



EFiC
EUROPEAN PAIN FEDERATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL PERIOD: 1ST APRIL 2022 – 31ST MARCH 2023

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1 – PEOPLE

1.1 – EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Brona Fullen
President Elect	Luis Garcia Larrea
Honorary Treasurer	Patrice Forget
Honorary Secretary	Silviu Brill
Member-at-Large	Magdalena Kocot-Kępska
Member-at-Large	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	Ivan Keser	Poland	Andrzej Basinski
Bulgaria	Ralitsa Marinova	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 B. Sellius
Hungary	László Vécsei	Switzerland	Chantal Berna Renella
Ireland	Joanne O'Brien	The Netherlands	André Wolff
Israel	Haggai Sharon	Turkey	Gül Köknel Talu
Italy	Caterina Aurilio	Ukraine	Volodymyr Romanenko
Kosovo	Adem Bytyqi	United Kingdom	Roger Knaggs

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 Khosrofi
Congress Industry Liaison Manager	Maya Ravinsky
Communications Manager	Melinda Borzsak-Schramm
Advocacy and Projects Officer	Angela Cano Palomares
Research Projects Advisor	Mary O'Keeffe

2 – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear colleagues,

I address you today for the final time as President of the European Pain Federation EFIC. To serve as President has been an honour and a privilege, not least as the first Physiotherapist and the first female in this role. As I hand over the baton to Prof. Luis Garcia Larrea, it is time to reflect on my three years as President, to consider events we have navigated as an organisation, and the achievements we have made over this time.

I can't say I expected my Presidency to coincide with an unprecedented global pandemic and war in Europe on a scale not seen for generations. Nevertheless, we rise to these occasions and must be prepared for what life throws at us. Looking back at the height of COVID-19, we must look at these moments as a salutary lesson on the need for flexibility to adapt, and the willingness to persevere when 'normal life' is suspended. While the health impacts and economic turbulence of the crisis are still being understood and felt, we can look at the European Pain Federation EFIC as an organisation that navigated these global challenges and remained effective. We will know that, should such circumstances return, that EFIC will be prepared and that our virtual presence can be as effective as our physical. The formation of the EFIC Academy out of this period is a legacy that I (and Prof. Bart Morlion) can be proud of.

The return of military conflict in Europe is something that few of us expected in the 21st century. The immediate loss of life as well as the deterioration of social and economic development in Ukraine will not be soon forgotten. However, we can hopefully see an increasing European solidarity emerging from the war, as evidenced by the willingness of millions of Europeans to take in Ukrainian refugees at short notice. From our side, we did what we could with the resources available to us, providing Ukrainian healthcare professionals with free educational opportunities via the EFIC Academy and free access to the virtual component of the 2022 EFIC congress. At the request of our colleagues in Ukraine, we also provided free educational materials on acute pain and trauma management, resources that were badly needed on the ground. I thank Prof. Kevin Vowles for his work in preparing these.

Despite these global challenges, EFIC has continued to make progress in its mission, and I will now go on to list some achievements made during my time as President. My focus has been to progress EFIC as a multidisciplinary and multi-professional organisation as this is essential to its future. As I have done in previous reports, I will reiterate my four key priorities as President:



2 – PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Advancing our educational portfolio for physicians – increasing engagement with primary care colleagues & other 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

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

The EFIC Academy, along with the associated Education Platform and Virtual Summits are surely the strongest realisation of EFIC's interprofessional educational goals. The EFIC Academy is a popular project amongst clinicians in Europe, with a stable membership base that we expect to grow further over the coming years. The Academy has truly created a home for the various health professional groups within pain management, and we are creating motivated core teams around medicine, physiotherapy, nursing and psychology education. The project has expanded recently, providing our high-quality educational content in Spanish, German and Portuguese languages via subtitling. Hopefully further languages will come.

The core curricula for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine and Pain Physiotherapy have been revised and a second edition of both have been recently published and endorsed by relevant professional organisations. We are also branching further into undergraduate education, with a new curriculum for physiotherapy bachelor degree launched. The exam for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine (EDPM) has grown over the past two years, with over 60 exam registrants per year now expected. The European Diploma in Pain Physiotherapy is also growing and in May 2024 the first sitting of the European Diploma in Pain Nursing (EDPN) will be held under the energetic leadership of Felicia Cox and Dr Nadja Nestler. I thank Dr Emma Briggs for her contribution to EFIC over the past 3 years. Our engagement with primary care has started and hopefully has a bright future, especially with strong relations being established with the main General Practitioner organisation in Europe – WONCA Europe.

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 health policy is perhaps a less-well-known strength of EFIC as an organisation. At European level, the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) platform has a reasonably long history, having been founded in 2009. However, since 2020, this project has been fully managed by the EFIC team, with an almost seamless transition and a deeper and more effective engagement with po-

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licy makers. The first major achievement in this regard has been the involvement of pain with the European Union's flagship Beating Cancer Plan. We aim to repeat this success with the upcoming mental health strategy of the European Union. At national level, SIP has branched out into 'national platforms' in at least 10 countries. With motivated national platform leaders, these national platforms are taking the lessons of SIP Europe and aiming to influence policy makers in national capitals. The European Pain Forum also continues to be a success, integrating other scientific societies relevant to pain within our work. Recent projects have included the involvement of the forum organisations in the review of the pain medicine curriculum, their involvement in our research strategy development and a new definition of multimodal pain treatment. Formal endorsement of these projects will certainly strengthen their impact. Another key development in national health policy influence is our work to translate major EFIC outputs into languages other than English. This has happened recently with SIP position papers as well as our major clinical position papers.

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

Of all the areas where progress has been made, expanding our role as a research hub is perhaps the area that has seen the most dramatic change. Under the leadership of Prof. Gisèle Pickering and with the support of our research projects advisor Dr. Mary O'Keeffe, EFIC now exhibits strong research project capabilities and the ability to express the position of the pain research community in Europe. Our lighthouse project has been the development of a 'European Pain Research Strategy', something which is common in other disciplines but for which EFIC has until now not produced. This strategy will help policy makers and funders understand the needs and priorities of the pain research community and hopefully dedicate more funding and attention to them. EFIC now also plays a strong role in existing EU research projects and funding. We are collaborators in five active consortia and have for the first time been successful in developing a funding proposal directly. We now have the capability to identify funding opportunities, develop proposals ourselves, and partner with academic institutions as is currently the case for a major Horizon Europe project. Our non-financial resources are also growing, with our mapping of the research expertise of the European pain science community. Such resources allow us to play a much stronger coordination role and will leave a legacy for EFIC in the coming years.

Empowering and further engaging with chapter members

The past three years have not been the easiest in terms of networking and engagement, as evidenced by the lack of an in-person EFIC Council meeting between 2020 and 2023. Nevertheless, numerous developments have hopefully helped strengthen our ties with chapter and chapter members. After a brief hiatus, we have returned to organising Pain Schools where EFIC chapter members have been the primary recipients of the funded places offered. These Pain Schools have been updated to take on a 'interprofessional' format, and we are now opening one new school per year to tender, with new topical proposals. We also hope to bring the Pain Schools further East to allow more people to access them in areas where such opportunities are harder to find. Our congress continues to provide discounted places for chapter members, along with chapter

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members being priorities in the distribution of financial aid. We are working to ensure that more chapter members are aware that the European Journal of Pain is available free-of-charge to them on the basis of their membership of an EFIC chapter. We have set up a process to allow EJP articles to be translated into national journals in languages other than English, hopefully broadening the reach of our scientific journal and allowing many more people to access this content in their own language. From here, we will codify and better promote these various benefits, so that EFIC chapter leaders have a clear selling point for new members in relation to EFIC.

Congress and finances

Perhaps the main area of concern for EFIC over the coming years is the role of our congress in our funding plans, and the overall economic picture affecting us all. Until the pandemic, it appeared possible that a long-term funding plan for EFIC could be predicated on an expectation that the congress could contribute around 50% of the funding required for EFIC's activities. The pandemic's immediate disruption, its economic aftereffects, and the highly competitive environment in which multiple meetings and organisations aim to claw back their audience, leaves us in a situation where previous assumptions need to be revisited. Along with the global picture, research and development in pain specifically is not in the strongest shape. Such factors mean that, while our congress remains an essential part of our activities, we cannot hold enormous financial expectations and must think creatively in our sustainability plans. Our Honorary Treasurer Prof. Patrice Forget and Executive Office are working hard to develop future plans to help respond to the deficits currently incurred. In recent years, the EFIC Academy and increased funding from research projects has helped boost our income, but these alone are not sufficient for us to feel comfortable. A preview of our plans can be seen in the Treasurer's report.

One major development that I would like to note is the improvement of EFIC's approach to ethics and transparency over my Presidency. While these steps began before my term, a renewed focus has been placed on them with the development of a new ethics and transparency policy, which should place EFIC in a robust position for the future. I thank Dr. Nevenka Krčevski Škvarč for her work on this.

Thank-you and Welcome to our Next President

Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone who has made the past three years a success and working with them has been a real pleasure.

To the Executive Board, Prof. Patrice Forget, Prof. Thomas Tölle, Dr Silviu Brill, Dr Magdalena Kocot-Kępska and Prof. Luis Garcia Larrea for their support and guidance at every step.

I would like to acknowledge our Committee leadership. Prof. Frank Huygen and vice-chair Prof. Harriet Wittink have provided thoughtful leadership of our Education Committee, with an industrious set of working group chairs supporting. Prof. Paul Cameron and vice-chair Prof. Patrice Forget have had the political focus to shepherd our Advocacy work, steering us through a period in which

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our policy input has increased. Prof. Gisèle Pickering and Prof. Thomas Graven-Nielsen have led during a period in which our research footprint has expanded enormously. I thank all three for their considerate and effective work over this term. You can find a full summary of Committee leadership in the section below.

I would like to thank both of our esteemed Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Pain, who spanned my term; Prof. Luis Garcia Larrea and now Prof. Didier Bouhassira. Whilst the journal's successes are largely independent of the Federation and are the product of our Editorial Board and contributors, it is still pleasing to see them succeed over this period.

The Executive office staff and congress organising team have been a pleasure to work with; Melinda Borzsak, Angela Palomares, Lauriane Nallet Khosrofian, Inbar Caspi, Dr. Mary O'Keeffe, Maya Ravinsky, Christina Papendick under Sam Kynman's leadership. Christel Geevels, the heart of the Federation celebrated 13 years with EFIC this year and we are grateful to her for her many years of service.

I would like to pass on my regards to the two Presidents of IASP during my term, Prof. Claudia Sommer and Prof. Catherine Bushnell. The EFIC-IASP relationship is important and requires regular nourishment. I hope our cooperation continues to build for the success of both organisations.

Finally, my special thanks go to my family, friends and to my work colleagues in University College Dublin who have all supported me in this role.

Looking forward I wish our next President, Prof. Luis Garcia Larrea every success. Luis has already stepped into the role of President when I was injured earlier this year for which I am most grateful. I look forward to fully supporting Luis' vision for EFIC during my last year on the Executive Board and beyond my term. The Federation I know is in very secure hands.

Go raith maith agat (Thank you)

Brona Fullen

President, European Pain Federation EFIC



3 – COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

3.1 – ORGANIGRAMME – COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

CORE COMMITTEES – WORKING GROUPS & MANDATES

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: Felicia Cox

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

AUDIT

Chair: Ana Maria Pedro

ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY

Chair: Nevenka Krčevski Škvarč

FUNDRAISING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Chair: Patrice Forget

EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Chair: Magdalena Kocot-Kępska

ELECTION NOMINATIONS

Chair: Arunas Sciupokas

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 2023, 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.

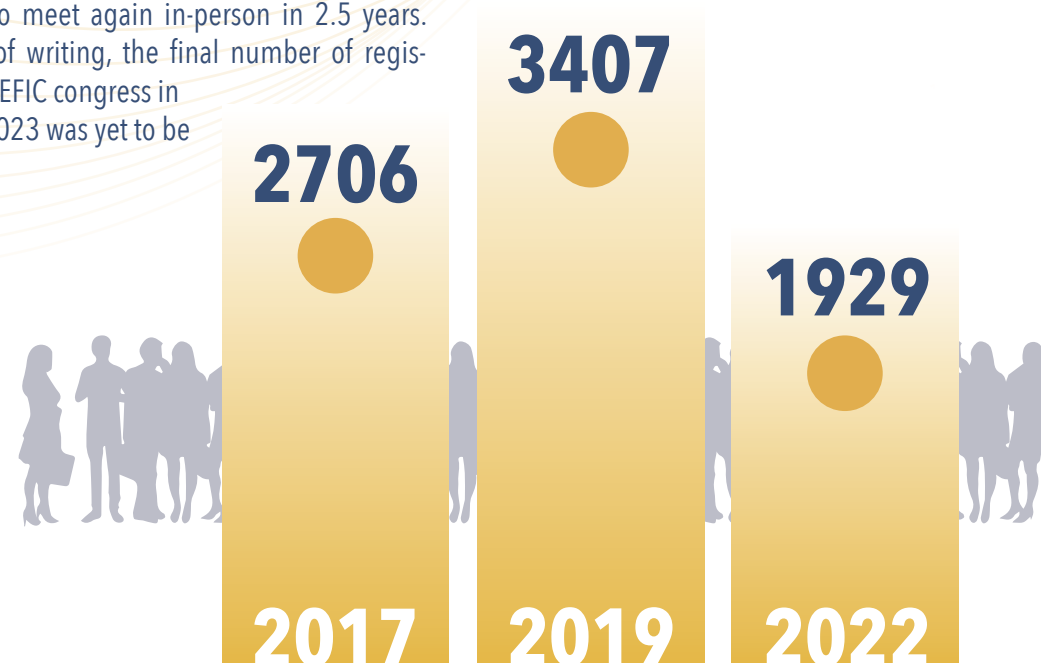
4.1 – ACADEMY MEMBERS

The EFIC Academy is our latest educational and community building project. As of 11 September 2023, we have 759 members. This means that over 750 people have access to EFIC's education platform, the European Journal of Pain as well as webinars and Q&As. Numbers peaked in 2021 in line with the occurrence of our Virtual Pain Education Summit. With our next Virtual Pain Education Summit taking place in May 2024, this number will be steadily increasing again.



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. At the time of writing, the final number of registrants for the EFIC congress in September 2023 was yet to be determined.

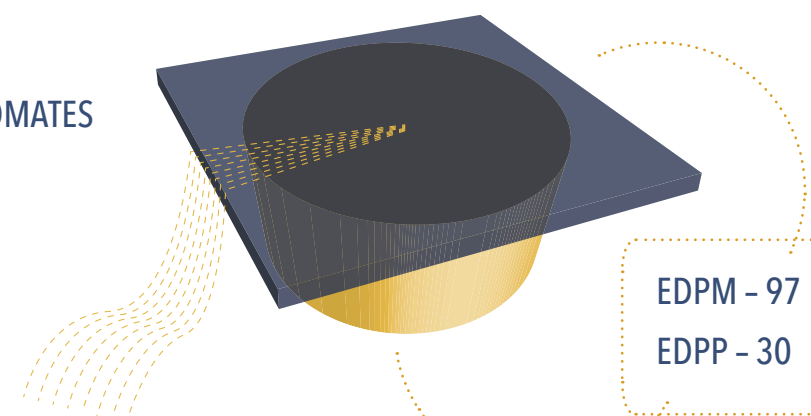


4.3 – ABSTRACTS SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS

After a decrease in abstracts compared to previous congresses in 2022, we saw a return to a higher number of abstract submissions for the 13th EFIC congress in September 2023.

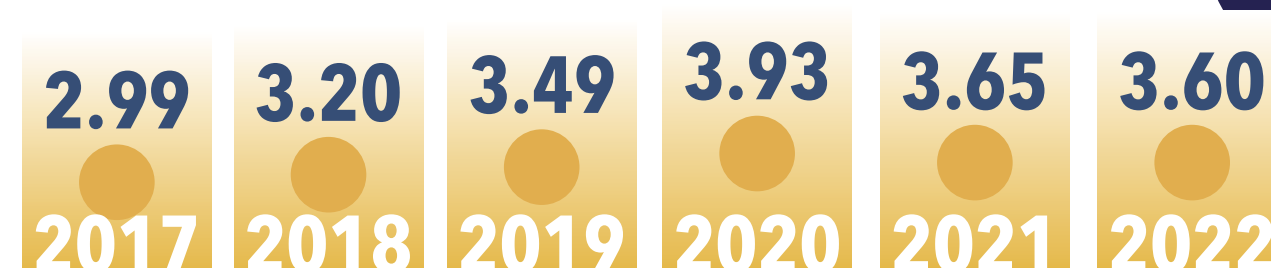


4.4 – DIPLOMATES



97 medical doctors have achieved the European Diploma in Pain Medicine, and 30 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.

5 – PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

Dear colleagues,

I want to thank you once again for electing me as the next President of the European Pain Federation EFIC. As a pain researcher and clinician, Director of an EFIC Pain School, and of course as the preceding Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Pain, serving our patients and the pain community has always been central to my vocation. I have spent the last two years observing activities within EFIC, how decisions are made, how much work goes on behind the scenes (a lot!), and how much professionalism is brought to the task by our community of volunteers. I have been impressed by what I have seen, and I hope to contribute towards the continuation of this work through my term and beyond. After reflecting on my ideas over the past two years, and having learnt a lot as President-Elect, I now present to you my key priorities as President over the next three years:

1. Connecting researchers and clinicians

This will be a horizontal priority across my Presidency, hopefully feeding into multiple projects and activities of EFIC. It is a strong belief of mine that both the research world and the clinical world would benefit from closer interaction and collaboration. Both communities have their advantages and disadvantages in how they see the world. Researchers have good solutions and a methodological rigour that often lack to clinicians, but which sometimes are applied to questions of limited relevance in the clinics. Clinicians have important and useful questions and are in the first line to understand the complexity of human beings, much beyond experimental models, but very often lack the methodological proficiency to extract relevant conclusions from their observations. The gap that exists between the two slows down the progress of both, in terms of scientific breakthroughs and in terms of optimal patient care.

I will be developing specific plans in the first months of my Presidency, but initial ideas that come to mind include:

- Creating 'binomial' grants, bringing together basic research and clinical projects in a cohesive way
- Lobbying for clinical services to integrate junior researchers within their teams to bring a cutting-edge research perspective to existing clinical care.
- Building the voice of younger researchers into EFIC's work, by potentiating mixed research/clinic approaches and discussions in our courses, webinars, pain summits and the EFIC congress.

2.

After observing my first Examination for the European Diploma in Pain Medicine (EDPM) in July this year, it was clear to me that EFIC's work in this area is done with exceptional professionalism, setting high standards for Europe. Unfortunately, that work currently only benefits a small number of candidates each year and does not necessarily translate into sizeable benefits for their career in their countries. I would like to see the examinations of EFIC be recognised as true European standards by national authorities and other professional bodies going forward. I would also



5 – PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT

like to see measures to expand the reach of EFIC's examinations, which could partly be achieved through national recognition, but also through expansion in terms of language. Such steps may require a new approach to exam organisation for EFIC, putting the responsibility in the hands of delegated organisational entities. However, I think this bold step may be transformative.

3. Further strengthen EFIC's role in collaborative research

A major achievement over the past two years has been the gradual expansion of EFIC into collaborative research – under the leadership of President Brona Fullen and the exceptional efficacy of EFIC staff led by Sam Kynman. After a first experiment with the IMI-PainCare project, EFIC now has a very important role it can play within European research projects, and we are now part of many funding schemes including ERA-NET-Neuron, IMI2, EU4Health and Erasmus+. This can go further, though it must do sustainably, with a clear eye on what sort of project is in keeping with EFIC's missions. The ERA-NET-Neuron funding was a coup, in that it helps develop our own European Pain Research Strategy. I would like to see this project setting a framework for new activities in the field of research, as well as influencing national activities. The European Pain Research Strategy has also been significant in its building in of other scientific societies and their points of view. Hopefully we can maintain and expand this sense of collaboration via follow-on collaborative actions, especially with 'cousin' medical and scientific societies involved in all aspects of pain research and management.

Collaboration should also imply patients. Patients are experts in their own way; empowering them with inclusion in each of our workforces is something my predecessors started, that came out clearly in our recent European survey on pain priorities, and that should be pursued and expanded. I intend to continue supporting the two previous presidential campaigns: Bart Morlions' 'On the Move' and Brona Fullens' 'Plain Talking', which in many ways paved the road for this venture.

The war in Ukraine evoked a renewed sense of European solidarity which hopefully we can maintain during peacetime as well as during times of conflict. While Ukraine's problems run much deeper than elsewhere currently, the overall picture in many countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe should cause us to consider what we can do to promote development. Access to healthcare services and basic treatments, the availability not only of pain education but also of cutting-edge technologies of pain relief, as well as many other structural problems, are holding back improvements in pain care. I would like to work in a deep and constructive way with our partner chapters in these areas of Europe to find ways forward.

As you can infer from my above words, my personal motto in this new term will be:

'Joining forces. Breaking barriers'.

I look forward to working with the Executive Board, Council, and volunteers to build on the legacy that has been left to me.

Luis Garcia-Larrea

President Elect, European Pain Federation EFIC

6 – HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

6.1 – ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

Dear colleagues

Our working modalities as an organisation continue to be forged by the changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. Our Executive Board meetings are almost always virtual now, with no real slow down in progress and quality of decision-making. Our Executive Office prepare for meeting very well, with pre-reading and context provided to aid decisions taken on the day. The quality of discussion is always higher during in-person meetings, but there is no obvious significant limitation to the discussions held during our Microsoft Teams-based meetings.

Along with Executive Board meetings, other groups within EFIC, such as committees, working groups and task forces now operate effectively without in-person meetings, with volunteers expecting progress to be made regardless of whether they meet each other face-to-face. While digital communication can be tiring, it is a step forward to not rely always on physical meetings. Our Committee chairs continue to work with reporting templates for our Executive Board meetings and hold monthly catch-up meetings with our Executive Director.

Our team structure is fairly similar to last year. One key change is that responsibility for advocacy activities rests in-house with Angela Cano Palomares, rather than outsourcing a lot of project management to an external consultant. The main change to the team structure is the increased use of research assistants to support our research collaboration work. While EFIC are seeing a major increase to work and funding this area, it comes with obligations that require dedicated personnel. Mary O'Keeffe leads this team, with Nathan Skidmore and Kiran Bali supporting and leading on certain projects. We keep a close eye on this work to ensure it does not overburden the organisation in terms of team costs, and with a hope that existing core team members can contribute to the work and benefit from the funding supporting their costs.

One major change to our working modalities is the expected confirmation of a new ethics policy this year. While it will not take effect until 2024, we can see already that it will change how we do business, especially in terms of 'conflict of interest' management and the maintaining of a database on this matter with regards to our employees. While this will be an additional burden for the team, we believe this is a necessary step for EFIC.

6.2 – 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 2023 EFIC Congress – Pain in Europe XIII. With Communications Manager Melinda Borzsak-Schramm and additional support from Communications and Advocacy trainees Talia Goode, Dieyenaba Faye, Heidi Koivukoski and Javier Ubrí Sanchez, the team was able to form a comprehensive promotional strategy for all EFIC's projects and activities and implement it on a multitude of communication channels ranging from mailings to cross-promotion to social media.

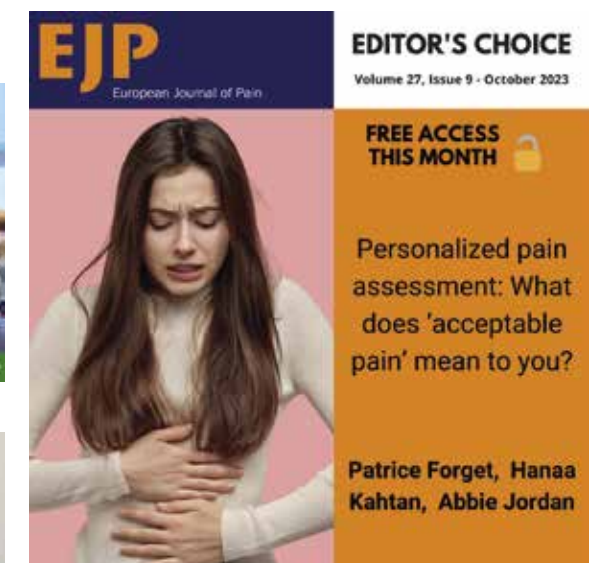


6 – HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

6.2 – COMMUNICATIONS

#EFIC2023 Congress – Pain in Europe XIII

In the leadup to the #EFIC2023 Congress in Budapest, 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. 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. As national and international meetings were organised again, EFIC also made sure to be present at as many relevant events as possible.



Social media

Our social media channels have been growing continuously, increasing the number of our followers on all channels (in total just over 20,000, up from 17,000 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 LinkedIn which are the two most active EFIC social media channels. The continuous and strategic use of hashtags such as #EFIC2023 for the Congress, #EFICAcademy for our educational platform 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
July 2022	5.992	6.473	2.329	2.381
July 2023	6.525	7.412	2.770	3.312
Growth in %	9 %	15 %	19 %	39 %

CRM Database & Newsletter

Thanks to our comprehensive and professional CRM and newsletter setup, we have been able to increase our audience significantly. This also allowed us to communicate more effectively and clearly, making sure that key audiences receive messages specifically relevant to them.

Webinars

While making a concerted effort to visit several national and international meetings to speak face to face to our audience, EFIC also organised several successful webinars - completely free of charge - on timely topics such as the influence of ChatGPT and AI on pain research, the definition and assessment of chronic primary pain or the importance of cognitive functional therapy.

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 online:

› **SIP website** – The website for the Societal Impact on Pain has now also been integrated into the general EFIC website.
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/sip/>

› **EFIC 2023 Congress website** – complete website providing comprehensive information around the 13th EFIC Congress..
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic2023/>

› **What is Chronic Primary Pain?** – Introductory material aimed who wish to gain more basic information on chronic primary pain..
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/what-is-chronic-primary-pain/>

6 – HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

6.2 – COMMUNICATIONS

› **Press Area** – An overview on relevant press materials for specific occasions such as the event on the future of European pain research in the European Parliament.
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/press-area/>

› **European Pain Research Funding Opportunities** – An overview on relevant funding opportunities in the area of pain research.
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/european-pain-research-funding-opportunities/>

› **EFIC Task Force on Multimodal Pain Management** – An overview on the newly formed task force working towards a consented definition for multimodal pain treatment.
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic-task-force-multimodal-pain-treatment/>

› **EFIC Pain Research Strategy** – an overview on the newly launched EFIC Pain Research Strategy and its progress.
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic-pain-research/efic-pain-research-strategy/>

› **EFIC Education Study** – An overview on the newly launched EFIC Education Study and its progress.
<https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic-education-study/>

Silviu Brill

Honorary Secretary

6.3 – COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- www.europeanpainfederation.eu
- <https://efic-congress.org/>
- www.facebook.com/EFICorg
- www.twitter.com/EFIC_org
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/efic2021/>
- www.europeanpainfederation.eu/newsletter/newsletter
- https://www.instagram.com/efic_org/
- <http://academy.europeanpainfederation.eu/>



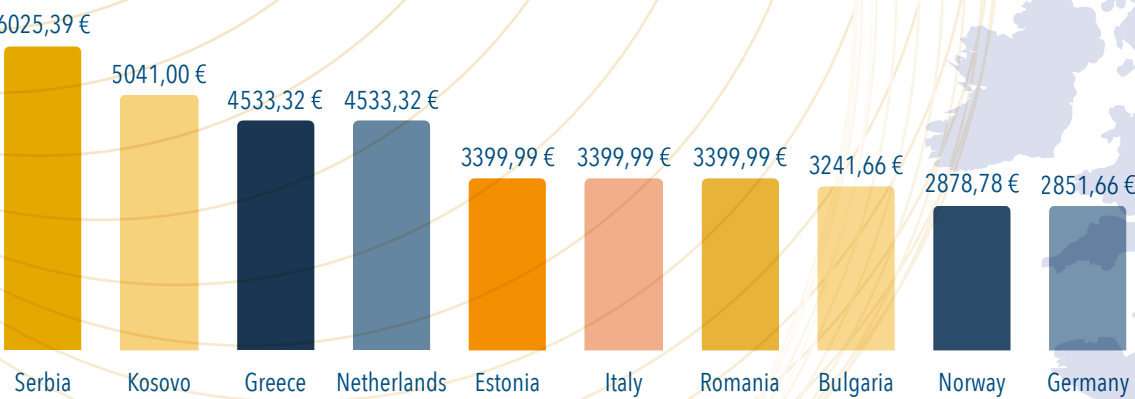
7 – SUPPORT FOR EFIC’S CHAPTERS

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:

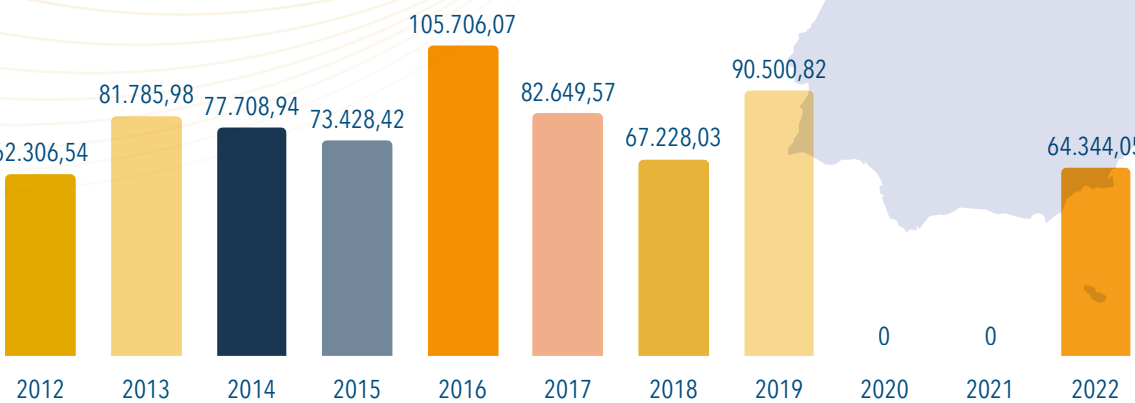
- Places at EFIC Pain Schools
- EFIC Fellowships at approved pain clinics
- Speakers at national scientific meetings funded by EFIC
- Financial support bursaries for congress attendees

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.

The top 10 recipient countries in 2022 were:



The total funding provided in 2022 was 64,344.05 euros. Below are the sums for the previous 10 years, for comparison. The amount will fluctuate depending on the activities available during the year.



8 – PATIENT INCLUSIVITY

8.1 – OVERVIEW

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

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

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

8.2 – TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PATIENT VOICE

Our 2023 scientific congress has a large dedicated patient track, with sessions included on the basis of their relevance to patient-inclusivity. This was defined collaboratively with Pain Alliance Europe, on the basis of sessions including patients directly in the discussions, in the formulation of the research questions involved, or on subjects where patient experience is highly relevant.

We have also included patient consultation within the development of key projects, such as the European Pain Research Strategy and our 'Plain Talking' campaign on health literacy. Project leaders are growing increasingly aware of the value of patient inclusion, and this is now frequently considered a key step in the formulation of scientific and clinical outputs.

8.3 – RELATIONS WITH PATIENTS' ORGANISATIONS

We continue to support Pain Alliance Europe (PAE) via our shared office and secretarial services. PAE's member of staff, Emilia Kosinska, works collaboratively with the wider EFIC team and benefits from sharing ideas and participating in staff trainings.



Our Executive Director meets on a monthly basis with Emilia to pool ideas and provide support for PAE's work.

The Societal Impact of Pain 'national platform' idea continues to bring together national PAE chapters with their respective national EFIC chapter partners. The EFIC team support these collaborations via quarterly calls, offering guidance and suggestions for potential advocacy activities at national level.

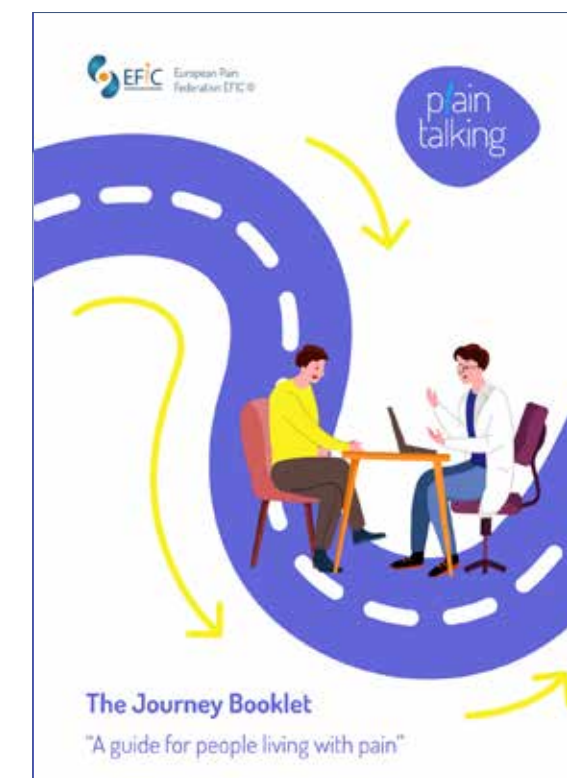
8 – PATIENT INCLUSIVITY

8.4 – TOOLS FOR PATIENTS

Our health literacy work via the 'Plain Talking' project is now reaching a conclusion, with the dissemination of 'The Journey', a patient-focused leaflet that helps explain the experience of developing and managing chronic pain, and how their experience through the healthcare system might be navigated. This engaging leaflet puts the experience in the context of the patient directly and should eventually be usable at national level via translations and local digital dissemination and printing.



Patient webinars, EFIC Congress 2019 Valencia



9 – COMMITTEES

9.1 – EDUCATION COMMITTEE – CHAIR: FRANK HUYGEN

9.1.1 – 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	Felicia Cox
Undergraduate Curriculum	Andreas Kopf
CTF	Andreas Kopf
Pain Schools	Bart Morlion
Online Education.....	Morten Høgh
Patient Education	Vacant

9.1.2 – EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

As we emerged from the worst of the pandemic in 2022 our educational activities returned to full force. While the pandemic left a lasting legacy in pushing us to create the EFIC Academy, our flagship e-learning project, it is now accompanied by other in-person activities.

The Academy itself is a highly valuable project, including an e-learning platform, biennial virtual educational event, exam preparation content, mentoring and other activities. In essence, it serves as the nexus for much of wider educational framework. The platform and virtual summit bring to life our curricula, the platform allows exam participants a place to prepare for their upcoming exam sitting, and our Pain School Directors and refresher course organisers can use it to host their materials or develop materials according to where gaps exist. Recent updates include the provision of materials in Spanish, German and Portuguese, as well as our application for CME credits for the materials.



The curricula on which our educational framework is based were revised this year. The core curricula for the European Diplomas in Pain Medicine and Pain Physiotherapy were revised, taking into account recent scientific developments, and these curricula are being endorsed by partner scientific societies. For the physiotherapy curriculum, endorsement comes from the Europe Region of World Physiotherapy; a huge step forward. We have also developed a new curriculum for pre-certification and bachelor's degrees in physiotherapy, providing guidance to course planners for this earlier stage of the educational ladder.

On top of the Academy, we have returned to the organisation of EFIC Pain Schools, with the op-

portunity for live in-person teaching according to EFIC's educational approach proving even more popular than it was pre-pandemic. Importantly, we have developed a new manual for Pain Schools, emphasising the values, organisational rules and interprofessional format required from EFIC Pain Schools. This is used explicitly to guide new organisers, especially in the context of the tender for new Schools recently launched, but also for existing Pain School Directors. Bart Morlion's stewardship of this improvement process has been invaluable. Recent innovations to the Pain Schools programme include our first ever Schools for musculoskeletal pain and acute pain.

In September 2022 and July 2023, we returned to in-person sittings of the EFIC Examinations for the European Diplomas in Pain Medicine and Pain Physiotherapy. Numbers were very healthy for both exams, with demand building up as we bring more people into the fold via the education platform and virtual part 1 examinations. The conduct of the exams has improved further still, with increasing standardisation within the exam content and greater understanding amongst our Boards of Examiners. The next step to consider will be how we go beyond our existing structures to have a truly European impact on education, with consideration of local applicability and language issues.

Our nursing group, now led by Felicia Cox and Nadja Nestler after a significant initial push from Emma Briggs, is due to launch its examination in May 2024. Our psychology group is reorganising under the leadership of Ed Keogh, bringing together a dedicated group of volunteers to define which actions are useful from here, including possible live teaching projects and examination.

Frank Huygen

Chair, Education Committee

9.1.3. – EFIC EDUCATION STRATEGY



9 – COMMITTEES

9.2 – RESEARCH COMMITTEE – CHAIR: GISÈLE PICKERING

9.2.1 – 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)

9.2.2 – RESEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

I have the pleasure of writing to you today with news that we have reached a significant milestone for EFIC and for European pain research, with the completion of the European Pain Research Strategy. The manuscript is being prepared for submission to the European Journal of Pain, and the work is being showcased at the Budapest congress and via an editorial previewing the findings already published this month.

The strategy has been the main focus of our work over the past two years, and I am delighted to realise our ambitions over this mandate. The project has been aided by Dr Mary O'Keeffe and our new research assistant Nathan Skidmore, who have been working hard behind the scenes. However, the direct involvement of my colleagues Dr Brona Fullen, Prof. Luis Garcia-Larrea and Prof. Thomas Graven-Nielsen should not be underestimated. This has been a truly collaborative effort. I thank all authors who contributed, from the earliest discussions through to the final consideration of the manuscript.

The idea is that the strategy, which highlights key priorities for pain research in the future, feeds into the following future actions:

- Disseminate the strategy via targeted briefing papers and communication tools to reach policy makers, funders and key institutions
- Roll-out the actions of the strategy directly applicable to EFIC, including any new working groups, task forces, scientific papers etc.
- Expand on EFIC's recently launched Pain Scientist Network
- Orientate any new funding opportunities provided by or guided by EFIC
- Seek new funding opportunities via industry partners
- Disseminate the strategy via national partners (e.g., EFIC national chapters) and offer presentations at scientific meetings – enable translation in national languages if needed



- Network existing European pain research initiatives and build synergies for future collaboration
- Monitor and disseminate future research calls to assess strategy communication success
- Bolster EFIC's position as a partner in research consortia through its intellectual leadership

Along with this key piece of work, I want to acknowledge some other recent developments which have taken place under the auspices of the research committee.



Our participation in collaborative research is now much more substantial than three years ago. This encompasses taking an active role in consortia, building up the organisation's capacities in areas such as building a scientific network, developing surveys, identifying subject matter experts, organising events, along with the more typical competences such as communication and dissemination. We now also track and identify opportunities based on published calls, and even initiate potential consortia using our networking capabilities and the contribution of researchers within our team. Recent successes include Erasmus+ and EU4Health projects, though we hope soon to capitalise on opportunities within the EU's flagship Horizon Europe framework.

The development of the European Pain Research Directory; a listing of the major pain research stakeholders in Europe, remains a work in progress, but will hopefully soon follow. This will position EFIC as the go-to organisation within the pain research ecosystem.

I thank also Prof. André Mouraux for his excellent stewardship of EFIC's grants and prizes work, as well as Prof. Elon Eisenberg for his support for our clinical affairs work. Current projects include the definition of multimodal pain treatment via a task force led by Michiel Reneman, and the upcoming geriatrics paper which was the product of a task force on the subject.

Gisèle Pickering

Chair, Research Committee

9 – COMMITTEES

9.3 – ADVOCACY COMMITTEE – CHAIR: PAUL CAMERON

9.3.1 – STRUCTURE

Working Groups

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

Chair

9.3.2 – ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

I write to you today as the Chair of the advocacy committee, where we remain continually active. I continue to be supported by Patrice Forget, who helps guide our work.

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 successes within the Societal Impact of Pain (SIP) Platform. 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 activities have continued under the leadership of EFIC and Pain Alliance Europe (PAE). SIP continues to move forward, strengthening and expanding the SIP network and forging new alliances with different EU Stakeholders.

In 2022 and 2023 the European Commission focused on digital health and mental health. SIP took part in various consultations to ensure the European Commission's European Health Data Space (EHDS) and the European Mental Health Strategy proposals took pain into account. Additionally, SIP met and engaged with several policymakers, including the European Commission, the European Council, and the European Parliament, over the last two years with similar aims.

SIP launched in 2023 its Joint Statement on Pain and Mental Health, a collaborative project between 10 different organisations working in the field of pain, pain-related and mental health policies. Further, a multi-stakeholder policy event is currently being organised at the European Parliament, to disseminate the nine key Recommendations. Moreover, SIP also launched in 2023 its Position Paper on the International Classification of Diseases – 11th Revision (ICD-11). The International Classification of Diseases – 11th Revision (ICD-11), is a major development for the pain community, as it is the first classification system to include a systematic representation of chronic pain. In this regard, SIP is hard at work to ensure both ICD-11 and the bi-directional relationship between pain and mental health are represented within the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and the European Mental Health Strategy. We are confident that our views are being considered by influential MEPs in these negotiations.

On the other hand, EU elections are coming up in 2024 and, therefore, SIP has been meeting with all relevant parties to ensure SIP objectives and policy priorities remain in the EU Agenda in the next mandate.



SIP objectives include topics like, pain education for all healthcare professionals, access to high quality pain treatment for all Europeans, and strengthening the European Mental Health Strategy.

In the latter half of 2023, SIP will be focusing on access to treatment, developing a Book of Evidence on the burden of pain and once again, launching it at the European Parliament during the first quarter of 2024. In addition, SIP will also hold its Annual Stakeholder Forum, bringing together different EU Stakeholders and organisations working in the field of pain or pain-related policies, to discuss the EU Agenda and set the policy priorities for the upcoming year.

Finally, SIP has been strengthening its relationship and working very closely with its SIP National Platforms, holding quarterly meetings and discussing and setting activities at national level for each annual objective and policy priority. For example, SIP National Platforms have been translating to their national language all SIP Position Papers and advocacy resources, and they have been organising successful local events and webinars on different SIP objectives such as, pain in employment or the impact of pain in the given country. Other activities and forms of collaboration include presenting SIP at their national congresses, recording interviews on their work for social media and communication channels, engaging with their national and EU policymakers, developing a National Pain Plan Model and being part of the discussion with regards to setting the objectives and policy priorities for the upcoming year, amongst others.

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 involve the European Pain Forum include our Research Strategy and our work in defining 'Multimodal Pain Treatment'. Both projects are well underway and are expected to be finalised in the upcoming months. The endorsement of the Pain Forum members towards these projects will hugely increase their credibility and political weight.

Our 'On The Move' campaign was relaunched in 2023 with Henrik Bjarke Vægter as Chair. Henrik established a working group and set out key objectives and goals for the campaign. Together, they have advanced and strengthen the campaign. Their main focus in 2023, has been the development of a Position Paper on Physical Activity, targeted at non-physiotherapists. Further, 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 have 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 have developed three health literacy video guides to complement the booklet. All these publicly available materials are now also available in 15 different languages, both European and non-European languages.

In 2023 the working group have been hard at work, developing a Booklet entitled 'The Journey', a road-map for treatment that will prepare the person with pain for the experiences they are likely to encounter. Additionally, the Booklet has been developed with the collaboration of Pain Alliance Europe (PAE), a general practitioner and experts in the field of pain management and treatment. 'The Journey' Booklet will be launched at the EFIC 2023 congress in Budapest.

Our work has carried on strongly and we hope to continue this course and to have an even greater impact in the years to come.

Paul Cameron

Chair, Advocacy Committee

9 - COMMITTEES

9.4 - OBJECTIVES

9.4.1 - 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

9 - COMMITTEES

9.4 - OBJECTIVES

9.4.2 - 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

10 – CONGRESS – PAIN IN EUROPE

10.1 – 2023 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 |
| • Dr. Daniel Ciampi de Andrade | • Prof. Manuela Schmidt |
| • Drs. Felicia Cox | • Dr. Daniel Segelcke |
| • Prof. Catherine Doody | • Dr. Katarzyna Starowicz |
| • Prof. Egil A. 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 Nestler | • Mrs. Deirdre Ryan (Patient representative from PAE) |
| • Dr. Kristian Petersen | |

The theme of the congress was “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 analysed 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 was 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 hands-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.

10 plenary speakers presented their topics in 30-minute presentations. The topics were:

- 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 Debate plenary: 3 panelists and 2 chairs debated for 90 min on a specific topic:

- Neuropathic Pain

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

- Early career plenary presentations on basic science
- Early career plenary presentations on clinical research

65 Workshops:

50 accepted 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.

8 accepted 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.

7 accepted 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.

10 – CONGRESS – PAIN IN EUROPE

10.1 – 2023 SPC CHAIR REPORT

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

956 Abstracts:

- 172 abstracts in Basics in Pain
- 233 abstracts in Pain Syndromes
- 339 abstracts in Pain Therapies
- 212 abstracts in Diagnosis & Measurement in Pain
 - 33 Oral communication on Wednesday
 - 91 Guided Poster Walk abstracts

There was only 1 guided poster walk per day and per main topic to facilitate the process (thus, 4 per day and 12 in total). The SPC members and other EFIC Board members lead the poster walks based on their availabilities and scientific interest.

The whole SPC is looking forward to participating in this attractive and breathtaking programme for the EFIC congress 2023, which they hope to be appealing to all disciplines and bring fresh ideas for their disciplines.

Esther Pogatzki-Zahn

Chair, SPC of EFIC Pain in Europe XIII

10 – CONGRESS – PAIN IN EUROPE

10.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

Dear colleagues,

Current trends

Before discussing future strategy and future ideas I would like to present the main trends in the pain congresses 'arena' and within EFIC, that are influencing and shaping our congresses participation and EFIC profit from the congress.

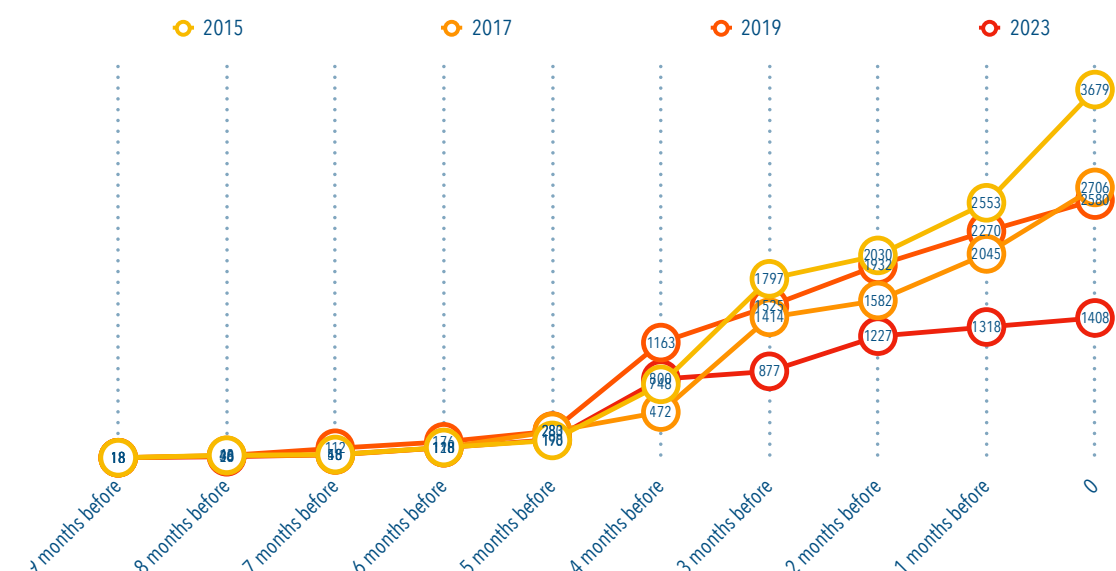
1. Since 2020, with less drugs in the pipeline, we see a very significant decline in the industry support which affect not only the income from sponsorship and exhibition but also the number of participants. A large percentage of our attendees were supported by industry, directly or indirectly. It is assumed that around 40% of our attendees in 2019 were supported by pharma companies, either by registering them to the congress directly or indirectly through funds. In 2023, the ratio is different, and we assume that less than 15% of attendees are supported by pharma.

Exhibition and sponsorship comparison 2017–2023

	2017	2019	2022	2023
Sponsorship	€ 400,147	€ 400,000	€ 120,000	€ 140,000
Exhibition	€ 340,575	€ 481,573	€ 225,000	€ 184,257
Total	€ 740,722	€ 981,573	€ 325,000	€ 324,257

This trend is very apparent also in other congresses in the Pain arena and we see that IASP, WIP NeuPsig and others have similar challenges: decrease in industry support and participation numbers.

2. At EFIC we see the following effect of attendees



10 – CONGRESS – PAIN IN EUROPE

10.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

3. Covid-19 Effect and the transition to online congresses and online education

Covid-19 has some effect on congress participation patterns – we do see that participants register later, plan their travel closer to the congress date.

We are still studying the effect of online congresses and the availability of online education (including the EFIC Academy) on congress participation. We do not perceive online education as a substitute/alternative to physical participation and following our past experiences (and other congresses in the arena) we do not perceive online participation in a live congress a ‘product’ that our audience is interested at.

Our actions for EFIC congress 2023

1. Significant cut in cost – the congress budget is lean in every aspect – congress center rental, logistics and supplier's contract. Also, the efficiency and professionalism within the EFIC team, the fact that much of the operation and production is done in-house, as well as our open transparent relations with our PCO.

2. Very rich scientific programme – Despite the cut in cost we have not compromised on an excellent, broad and varied scientific programme with 127 scientific sessions, and over 300 speakers.

13 Plenary Lectures, 51 Topical Workshops, 3 EFIC Political WS, 9 Refresher courses, 13 Patient Focus sessions, 4 Industry supported sessions, 8 Networking sessions, 4 Oral Communication sessions, 7 Debate WS, 7 Demonstration WS, 8 Open Theater session

3. Abstracts submission numbers - we see a very encouraging and positive trend that despite the decline in participation, our abstract submission numbers are rising. Which means that almost all the congress participants are involved in submitting an abstract as the main or participating authors. It defiantly demonstrates the scientific strength of EFIC within the Pain arena.

	2019 congress	2022 congress	2023 congress
Submitted Abstracts	1281	732	1053
Late breaking abstracts	179	233	397
Abstracts that were accepted by programme committee	1102	570	956

4. Strong growing database and consent scientific presence in social media – expanding our reach to larger audience with valuable content.

5. Online participation at the live congress - We are constantly asking questions such as: How to increase the congress effect with audience that we would not get otherwise and what is the best format to bring the congress to our larger audience. Based on our 2022 Hybrid congress

10 – CONGRESS – PAIN IN EUROPE

10.2 - CONGRESS STRATEGY

experience as well as the experience of other association with hybrid events, we learn that live on-line participation in a physical congress is not a product that our audience is interested in and is not financially sustainable. Instead, we are investing in two mediums:

- EFIC academy –Educational sessions from the congress are recorded, edited and are available for on-demand viewing. EFIC Academy allows us to extend the congress educational sessions to our larger audience while promoting membership to the Academy and facilitating ongoing communication with our audience.

- EFIC TV – livestream through social media and EFIC Channel of live content, interviews and panoramic discussions of the front end of Pain science and therapy. EFIC TV broadcast and interviews are led by Morten Sebastian Høgh and Mary O'Keeffe.

EFIC TV, EFIC Academy and our constant presence in social media supports us in maximizing our audience reach, awareness to EFIC and its value.

6. EFIC is also promoting the value of the ‘European Diploma in Pain Medicine’ as the leading education and certificate in the field of pain medicine, by offering preparation sessions and a live demo at the congress.

7. EFIC Summit – we continue with our plan for biennial large online education summit in even years.

What we would like to expand on for the future

1. Improve the sustainability of our congress – so we can still provide great value to our audience even in lean years. Lean budget, efficient team, inhouse operation, strong technology, creativity, and innovation

2. We have to continuously keep our audience engaged and continue positioning EFIC as a leading science and education source

- EFIC Summit
- Put our academy brand forward
- Strong reach of social media
- Strong data base
- Strengthen the EFIC Academy membership programme

3. Find additional sources of income to the congress in ‘sponsorship lean’ years

4. Position EFIC education and the diploma the ‘light house’ of pain education

5. Enhancing the onsite congress personal experience - personal engagements, hands on experiences and value that is unique to EFIC.

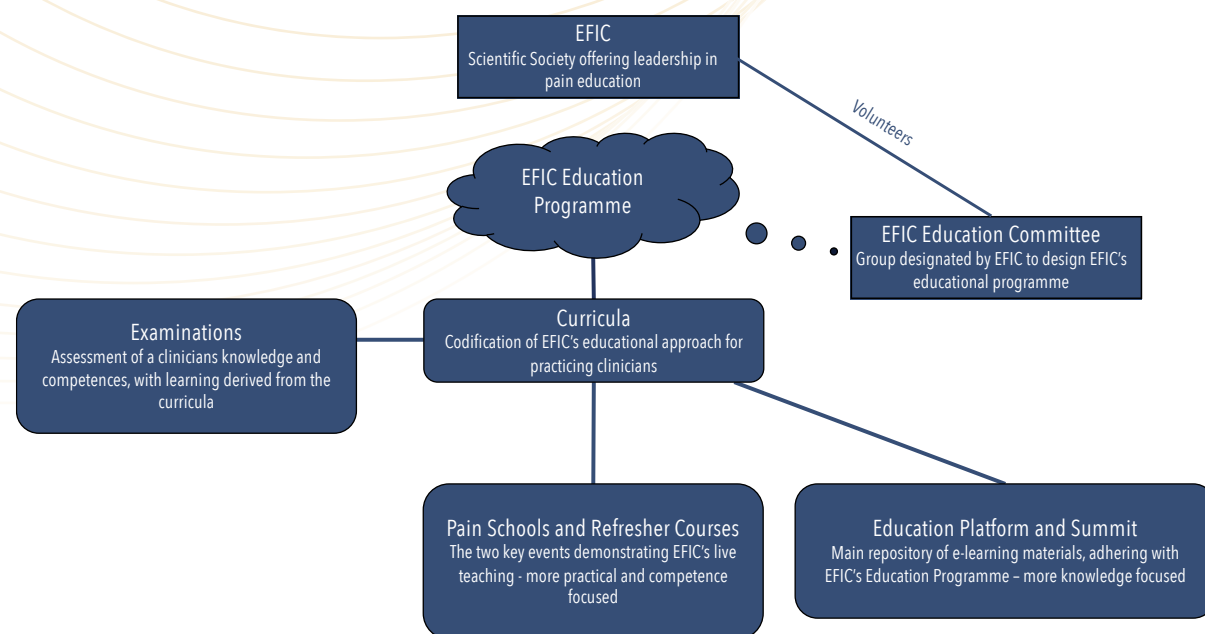
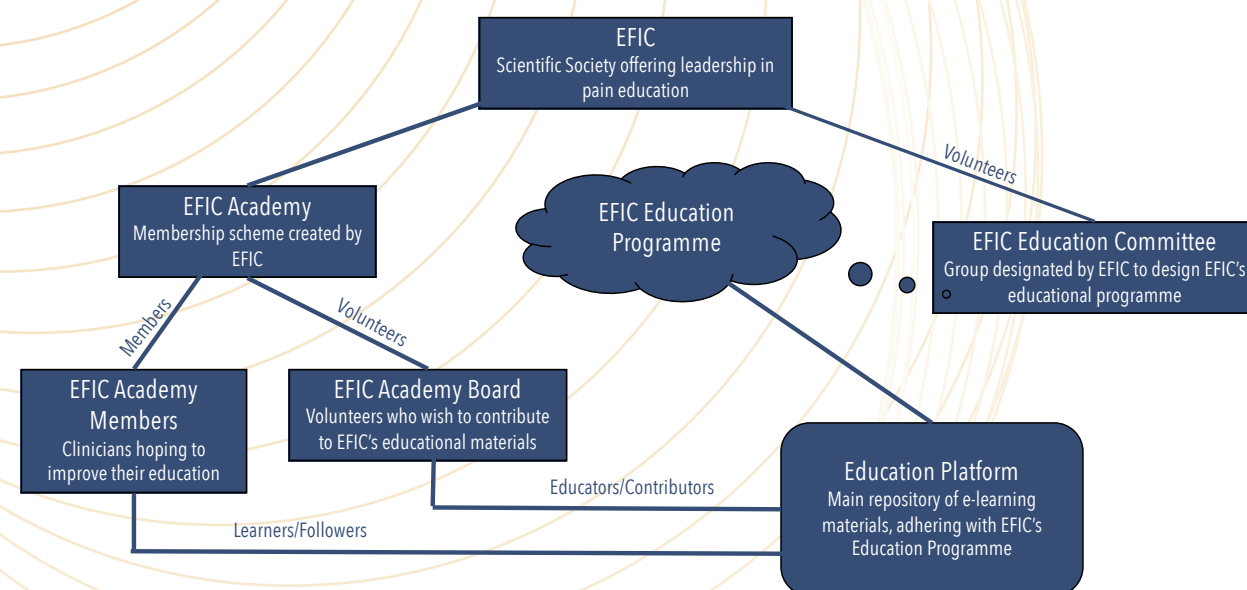
Inbar Caspi

Congress Manager, EFIC

11 – EFIC ACADEMY

11.1 – 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.



11.2 – 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

11.3 – PRICING

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

Category	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 July 2023 – excluding VAT.

11.4 – ACTIVITIES

The EFIC Academy has evolved in many ways in the past 12 months. The next Virtual Pain Education Summit - organised as a members-only event – is planned for May 2024. As a fully interprofessional education event, the Summit will again provide tailored education for four different key professions, whilst bringing all groups together for interprofessional learning. On the Moodle-based EFIC Academy education platform, 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 2023 in Budapest as well as the exam sittings. As of summer 2023, we are preparing the subtitling of the material available on the education platform in Spanish, German and Portuguese. These subtitles are already available to physician users. We will very soon upload subtitling for all physiotherapy, nursing and psychology sessions.

Perhaps the biggest innovation for the Academy recently is the move towards accreditation of modules by accreditation bodies such as UEMS (European Union of Medical Specialists). Content on the platform has been transformed to meet their criteria, and an application has been put into receive CME credits for completion of the modules. Modules now consist of the video lecture, additional reading materials, user feedback and a short assessment with multiple choice questions. We will soon be seeking accreditation from bodies associated with nursing, psychology and physiotherapy.

11 – EFIC ACADEMY

11.5– NUMBER OF MEMBERS

As of September 2023, the EFIC Academy has 759 members broken down by these categories:

Catagory	Number of members
Regular	296
Discounted	111
Allied Professionals	201
Students	151

11.5.1 – 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 2023, the sub-groups looked like this:

Catagory	Number of members
Physician	581
Physiotherapist	117
Psychologist	37
Nurse	24



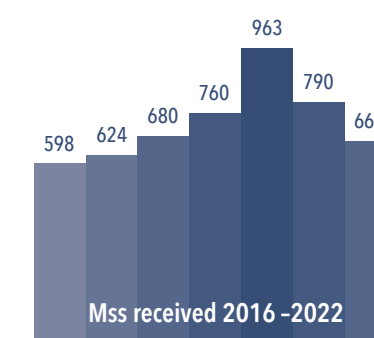
12 – EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

12.1 – EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REPORT

12.2 – CONTENT

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

12.2.1 – SUBMISSION FIGURES, REJECTION RATES, IMPACT FACTOR

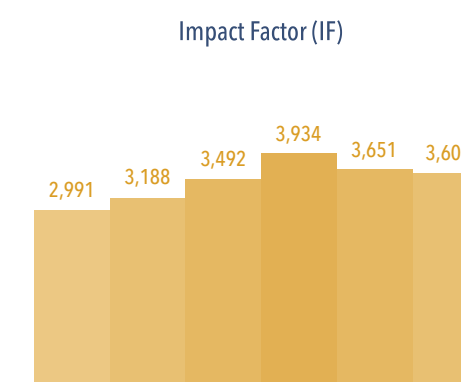


The number of papers submitted to the European Journal of Pain (EJP) has steadily increased over the past few years. This number rose from 760 in 2019 to a total of 963 submissions in 2020. This increase can be attributed to the growing attractiveness of the Journal and, notably, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic conditions, which provided authors with more time to work on their research from the comfort of their homes. In 2022, EJP received 669 submissions, returning to pre-pandemic figures. We

anticipate a slight increase in 2023, as more than 550 manuscripts have already been submitted by September 15.

The average response time from receipt to the first decision was 29 days in 2022. Changes in the panel of Section Editors have had a positive impact on decision times, which currently stand at 18 days for the period from January to September 2023.

The rate of rejections slightly decreased from 84% in 2021 to 79% in 2022, but then increased again to 83.5% in 2023 (as of September). The majority of rejections (72.5%) are proposed directly by the Editor-in-Chief or the Section Editors before sending the paper for external peer review. These "Editorial rejections" pertain to manuscripts judged unlikely to pass external review successfully or deemed to provide limited added value to existing literature. Editorial rejections are intended to save time for authors and spare external experts' time and energy. We strive to notify authors of Editorial rejections within 10 days. As of September, the median delay for rejections without reviews was 3 days. Manuscripts originate from around the world, with a significant proportion coming from Europe and North America. Additionally, a substantial number of submissions come from China (over 110 by September 15, 2023), but their quality is generally lower, resulting in a very high rejection rate (98%), the majority without external review.



12.2.1 – SUBMISSION FIGURES, REJECTION RATES, IMPACT FACTOR

Unlike most other journals, the editorial rejection letter always includes a brief commentary indicating the reasons for the swift decision, potential ways to address these issues, and suggestions for other journals that might be better suited for the manuscript. Starting in January 2022, an agreement with our publisher, Wiley & Sons, has been implemented for a selection of rejected papers. A "Transfer Desk Assistant" now automatically suggests other possible Wiley journals where the manuscript can be submitted after revision. This option is voluntary, and authors can always choose the "no transfer" option.

After an artificially inflated increase in the Journal's Impact Factor (IF) in 2020 (related to changes in the method of computing IF by Clarivate), reaching almost 4, it has now stabilized at around 3.6. The fact that less papers will be published in 2023 (see below) might further bolster the IF.

12.2.2 – EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Didier Bouhassira, Director of Research at the Inserm (the equivalent of a Full Professor in the French National Agency for Medical Research) and a former Section Editor of the Journal for many years, assumed the role of new Editor-in-Chief starting in January 2023, succeeding Luis Garcia. To facilitate a smooth transition, Luis Garcia-Larrea has graciously agreed to continue to handle the manuscripts that were submitted during 2022 and were still in the reviewing process.

12.2.3 – EDITORIAL BOARD – SECTION AND MANAGING EDITORS

After being elected as EFIC-President, Luis Garcia resigned from his position as Editor-in-Chief in January 2023 and took on the role of Deputy Editor within the editorial board from September 2023.

New section editors, namely Michel Barrot, Jose Biurrun-Manresa, and Harriet Wittink, who were appointed by Luis Garcia, were introduced during the Editorial Board Meeting held in Lyon in January 2023. In the first trimester of 2023, Didier Bouhassira also appointed additional section editors: Sophie Baudic (France), Luana Colloca (USA), Geana Paula Kurita (Denmark), Esther Pogatzki-Zahn, Jan Vollert (UK).

12 – EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

12.1 – EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REPORT

12.2.3 – EDITORIAL BOARD – SECTION AND MANAGING EDITORS

The panel of Section Editors as of October 2023:

- Michel Barrot, Strasbourg, France
- Sophie Baudic, Paris, France
- Ulf Baumgärtner, Hamburg, Germany
- José Biurrun Manresa, Entre Rios, Argentina
- Daniel Ciampi de Andrade, Aalborg, Denmark & São Paulo, Brazil
- Luana Colloca, Baltimore, USA
- Michele Curatolo, Seattle, USA
- Luis Garcia-Larrea, Lyon, France (Deputy Editor)
- Geana Paula Kurita, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Jörn Lötsch, Frankfurt, Germany
- Rafael Maldonado, Barcelona, Spain
- Lance McCracken, Uppsala, Sweden & London, UK
- Esther Pogatzki-Zahn, Münster, Germany
- Michael Schäfer, Berlin, Germany
- Andrea Truini, Rome, Italy
- Tine Vervoort, Ghent, Belgium
- Jan Vollert, London, UK
- Harriet Wittnik, Utrecht, The Netherlands

You can see them all at:

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

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.

12 – EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF PAIN

12.1 – EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S REPORT

12.2.4 – EJP ADVISORY BOARD

The EJP Advisory Board (AB) is currently composed of about 80 members, who represent a first line of high-quality potential reviewers for submitted papers. Regularly long-standing AB members with little or no late activity are asked to step down and we try to progressively substitute these by young colleagues, in particular young she-doctors. The AB was last revised and updated in March 2022 and will again be updated in spring 2024. 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. The Editorial Office keeps statistics of the relative contribution of AB members each year and gives useful advice to take such decisions. The 2023 Advisory Board is available for consultation at:

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

12.2.5 – DECISION TIMES, BACKLOG, NEW FEATURES

A – Decision times, PubMed access, backlog: The careful revision and recurrent updating of the Editorial Boards have accelerated the response-time to a reviewer-invitation and reduced the number of declined reviews. This led to a decrease in the time to a first decision letter to authors, which is now (Jan-Sept 2023) of 18 days (versus 29 in 2022, 32 days in 2021). 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 now carries a DOI number, making it fully citable. The backlog of published papers, which represents the time from acceptance to inclusion in a published new issue, significantly decreased to just 1-2 forthcoming issues at the end of 2022 because of the substantial number of rejected papers. A decision was made at the beginning of 2023 to reduce the number of papers included in each issue. The situation has since improved, and the backlog has increased considerably. As of September 2023, the next three issues are already filled. Consequently, a paper accepted in September 2023 will be published in Issue 28-02, scheduled for February 2024.

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 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 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. The Table of Contents is sent out to the full database of 24,000 subscribers of the EFIC Newsletter. We are indebted to the EFIC Communications Mana-

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12.2.5 – DECISION TIMES, BACKLOG, NEW FEATURES

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

C – Access of EFIC members to full text: Member of national pain societies contributing to EFIC are entitled to free access to papers published in the EJP, 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 to the section "Access the European Journal of Pain" which appears in a further page. While the ergonomics to get the pdf access still needs to be improved (three consecutive pages needed), the procedure is robust and reliable, and should be widely explained and disseminated to Chapter members, so as they can access freely to 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) 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 contacts to explore the possibility of implementing the translation of EJP papers to other languages, 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). In 2022, the three Editors' Choice articles selected for each issue were recommended for translation to EFIC chapters. However, in 2023, it was decided that the responsibility for choosing which articles to translate would be delegated to the council members of each EFIC country in rotation.

12.2.6 – SPECIAL ISSUE, 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 the same topic having appeared in different issues of the EJP. These collections can be consulted in full of the Journal's Web page to provide 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).

In 2023, a special issue focusing on Personalized Pain Medicine was published, featuring 8 open access reviews or position papers along with an editorial by Luis Garcia and Didier Bouhassira (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15322149/2023/27/9>). This special issue coincided with the EFIC meeting in Budapest, where the central theme revolved around Personalized Pain Medicine.

12.2.7 – CONCLUSIONS

The European Journal of Pain remains in a position of scientific excellence, but also confronted to multiple challenges, in particular the increasing concurrence of periodicals attracting authors via less stringent requirements to publish. We pursue an active strategy to gain visibility, enhance content dissemination, and optimise papers' selection to improve our position in the fields of pain science and pain clinics. This policy is accomplished by a panel of high-level Editors and has translated since five years in 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.

Didier Bouhassira

Editor-in-Chief, European Journal of Pain

13 – FINANCES

13.1 – HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Colleagues,

I address you again as Honorary Treasurer of EFIC. We are now in a position, post-pandemic, where we have a better understanding of our financial situation and the success of our activities as life returns to normal. We held our first in-person congress in April 2022, and we are on the verge of our second congress in September 2023. Our activities through the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns naturally declined, meaning also that expenditure declined with it. Our financial performance in 2020 and 2021 were acceptable, in the circumstances. Now that activities are returning to full capacity, it causes us to look more carefully at how they relate to financial performance. The financial performance of the 2022 congress was disappointing, though we were all happy to return to meeting once again. The 2023 congress is before us, and while we don't yet know the final result, we do not expect a huge profit. This should cause us to consider carefully our direction from here.

13.1.1 – 2022 PERFORMANCE

We end the financial year with assets of 3.047.054,83 euros, with a loss of 711,759.70 euros for the period. This is our third such negative year, with significant losses in 2021 and 2022. Our expenditure for 2022 came to just over 2.18 million euros. As with all years since 2019, our book-keeping takes into account our congress budget, as well as our standard operating costs and other projects. Just over 812,000 euros in costs is attributable to congresses in this period. In general, our expenditure remains reasonably well controlled. On the income side, we had just below 1.5 million euros in income, with just below 780,000 euros coming from our congress. You can see from this that the congress in 2022 was not profitable for EFIC. Income besides the congress was in a reasonably good shape, considering expectations. Income from the EJP, from examinations and other small sources was on track, with only the Academy not meeting expectations for the period.

The loss for the period was significant, though it is almost all attributable to 'missing' congress income. Previous plans were based on the idea that operating costs could be supported by congress income that would contribute around 50% of total funds required. From a congress profit of over 1 million euros in 2019, we are now far from that level of security and with new directions to be taken. We now need to reset our expectations and work back with expenditure that is derived from a more realistic congress income expectation.

Our 2023 budget foresees a more modest income expectation from the Budapest congress; approximately 200,000 euros. We will not know if that expectation has been met until we wrap

13 – FINANCES

13.1 – HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

13.1.2 – BUDGET

up the books in Q4 2023. We hope that this is realistic, but the long-term picture for 2025 and beyond still needs to be evaluated, taking into account the R&D landscape, European economic picture and budgets for CME activities. We do not yet set expenditure budgets to match this level of income. It is not realistic to cut radically to achieve this and still expect EFIC to function as required for existing plans. However, we are moving in that direction and the Executive Board will take further decisions in the next mandate to move closer still.

Most lines of operating expenditure for 2023 are stable, with some increases unavoidable due to inflation and indexation in Belgium. Expenditure is budgeted at just below 2.75 million euros, with 1.13 million euros attributable to the congress. Income is budgeted at just below 2.29 million euros, with just below 1.35 million euros derived from the congress. Lines of income that we are growing or aiming to grow include the Academy (expected to rise from 50,000 euros to somewhere closer to 80,000 euros) and EU-funded projects (expected to rise from below 10,000 euros to close to 100,000 euros). As a non-profit organisation with a specific focus, our options for generating income are limited. We will think creatively and work industriously, but a big focus will need to be placed on the role of the congress and our overall operating expenditure requires to sustain our activities.

As Treasurer, I will do my best to steer us through difficult terrain.

Patrice Forget

Honorary Treasurer

13 – FINANCES

13.2 – 2022 ACCOUNTS CLOSE

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals
Office expenses	33,424.81	28,518.89
Website, Software & Online Subscr.	40,000.00	41,608.67
Communications, Marketing & Publ.	25,000.00	30,502.65
Service providers and consultants	297,850.00	297,565.86
EU-funded projects	0.00	5,204.31
Meeting expenses	41,000.00	42,608.44
Events	1,019,509.72	812,641.46
EJP	90,500.00	80,052.40
Educational programs	151,000.00	141,373.63
Salaries	369,184.36	363,788.93
Depreciation	27,750.00	27,972.29
EXB expenses	52,500.00	35,050.00
Taxes	12,050.00	5,675.56
Financial costs	105,000.00	190,784.71
Total Operating Expenditure	2,264,768.89	2,103,347.80

PROJECT EXPENDITURE		
EGG	0.00	0.00
SIP	140,000.00	85,634.75
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,404,768.89	2,188,982.55

OPERATING INCOME	2022 Budget	2022 Actuals
EJP	210,000.00	231,521.54
Industry support	100,000.00	111,799.52
Miscellaneous		
– Contributing members	100,000.00	56,878.96
– Examinations	40,000.00	42,747.21
– EU-funded projects	5,000.00	6,158.83
– Rental income	30,000.00	30,000.00
– Secretarial services	20,208.00	20,191.47
– Other	0.00	155.72
Congress	964,064.80	779,089.80
Financial income	81,888.00	75,464.06
Total Operating income	1,551,160.80	1,354,007.11

PROJECT INCOME		
EGG	110,000.00	0.00
SIP	91,000.00	123,215.74
TOTAL INCOME	1,752,160.80	1,477,222.85

13.3- 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 2023
(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 12 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 2023, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the annual accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of € 4.333.162 and profit and loss account showing a loss for the year of € 711.760.

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 2023, 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.eu VGD Bedrijfsrevisoren BV
Neerhoflaan 2, 1780 Wemmel - BTW BE 0875 430 443 - RPR Brussel, Nederlandstalige afdeling - Iban BE64 7370 1584 1052 - Bic KREDBEBB

13 – FINANCES

13.4 – 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 2022 until 31 March 2023. 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 2022 accounts. On that basis I recommend the Council approve the accounts for the last financial year.

Ana Pedro

Chair, Audit Committee

13.5 – 2023 BUDGET

OPERATING EXPENDITURE	2023 Budget
Office expenses	32,050.00
Website, Software & Online Subscr.	40,000.00
Communications, Marketing & Publ.	23,000.00
EU-funded projects	33,000.00
Service providers and consultants	296,650.00
Meeting expenses	32,000.00
Events	1,136,953
EJP	87,500.00
Educational programs	266,500.00
Salaries	377,256.12
Depreciation	0.00
EXB expenses	52,500.00
Taxes	9,700.00
Financial costs	185,500.00
Total Operating Expenditure	2,572,609.12
PROJECT EXPENDITURE	
EGG	110,000.00
SIP	62,500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,745,109.12

13.5 – 2023 BUDGET

OPERATING INCOME		2023 Budget
EJP		211,350.00
Industry support		132,424.66
Miscellaneous		
– Academy		70,000.00
– Examinations		43,000.00
– EU-funded projects		104,320.80
– Rental income		30,000.00
– Secretarial services		20,500.000
– Other		0.00
Congress		1,349,003.00
Financial income		98,438.00
Total Operating income		2,059,036.46
PROJECT INCOME		
EGG		110,000.00
PAIN OUT		0.00
SIP		120,000.00
TOTAL INCOME		2,289,036.46

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 2021-2022, EFIC had a total operating income of 1,918,025.64 euros.

- 800,839.80 euros came from EFIC's congress.
- 127,467.85 euros came from our Academy scheme
- 218,322.81 euros came from industry partnerships.
- 453,551.68 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.


Congress income can be divided primarily between registration fees and sponsorship from industry. Income from congress sponsorship over this period amounted to 403,020.00 euros

Therefore, approximately 621,342.81 euros of our operating income came from the pharmaceutical and medical device industries, which comes to around 33% 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. We are in the process of approving a new ethics and transparency policy which should come into effect in 2024.

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.

