, we will see a more normal schedule in 2022, including restarted Pain Schools, congress financial aid and the financial support of high-level speakers at national scientific meetings. In the meantime, EFIC has proposed chapter member discounts for the EFIC Academy project, which will be promoted again in autumn 2022.





## 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 patient 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

Our 2022 scientific congress featured a dedicated patient track, including sessions on:

- Enhancing research in pain: embedding public and patient involvement in the research process to improve research outcome and impact
- Putting patients at the centre of digital treatments for paediatric pain: from co-designing to treatment tailoring and implementation
- Pain education for breast cancer patients post treatment
- Session single case studies as part of clinical practice and research

For our 2023 congress we are taking this a step further and involving our patient partners at Pain Alliance Europe directly in the review of sessions that are organised specifically with the idea of patient involvement in mind.

In addition, patients are involved directly in the formation of our new Pain Research Strategy as well as the ongoing Plain Talking project.

### 7.3 - RELATIONS WITH PATIENTS' ORGANISATIONS

We continue to support Pain Alliance Europe via our shared office and secretarial services. PAE is now supported by Emilia Kosinska, who is employed by EFIC to support PAE. Emilia is well-integrated into the EFIC team and benefits from the team's knowledge and trainings.



Our collaboration with PAE via the Societal Impact of Pain project continues at full strength, having the additional benefit of raising the voices of national level patient organisations who collaborate via SIP's national platform model. We are taking steps to initiate new national platforms in countries such as Poland, where patients' organisations have historically not had as strong a voice as they do in western European countries.

### 7.4 - TOOLS FOR PATIENTS

Our patient education work requires a refresh after our previous chair Petra Mandysova had to step down due to new professional duties. However, our health literacy work via the 'Plain Talking' project is putting together various tools to support improved HCP-patient communication, including tools directly for patients. In addition, we continued with the EFIC TV concept at our Dublin congress by recording interviews with leading pain specialists. These conversations are designed to be accessible and jargon-free (where possible), and therefore they will be useful for a patient audience in the future.



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 .....	Vacant

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

Dear Colleagues

I write to you again as Education Committee Chair of EFIC. After two years of pandemic disruption, it is a pleasure to write to you with some positive developments and an education programme that is slowly returning to normal. With the support of my Vice Chair, Harriet Wittink, we have managed to drive forward our plans in spite of the challenges we have faced. Through the pandemic, our transition towards virtual formats and e-learning will leave a strong legacy, though there are many activities that can recommence now that meeting is possible.

In 2021 we held our second Virtual Pain Education Summit, ably chaired by Bart Morlion and Brona Fullen, with the support of a multi-professional faculty. Indeed, our co-chairing system brought in some newer volunteers who I am sure will play a strong role in the development of EFIC's education programme, such as Indre Bileviciute-Ljungar and Sónia F. Bernardes. Along with the summit, our EFIC Academy project has focused on our Moodle-based education platform, that now has over 70 hours of multiprofessional educational content. The platform is very active, with around 1,000 sessions being viewed per month. Among the approximately 1,000 users we have around 150 physiotherapists, and around 50 nurses and 50 psychologists. While physicians are still the most active group, we are happy to see these allied professional groups finding a home within EFIC.

We also saw a return to examinations last year, with virtual formats being piloted. Our current examinations, for physicians and physiotherapists, can be organised in two parts, with a knowledge-based MCQ forming part 1 of the exam. This was easily transferable to an online environment,



using the Moodle platform. They say necessity is the mother of invention, and the pandemic forced a move to virtual MCQs that has improved our processes. The virtual MCQ allows for participation with a lower barrier, as people can have an entry into the examination without travel and professional leave being taken. This allowed a large increase in participation, with 63 participants for the EDPM and 33 participants for the EDPP.

Thankfully, with the declining risk from COVID-19, we have returned to full examinations, with part 2 being held for both exams in September. This has also seen a growth in registration numbers, due to the larger cohort participating in part 1 and perhaps a pent-up demand created by the pandemic. We hope to see our community of diplomates growing from 2022 onwards, with the EFIC exams forming a standard across Europe in countries where no such exam exists. Virtual part 1 exams will continue in November 2022 and beyond.

Our nursing and psychologist groups continue to make progress, including through their collaboration in the summit, education platform and in the congress refresher programmes. Progress towards examinations is underway, with the nursing group aiming for a Spring 2023 MCQ examination.

On the horizon, I hope to see a new multiprofessional basic pain course and assessment that is modelled on the Advanced Trauma Life Support course, applicable to all healthcare professionals, including in primary care. I would also like to see a basic textbook that serves as a primary learning source for those aiming to take any of EFIC's examinations.

#### Frank Huygen

Chair, Education Committee

#### 8.1.3. - EFIC EDUCATION STRATEGY





## 8 - COMMITTEES

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

#### 8.2.1 - STRUCTURE

##### Working Groups

##### Chair

Research Strategy and Priority Setting .....	Gisèle Pickering
Research Funding and Prizes.....	André Mouraux
Clinical Affairs.....	Elon Eisenberg
Translational Research .....	Thomas Graven-Nielsen (vice chair)

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

Dear Colleagues

The Research Committee of EFIC has made strides towards a more comprehensive research agenda for EFIC, and I warmly thank my Vice Chair, Thomas Graven-Nielsen, and Research Projects Advisor Mary O'Keeffe for their support in this work.

Firstly, after Thomas's pioneering Opinion Paper on Challenges and Opportunities in Translational Pain Research, the Committee is now focusing on the development of a comprehensive European Pain Research Strategy. The strategy will identify various cross-cutting priorities that the pain research community, funders and governments should aim to focus on. The strategy is developed with high-level expert input, but also through a democratic exercise, consulting the pain research community through a survey and request for additional suggestions. We aim to complete this project by the end of 2022.

The strategy should also inform EFIC's work and structure, including the allocation of priorities and funds towards certain areas of need. In this regard, our funding and prizes work continues with the steady leadership of André Mouraux. André has vastly improved the processes behind our congress poster prizes, our EJP award and our EFIC Grünenthal Grant (E-G-G), to ensure a consistent high quality review process in each case. We will reflect on our funding and prizes work when our strategy is complete and identify whether any new grants and prizes should be commissioned.

EFIC's research collaboration work has also improved in the past year. EFIC's role as a collaborator and networking hub has been well-articulated, with the help of Sam Kynman and his EFIC team, and we are now increasingly involved in funding applications, often successfully. Our Pain Scientist Network allows us to call upon over 600 indi-

dual subject-matter experts in the context of research collaboration and should be a powerful tool going forward. The next step is a public Pain Research Directory; a listing of the major pain research stakeholders in Europe, such as research institutions, consortia, clinics, funders, and university departments. This will position EFIC as the go-to organisation within the pain research ecosystem.

Our clinical affairs work also continues, with Elon Eisenberg stepping in as our new working group chair. Elon is getting to work, acting as the main point of oversight for EFIC amongst our various clinical task forces. Recent work has included an ongoing position paper on geriatrics, and monitoring of COVID-19 and pain management, as well as our new task force developing a definition of multimodal pain treatment.

#### Gisèle Pickering

Chair, Research Committee



European Pain  
Federation EFIC

Research  
Strategy



## 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' .....	Henrik Bjarke Vægter
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 write to you today as the Chair of the advocacy committee, where we remain very active in spite of the disruption caused by the pandemic. I continue to be 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, holding regular online committee meetings, advancing the Presidential campaign, and achieving major success within the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP). The advocacy objectives established last year, continue to guide our work (see below).

SIP remains our primary 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). SIP continues to move forward and we expect to strengthen and expand the SIP stakeholder network in the future.



In 2021 and 2022 the big policy priority of the European Commission (besides strengthening recovery and resilience) was digital health. We took part in various consultations to ensure the European Commission's European Health Data Space (EHDS) proposal took pain into account. Additionally, SIP met with several policymakers over the course of that year with similar aims. SIP also launched its position paper on Digital Health: Pain Assessment and Quality Indicators and held a multi-stakeholder policy event in order to launch it. Following this event a set of multi-stakeholder recommendations were drafted as part of the report for the event to be taken forward during the implementation phase of the EHDS.

In the latter half of 2022, SIP will be focusing on ICD-11 and ICF, as we are currently revising the SIP European Road Map Monitor with a new live survey. Once the results are ready, SIP will publish them at a multi-stakeholder event in November 2022 and will update all relevant materials and position papers.

In the latter part of 2021 and into 2022, SIP also formalised its Stakeholder Forum with a Memorandum of Understanding, with multiple signatories already secured. SIP intends to continue collecting signatories to this MoU to help contribute towards co-creating and disseminating SIP positions and recommendations.

I encourage anyone who questions what advocacy can achieve to read the section of our website titled 'Why We Do 'Advocacy' – Europe's Beating Cancer Plan Case Study'.

The European Pain Forum continues to be a key pillar of EFIC's advocacy work, strengthening our relationship with our scientific partner organisations and expanding the impact of our scientific and educational work. Current projects that should involve the European Pain Forum include our Research Strategy and our work in defining 'Multimodal Pain Treatment'. The endorsement of the Pain Forum members towards these projects will hugely increase their credibility and political weight.

Our 'On The Move campaign' has been relaunched with Henrik Bjarke Vægter as Chair. Henrik has established a working group and has set out key objectives and goals for the campaign. Together, they will develop and strengthen the campaign. The 'On The Move' materials are available in different languages in order to reach our national audiences and to be shared by our National Chapters.

The 'Plain Talking' Presidential campaign, aims to improve HCP-patient communication, to improve health literacy and patient outcomes. Since 2020, the working group has developed a series of written and visual materials, such as the 'Plain Talking' booklet, which is a compilation of three different health literacy guides (one for healthcare professionals, one for patients and one for the general public), plus a health literacy factsheet. Additionally, the working group has developed three health literacy video guides to complement the booklet. As part of the next phase of the campaign, the HL Working Group will work on the translation of all the materials, involving the EFIC Chapters in the process. Furthermore, the working group will develop 'The Journey' booklet, which will be a roadmap for treatment and will prepare the person with pain for the experiences they're likely to encounter. PAE along with other patient representatives, as well as a general practitioner, will be involved in the process.

Our work has carried on strongly and we hope to continue on this course and to have an even greater 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 controversies and societal concerns to inform public understanding

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 - 2022 SPC CHAIR REPORT

#### PAIN IN EUROPE XII – TARGETING PAIN AND ITS COMORBIDITIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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, RN            | • Prof. Andrea Truini       |
| • Prof. Thomas Graven-Nielsen | • Prof. Harriet Wittink     |
| • Prof. Eija Kalso            |                             |

The SPC is chaired by Professor Eija Kalso.

The theme of the Congress was “TARGETING PAIN and ITS COMORBIDITIES in the DIGITAL AGE”.

This was 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 were included in the programme.

The SPC had a post-Congress virtual meeting on May 13, 2022. The SPC members were able to reflect on the organisation and experience of the Congress. The SPC Chair for the Congress 2023, Esther Pogatzki-Zahn, participated in the meeting to collect comments and advice for future SPC members. Overall, the SPC members enjoyed being part of the committee and participating in the Congress (onsite and remotely).

A new feature of this Congress was the organisation of the plenaries into 6 plenary sessions with 3-4 speakers in each. These sessions were:

- 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

In total, 48 workshops were accepted through workshop submission, and 14 workshops were organised by the SPC to complement the free topical works regarding the main themes of the Congress and to improve the balance of the programme. The Congress welcomed 248 faculty members (54% women; 46% men). Initially, less than 10 members had arranged for a remote presentation in advance, but the final number of remote faculty members culminated at 47 due to various last-minute reasons: Covid/health; travel restrictions; undisclosed. Despite these challenges, all speakers could present either physically or remotely. Only a couple of speakers needed to be replaced at the last minute or agreed to send a pre-recorded version of their presentation.

Another new feature of this programme was to target primary care by involving general practitioners in planning at least 3 topical workshops. This was considered important as the themes of the Congress should interest GPs who have the greatest responsibility and role in treating patients with chronic pain. The GP liaison of the SPC was Dr Egil A. Fors. GP-focused sessions were planned for Saturday as it was considered the most practical day for GPs to attend.

For the refresher courses, the SPC chose a flipped classroom strategy where the lectures were pre-recorded and made available to the delegates 2 weeks ahead of the Congress on the virtual platform. The actual session was dedicated to questions and answers with the speakers.

570 poster abstracts were accepted to present at the Congress (152 remote presenters). All poster presenters were allowed to present remotely during one of the 2 official timeslots for a remote presentation. 36 abstracts were chosen for oral presentation and were eligible for one of the 2 Poster awards: Best Clinical research Poster and Best Basic/Translational research Poster. The 2 selected winners received a prize certificate and will receive a waived registration fee for the EFIC Congress 2023.

This was the first EFIC Congress organised as a hybrid event. This format was challenging, particularly as the COVID pandemic continued to create uncertainty throughout the whole planning period and during the Congress. I believe that this experience also enables EFIC to develop its educational activities further in order to expand its educational efforts.

I want 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. I am also most grateful for the excellent support from the EFIC office, both Jennifer Simon and Laurieanne Nallet Khosrofi, and Inbar Caspi and her team. I am grateful for the EFIC executive board for its support and for giving me the possibility to bring new ideas to the programme.

#### Eija Kalso

Chair, SPC of EFIC Pain in Europe XII



## 9 - CONGRESS – PAIN IN EUROPE

### 9.2 - 2022 SPC CHAIR REPORT

#### PAIN IN EUROPE XIII – PERSONALISED PAIN MANAGEMENT: THE FUTURE IS NOW

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

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Prof. Przemysław Bąbel      | • Prof. Gisèle Pickering          |
| • Daniel Ciampi de Andrade    | • Prof. Manuela Schmidt           |
| • Drs. Felicia Cox            | • Dr. Daniel Segelcke             |
| • Prof. Catherine Doody       | • Dr. Katarzyna Starowicz         |
| • Prof. Egil Andreas Fors     | • Prof. Audun Stubhaug            |
| • Prof. Ulrike Kaiser         | • Dr. Koen Van Boxem              |
| • Prof. Małgorzata Krajnik    | • Dr. Katy Vincent                |
| • Prof. Patricia Lavand'homme | • Dr. Jan Vollert                 |
| • Dr. Nadja Nestle            | • Mrs. Deirdre Ryan               |
| • Dr. Kristian Petersen       | (Patient representative from PAE) |

The SPC is chaired by Professor Esther Pogatzki-Zahn

The SPC had three meetings, one physical meeting in April 2022 at the Congress in Dublin, and two were held virtually, one on April 6th and the other on May 25th, 2022.

The theme of the Congress is "Personalised Pain Management: The Future is Now". There is increasing evidence that personalised pain management is required in order to fit individual aspects of each patient with chronic pain. Here, individualised pain management, prediction of treatment response, and decision-making related to the prevention of pain are only some aspects to be considered. The 2023 congress will analyse some of the forthcoming in this area, from pain research to pain management, from knowledge to urgent questions, and from controversies to clear-cut evidence.

In addition to paying attention to the theme, the principles of the SPC will be to cover many different fields in pain by providing a wide, all-embracing and up-to-date programme, ensure interdisciplinarity within the sessions, brighten the format of the Congress, for example by fostering debates including provocative pro-con and panel discussions and hand-off workshops, include the view of patients and patient representatives, increase the scientific excellence, bring balance between basic and translational science, take clinical themes into account, approve gender and age equality in the programme and encourage very early career researchers to present their work prominently.

The SPC decided to develop new formats for the plenaries and the workshops.

##### PLENARIES:

10 plenary speakers will present their topics in 30-minute presentations. The topics are:

- MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN
- BASIC SCIENCE
- NEUROPATHIC PAIN DEBATE
- CANCER PAIN
- EARLY CAREER PLENARY PRESENTATIONS ON CLINICAL RESEARCH
- PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS
- POSTOPERATIVE PAIN
- EARLY CAREER PLENARY PRESENTATIONS ON BASIC SCIENCE
- TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE
- REHABILITATION INTERVENTIONS FOR PAIN CONDITIONS
- NURSE-LED PAIN MANAGEMENT
- INTERVENTIONAL PAIN MEDICINE
- SPECIAL PATIENT GROUPS

New: 3 panelists and 2 chairs will debate for 90 minutes on a specific topic:

- Neuropathic Pain

To highlight early career researchers, 4 past EFIC grant/prize winners have been invited to present their research in 10 minutes in 2 categories:

- EARLY CAREER PLENARY PRESENTATIONS ON BASIC SCIENCE
- EARLY CAREER PLENARY PRESENTATIONS ON CLINICAL RESEARCH

##### WORKSHOPS:

**Topical Workshop** – A topical workshop is a session presenting basic, translational or clinical research specific to a topic. Each speaker is expected to add something new to the discussion, with the presentations being linked. New research is preferred, though significant reviews or position papers can be covered.

**Debate Workshop** – A debate workshop is a session designed to facilitate discussion and debate on a topic for which there may be divergent views or where the novelty of the field invites hypotheses. The format could take on a specific pro-contra format or be more open to different perspectives.

**Demonstration (hands-off) Workshop** – Demonstration workshops showcase clinical skills and hands-on techniques relevant to multidisciplinary pain management, including pain assessment, patient communication, body awareness and specific therapeutic/ diagnostic approaches.

The regular workshop submission opened in mid-June and closed in September 2022. To enhance visibility, three brief videos and one-sentence statements from SPC members as well as a welcome video from the SPC chair were produced and are currently made via social media, the EFIC webpage and press releases.

The whole SPC is looking forward to building an attractive and breathtaking programme for the EFIC Congress 2023, which will be appealing to all disciplines and bring fresh ideas.

##### Esther Pogatzki-Zahn

Chair, SPC of EFIC Pain in Europe XIII

## 9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

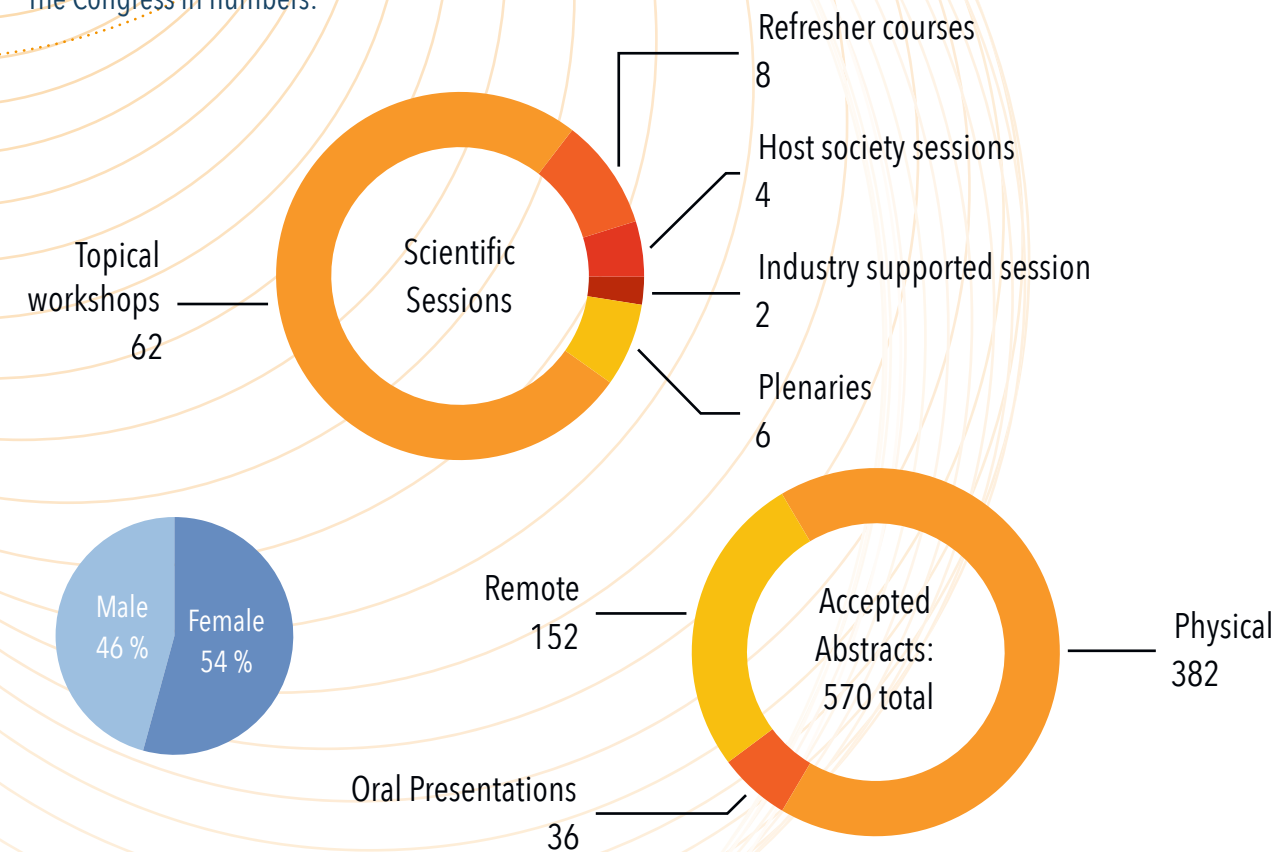
### 9.3 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

Dear colleagues,

I provide below some data on the last congress before presenting some thoughts for the future of the EFIC Congress.

**EFIC Congress report - Pain in Europe 2022 in Dublin, Ireland, 27/04/2022 - 30/04/2022**

The Congress in numbers:



#### Online broadcast of congress sessions

3 rooms broadcasted live/ 4 rooms recorded - on-demand video on the virtual platform

### The Hybrid concept of the Congress

While analysing the online attendance during and after the congress, we are continuously asking questions about the sustainability of the hybrid format. In 2022, having a hybrid congress seemed like the right option in order to maximise our audience reach and secure our ability to have the congress while minimising the risks of pandemic waves. However, the hybrid format requires a lot of resources, both financial and the time and investment of the scientific committee and the EFIC team.

We are asking questions such as:

- Does the hybrid format expand reach and justify the cost?
- Do we reach the audience that we would get otherwise?
- Participant patterns of learning after the live event – do they go back to watch sessions they missed?

We also feel that technology is not yet 'up to speed' with our ambitions for the Hybrid experience:

- Technology – the link between the app and the virtual platform must be coherent
- And the online participation experience (the interactivity) is a prerequisite for any technology – otherwise, there is no justification for the live format

We still discuss and brainstorm the future format of the online component but our initial suggestion to the board is:

- Livestream EFIC TV on social media (mainly for promotional purposes)
- Record (for on-demand viewing) selected sessions for the EFIC Academy while promoting membership to the Academy with congress sessions as an added value



## 9 - CONGRESS - PAIN IN EUROPE

### 9.3 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

#### Summary

The preparation for the 2022 congress looked like a rollercoaster with the rapid changes and different scenarios that we worked with. The EFIC leadership was always very clear about our wish to give real, educational and professional value to our community, even during these turbulent times and at the cost of financing our activities through EFIC reserves.

It was inevitable that Dublin was not going to be a financial success while the pandemic still affected 2021 and early 2022. Knowing that Delegate feedback is very strong, and word-of-mouth feedback has been very encouraging for the future – people have been reminded of what they are missing.

Hybrid appeared to be a necessity as we prepared in 2021, and it was executed very well on a tight budget. However, it is hard to justify it financially in the long-term. We had approximately 4 months to prepare for the meeting (going beyond an agreed scientific programme), and the congress was a great success. The venue, the service, the social aspects were all very satisfying.

The number of attendees was sufficient to create a buzz (both onsite and online) but was not near our expectations.

It was a success in the sense of being the first pain congress after the pandemic and it continued the positioning of EFIC as leader in our field, but 'success' in the future must be financial too. We have a lot of learning objectives and suggestions for Budapest and we are working hard on creating a congress that is successful in all aspects, including a financial recovery.

One of our challenges is to keep the satisfaction of sponsors while giving them real value, exposure and engagement opportunities with an online and onsite audience. Sponsorship and exhibitors' funds in the field of pain are a very significant challenge, adding to the uncertainty of the pandemic.

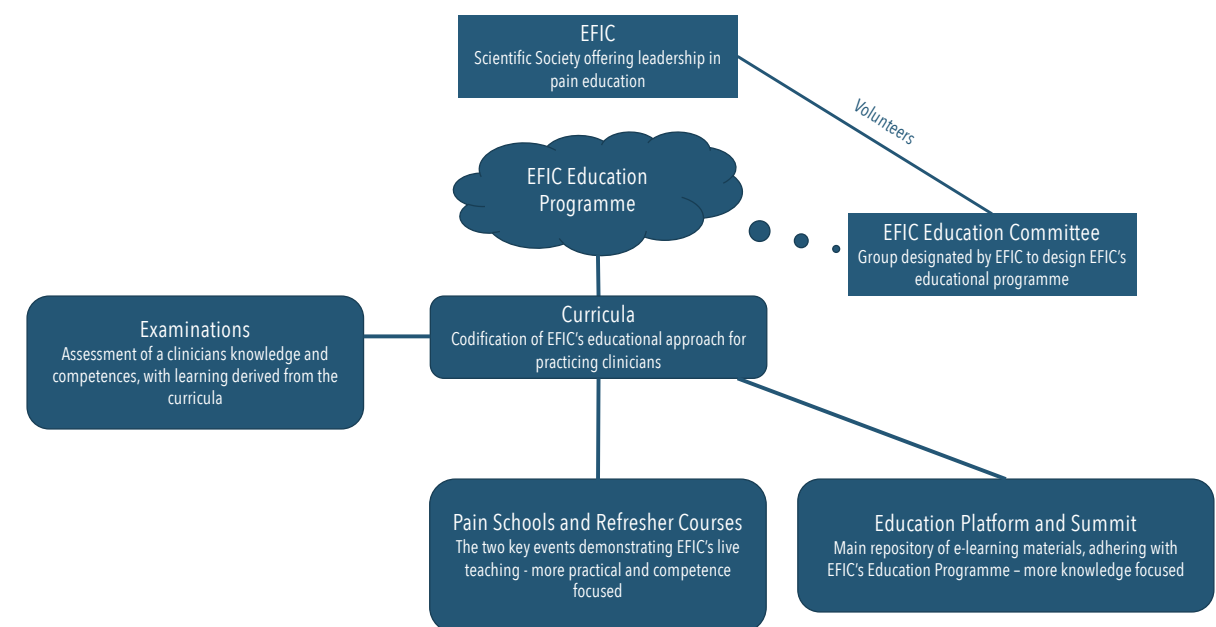
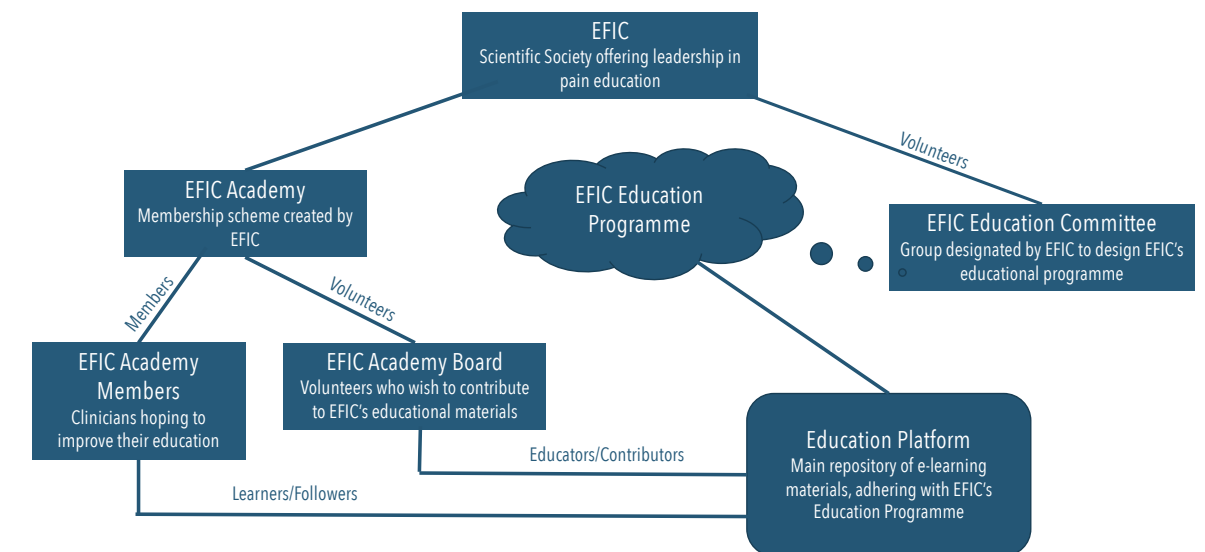
**Inbar Caspi**

Congress Manager, EFIC

## 10 - EFIC ACADEMY

### 10.1 - INTRODUCTION

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. 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
- Free access to the European Journal of Pain
- 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

## 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 as of September 2022 - excluding VAT.

## 10.4 - ACTIVITIES SINCE LAUNCH

The EFIC Academy has grown in many ways in the past 12 months. The Virtual Pain Summit 2021 - organised as a members-only event – was well-attended and received great feedback from the European pain education community. As a fully interprofessional education event, the Summit again provided tailored education for four different key professions, whilst bringing all groups together for interprofessional learning. After the Moodle-based EFIC Academy education platform was introduced in May 2021, new sessions were added every two weeks with interactive Q&A webinars accompanying them.

Newly added features of the EFIC Academy include full access to the European Journal of Pain for all members as well as the introduction of our Mentoring programme, where so far 35 mentor-mentee tandems have been paired up. Members were also able to claim reduced fees for the EFIC Congress 2022 in Dublin as well as the exam sittings.

As of summer 2022, we are preparing the subtitling of the material available on the education platform in various other European languages.

## 10 - EFIC ACADEMY

### 10.5 - NUMBER OF MEMBERS

As of September 2022, the EFIC Academy has 999 members broken down by these categories:

Catagory	Number of members
Regular	392
Discounted	76
Allied Professionals	336
Students	195

### 10.5.1 - PROFESSIONAL SUB-GROUPS

As the Academy brings together four key professions working in pain management, we aim to create and solidify these sub-groups within EFIC, which is most visibly represented by the number of registrants identifying with these professions.

As of September 2022, the sub-groups looked like this:

Catagory	Number of members
Physician	730
Physiotherapist	169
Psychologist	57
Nurse	43





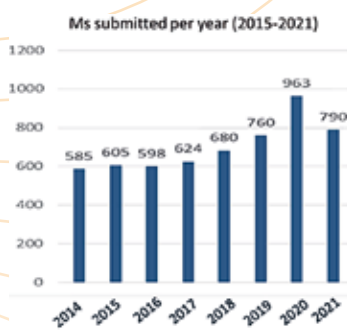
## 11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

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

#### 11.2 - CONTENT

- 1 Submission figures, rejection rates, Impact Factor
- 2 Editor-in-Chief
- 3 Editorial Board -Section and Managing Editors
- 4 Advisory Board
- 5 Decision times, backlog, new features
- 6 Position papers, Virtual Issues
- 7 Conclusions

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



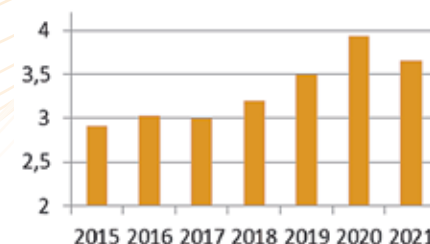
The number of papers submitted to the European Journal of Pain (EJP) steadily increased in the past years. This number went up from 760 in 2019 to a total of 963 submissions in 2020. Besides the increased attractiveness of the Journal, this clearly reflected an effect of the Covid-19 pandemic conditions, which allowed authors to find more time at home to work on their research. In 2021, the EJP received 786 submissions, in accordance with the pre-pandemic figures, and we expect a similar number this year.

There was no negative effect of the 2-year pandemic on the decision workflow of the EJP: The average response time from reception to first decision was 36 days in 2019 and 34 days in 2020. Modifications in the panel of Section Editors had beneficial effects in decision times, which is currently 27 days so far in the January-October 2022 period.

The rate of rejections slightly decreased from 84% in 2021 to 78% in 2022 (until Oct 3rd), hence we are accepting one in five articles. Almost 70% of rejections are proposed directly by Section Editors or Editor-in-Chief before sending out the paper for external peer review. These "Editorial rejections" correspond to manuscripts that are judged not to have reasonable chances to successfully pass external refereeing or are considered to add too small value to existing literature. Editorial rejections are meant to save time for authors and spare time and energy for 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, where possible, other journals that might be better targets for the manuscript. Starting in January 2022, an agreement with our publisher Wiley & Sons is taking effect for a selection of re-

#### IF 2015 - 2021



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

jected papers, whereby a "Transfer Desk Assistant" automatically indicates other possible journals from Wiley's where the manuscript can be addressed after revision. This possibility will be optional, the authors always able to choose the 'no transfer' option.

The Journal's Impact Factor (IF) greatly increased in 2020, reaching almost 4. While we were obviously happy about this, such increase in the EJP and many other journals was somewhat artificial, driven by the fact that Clarivate's method of computing IF changed last year. For 2020, it included citations to 'ahead of print' papers in the numerator but not the denominator, which clearly boosted impact factors (+12% in our case). In 2021, however, the 'ahead of print' papers made it into the denominator as well, which obviously tempered the enhancement (see Clarivate blog post in: [https://clarivate.com/blog/journal-citation-reports-2022-a-preview/?utm\\_campaign=EM2\\_JCR\\_Publisher\\_Retention\\_Webinar\\_Jun29\\_SAR\\_Global\\_2022&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Eloqua](https://clarivate.com/blog/journal-citation-reports-2022-a-preview/?utm_campaign=EM2_JCR_Publisher_Retention_Webinar_Jun29_SAR_Global_2022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua)).

Hence, while the 2021 IF appears to decline relative to the preceding in 2020, it still increases relative to 2019 (3.49) and establishes at 3.651.

The European Journal of Pain is one of the top 10 journals in the Anesthesiology category, and is in the top tiers (60/204) in Clinical Neurology (see <https://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=13222&tip=sid&clean=0>)

As shown in the figure alongside, while the number of cited documents remains stable, uncited documents (articles that do not receive any citation by others in 2 years post-publication), which had declined in the 2015-2019 period, started to increase recently, which is of course detrimental to the IF. Discussion is ongoing with the panel of Section Editors to investigate how to contain the number of "never to be cited" published papers, while maintaining our openness to all scientific and clinical papers of relevant quality. Intrinsic quality and 'citability' are, unfortunately, not synonymous.

#### 11.2.2 - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In 2021, Current Editor-in-Chief Luis Garcia-Larrea was elected by the EFIC Council as new President of the Federation, starting in September 2023, and will therefore leave the EJP editorship at the end of 2022. A procedure for election of a new E-i-C was put in place, with a widely publicised call for applications via multiple channels, during the period January-April 2022. Five candidatures were received within the deadline, 4 of them considered to be of a sufficient scientific level to merit examination by the EFIC Executive Board, which finally selected two of them for audition. Didier Bouhassira, Director of Research at the Inserm (the equivalent of a Full Professor in the French National Agency for Medical Research) and former Section Editor of the Journal for many years, was unanimously considered an optimal candidate, far ahead of the others, and was therefore appointed as new Editor-in-Chief from January 2023. A period of overlap with Luis Garcia-Larrea will be maintained during the first trimester of 2023 to ensure a smooth transfer of tasks.

## 11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

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

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

President Brona Fullen joined the Editorial Board as Deputy Editor in September 2020. For the first time, and due to the pandemic situation, the Editorial Board could not hold its annual meeting in praesentia in 2020, but was able to meet for a virtual meeting. The meeting had to be scheduled at a time allowing for the participation of colleagues in countries with a time difference of 16 hours (from Seattle, USA, to Fukuoka, Japan). During the 2021-22 period, Kate Dunn (Leeds) and Petra Schweinhardt (Zurich) stepped down from their position of Section Editors, and were replaced respectively by José Biurrun-Manresa (Entre Rios, Argentina) and Harriet Wittink (Utrecht, The Netherlands), two excellent scientists who were already participating to the EJP as members of the Advisory Board.

#### The panel of Section Editors as of October 2022:

- Ulf Baumgärtner, Hamburg, Germany
- José Biurrun Manresa, Entre Rios, Argentina
- Daniel Ciampi de Andrade, Aalborg, Denmark & São Paulo, Brazil
- Michele Curatolo, Seattle, USA
- Brona Fullen, Dublin, Ireland, (Deputy Editor)
- Jörn Lötsch, Frankfurt, Germany
- Rafael Maldonado, Barcelona, Spain
- Lance McCracken, Uppsala, Sweden & London, UK
- Michael Schäfer, Berlin, Germany
- Andrea Truini, Rome, Italy
- Luis Villanueva, Paris, France
- Tine Vervoort, Ghent, Belgium
- Harriet Wittink, Utrecht, The Netherlands

You can see them all at:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/15322149/homepage/editorialboard.html>

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

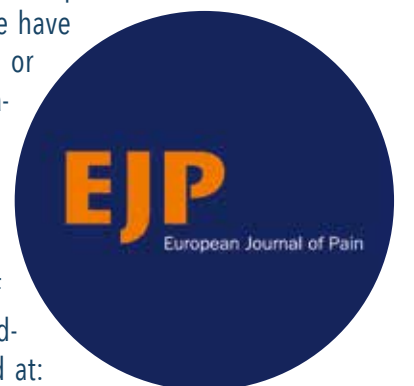
Section Editor Luis Villanueva (Paris, France) announced his willingness to step down progressively from his SE functions, and will be replaced at the end of this year by Michel Barrot (Strasbourg, France).

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.

#### 11.2.4 - 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 recent activity, by progressively substituting them with young colleagues, in particular young she-doctors. The AB was last revised and updated in March 2022. 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>



#### 11.2.5 - DECISION TIMES, BACKLOG, NEW FEATURES

**A – Decision times, PubMed access, backlog:** The careful revision and recurrent updating of the Advisory Board has accelerated the response-time to a reviewer-invitation and reduced the number of declined reviews. This led to a decrease in the time of issuing a first decision letter to authors, which now (Jan-Oct 2022) stands at 28 days (versus 32 and 37 days in 2021 and 2020 respectively). All accepted articles are 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. The backlog of published papers (i.e. the time from acceptance to actual inclusion in a published new Issue) has been decreased down to 3-4 months. One paper accepted in January will therefore appear in an EJP Volume/Issue in April.

**B – Dissemination of Table of Contents:** Tapping into well-intentioned enthusiasm for the 'open access' publishing movement, uncontrolled channels of scientific information are continuously appearing, with increasing pressure from predatory journals more interested in the authors' money



## 11 - EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

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

#### 11.2.5 - DECISION TIMES, BACKLOG, NEW FEATURES

than in scientific ideas. These journals cleverly camouflage themselves by closely approximating the titles of existing credible journals. While most of the manuscripts submitted to these journals would have been rejected in the EJP, we are probably missing a small but significant number of relevant 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 being implemented to enhance the visibility of the Journal and counteract predator publicity.

From 2018 to 2020, the Table of contents of the 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 Table of Contents was included in 2021 as a clickable link in the EFIC Newsletter, along with a brief comment on the most relevant papers. Since reader access to the ToC was not ensured, a new and important feature was recently implemented during summer 2022, whereby the Table of Contents is sent out to the full database of 22,000 subscribers of the EFIC Newsletter. We are indebted to the EFIC Communications Manager Melinda Borzsak-Schramm to be instrumental in developing this feature, which I am sure will impact very favourably the visibility of the Journal. Please see the mailing from the October issue here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15322149/2022/26/9>.

You will note that all items are 'clickable', i.e. you can access the full text of the paper by simply clicking on its title.

**C -Full text access for EFIC members:** Members of national pain societies contributing to EFIC are entitled to free access to papers published in the EJP, irrelevant of whether these papers are or not categorised as 'open access'. Once in the EFIC main Webpage (<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/>), you need (i) to click on the "Our Journal" menu, then (ii) login with your EFIC member password, and (iii) click on the section "Access the European Journal of Pain" which appears in a further page. While the ergonomics to get the pdf access still need to be improved (three consecutive pages needed), the procedure is robust and reliable, and should be widely explained and disseminated to Chapter members, so that they can freely access published papers.

**D - 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 Manager 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.

**E - The EJP now translated:** Cooperation between EJP-EFIC with Publisher Wiley and external sponsors allowed papers to be translated into Portuguese/Brazilian during the 2018-20 period, under the supervision of Pr Daniel Ciampi de Andrade. In 2021 we started to explore the possibility of implementing the translation of EJP papers to other languages and to have them incorporated into the official journals of other European pain societies. This culminated in 2022 with a global EFIC-Wiley agreement, whereby all papers published in the EJP can be translated to appear in the Journals of National Pain Societies members of EFIC. The two conditions are that the translation itself is at the charge of the receiving Society, and that any citation to the article, including after translation, must correspond to the original paper in EJP. The Polish and French EFIC Chapters have

already initiated the procedure toward their respective official organs of their Societies (Douleur & Analgésie, Ed. Pr Pierrick Poisbeau, and Ból, Ed. Pr Barbara Przewlocka).

#### 11.2.6 - 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, 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)).

#### 11.2.7 - CONCLUSIONS

The European Journal of Pain remains in a position of scientific excellence, but also confronted by 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 policy is accomplished by a panel of high-level Editors, and for the past 5 year has translated into a steady increase of the number of submissions and 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.

Let me add, on a personal note, that it has been an immense pleasure and an enriching task to serve as Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Pain for the past seven years. I am happy and proud to have contributed to the continued rise of the Journal in the pain literature domain, and I am certain that my successor Didier Bouhassira will be able to reach new frontiers of scientific brilliance, in the service of pain science and the dissemination of reliable knowledge via the EJP.

**Luis Garcia-Larrea**

Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Pain

## 12 - FINANCES

### 12.1 - HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues

I address you for the second time as Honorary Treasurer of EFIC. As Honorary Treasurer, I have responsibility for steering EFIC's financial decisions through good times and bad. At the time of writing, we are facing financial challenges that require reflection. While EFIC is financially stable in the short-term, the after-effects of the pandemic are starting to show in our finances. While we do not panic, we have reason to be concerned, and we hope to see progress by 2023.

#### 12.1.1 - 2021 PERFORMANCE

We end the financial year with assets of 3,758,814.53 euros, with a loss of 602,404.92 euros for the period.

You will recall that at the last Council meeting I had the pleasure of reporting to you with a biennial result for 2019-2020 that showed a profit to EFIC of around 72,000 euros. Our medium-term target was to have balanced biennial cycles, and we reached this target early.

However, we knew that the future looked challenging and so it has come to pass. 2021 was the second year affected severely by the pandemic. In addition, with our congress being moved to 2022, it was the first time in recent memory where we had a two-year cycle without a congress. Across 2020 and 2021, the biennial result was a loss of over 900,000 euros. Therefore, we can safely say that the pandemic is having a severe short-term impact on our finances.

Beyond the top-line figures, there are some important and encouraging details in the finances for 2021. Our operating expenditure was held broadly in line with our annual target of 1.1 million euros. Office expenditure, travel expenditure, salaries and so on were kept within or below predicted budgets. We have continued with a policy of restraint in certain areas such as travel. In terms of income, we fell below our targets, though there is an important caveat; the income as predicted included congress income that we expected to be booked in the 2021 financial year. In the end, all congress book-keeping was pushed back to 2022, meaning the largest chunk of expected income (1.6 million) is entirely missing for administrative purposes. Income from our journal, increased, though almost all other sources of income were fairly small in 2021.

#### 12.1.1 - 2020 PERFORMANCE

#### 12.1.2 - 2022 BUDGET

Our 2022 budget is going to likewise be fairly disappointing in terms of net result to EFIC, meaning a likely loss in three consecutive years. We know this already as our congress was held at the start of the financial year and was loss-making. The figures in our budget are usually estimates, though in the case of the 2022 congress the figures are based on fairly complete congress accounts closure. The congress made a small loss of approximately 55,000 euros. As our congress is the largest contributor to our finances, this state of affairs cannot occur repeatedly. We look towards the Budapest meeting in 2023 as a potential turning point, though of course nothing is guaranteed.

If we remove the congress from the expenditure for 2022, our operating budget is maintained in line with our target of 1.1-1.2 million. The budget for salaries and services providers feature a small increase, though our team structure remains stable. In terms of income, we are starting to see a gradual increase in income sources outside of the congress. Income from the journal is growing steadily, our Academy project should soon provide around 10% of our operating income, and our examinations provider a modest income. It is too much to expect these sources to compensate entirely for our congress, though they are moving in the right direction. We continue to look towards Budapest, where we don't expect to see an immediate return to form, but at least a convincing sign that we are moving in the right direction. Europe and indeed the globe are experiencing severe financial pressures in 2022, and therefore we cannot be certain of much. We will remain vigilant and do our best to secure the financial future of EFIC.

**Patrice Forget**

Honorary Treasurer



## 12 - FINANCES

### 12.2 - 2021 ACCOUNTS CLOSE

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2021 Budget	2021 Actuals
Office expenses	43,800.00	16,993.48
Website, Software & Online Subscr.	37,000.00	53,024.06
Communications, Marketing & Publ.	30,000.00	15,985.66
Service providers and consultants	257,000.00	266,784.90
Meeting expenses	25,000.00	4,369.42
Events	150,000.00	13,129.62
EJP	79,333.00	78,240.05
Educational programs	197,080.00	162,254.70
Salaries	326,951.24	319,729.55
Depreciation	28,000.00	26,823.83
EXB expenses	52,500.00	63,261.83
Taxes	15,500.00	10,577.77
Financial costs	9,000.00	110,034.20
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>1,251,164.24</b>	<b>1,141,209.07</b>
PROJECT EXPENDITURE		
EGG	180,000.00	180,000.00
SIP	180,000.00	174,803.42
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,611,164.24</b>	<b>1,496,012.49</b>
OPERATING INCOME	2021 Budget	2021 Actuals
EJP	153,000.00	222,030.14
Industry support	65,000.00	106,523.29
Miscellaneous		
– Academy members	120,000.00	70,588.89
– Examinations	0.00	12,709.75
– IMI-PainCare	5,000.00	2,002.33
– Rental income	30,000.00	30,000.00
– Secretarial services	18,000.00	20,208.00
– Other	0.00	0.00
Events	1,600,000.00	21,750.00
Financial income	2,300.00	78,206.13
<b>Total Operating income</b>	<b>1,993,300.00</b>	<b>564,018.53</b>
PROJECT INCOME		
EGG	200,000.00	180,000.00
SIP	180,000.00	149,589.04
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,373,300.00</b>	<b>893,607.57</b>

### 12.3 - AUDITOR'S REPORT



**STATUTORY AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**TO THE GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT**  
**ASSOCIATION EFIC EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**  
**(TRADE REGISTER OF BRUSSELS, DUTCH DEPARTMENT – VAT BE 0470.073.480)**

In the context of the statutory audit of the annual accounts of IVZW 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 11 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 2022, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of € 4.331.648,95 and profit and loss account showing a loss for the year of € 602.404,92.

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 2022, 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, 1790 Wommel - BTW BE 0875 430 443 - RPR Brussel, Nederlandstalige afdeling - Iban BE64 7570 1564 1052 - BIC KRED3333  
 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 2021 until 31 March 2022. 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 2021 accounts. On that basis I recommend the Council approve the accounts for the last financial year.

**Ana Pedro**

Chair, Audit Committee

### 12.5 - 2022 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2022 Budget
Office expenses	33,424.81
Website, Software & Online Subscr.	40,000.00
Communications, Marketing & Publ.	25,000.00
Service providers and consultants	297,850.00
Meeting expenses	41,000.00
Congress	1,019,509.72
EJP	90,500.00
Educational programs	156,000.00
Salaries	369,184.36
Depreciation	27,750.00
EXB expenses	52,500.00
Taxes	15,050.00
Financial costs	105,000.00
<b>Total Operating Expenditure</b>	<b>2,269,768.89</b>
PROJECT EXPENDITURE	
EGG	0.00
SIP	140,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2,409,768.89</b>

### 12.5 - 2022 BUDGET

OPERATING INCOME	2022 Budget
EJP	210,000.00
Industry support	100,000.00
Miscellaneous	
– Academy members	100,000.00
– Examinations	40,000.00
– IMI-PainCare	5,000.00
– Rental income	30,000.00
– Secretarial services	20,208.00
– Other	0.00
Congress	964,064.80
Financial income	81,888.00
<b>Total Operating income</b>	<b>1,551,160.80</b>
PROJECT INCOME	
EGG	110,000.00
PAIN OUT	91,000.00
SIP	180,000.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1,752,160.80</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 2020-2021, EFIC had a total operating income of 1,067,458.61 euros.

- Approximately 76,000 euros came from EFIC's congress.
- Approximately 150,000 euros came from our Academy scheme
- Approximately 181,000 euros came from industry partnerships.
- Approximately 428,000 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.

We did not hold a scientific congress during this period, though some congress income was booked which related to industry sponsorship items for our 2022 congress and 2021 virtual summit.

Therefore, approximately 258,000 euros of our operating income came from the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, which comes to around 24% 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 supplement the core work of the Federation and contribute to the fulfilment of its objectives. At present, no companies are members 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 EFIC-GRUNENTHAL-GRANT, where EFIC receive a budget equivalent to 10% of the total prize fund for the administrative management of the project, such as coordinating the work of expert reviewers, communicating with applicants, and promoting the project to potential applicants.

### **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.

