



Subject: "Societal Impact of Pain", 30 & 31 May 2012 - Copenhagen, Denmark

## Invitation to advance chronic pain management in Denmark and Europe

On May 29-31 the European symposium on the "Societal Impact of Pain" (SIP) 2012<sup>i</sup> will take place in Copenhagen at Bella Center. The "Societal Impact of Pain" is an international, multi-stakeholder platform created in 2010 aiming to raise the awareness of the relevance that the impact of pain has on our societies, health and economic systems. The symposium will ensure the exchange of information and sharing best-practices across all member states within the European Union. The overall purpose is to develop and foster policy strategies and activities to improve pan-European pain management.

This event constitutes a unique opportunity for you, together with a broad range of Nordic and European healthcare stakeholders, health care professionals, pain advocacy groups, politicians, insurances, representatives of health authorities, regulators, and budget holders to create a foundation for the advancement of pain medicine policies and programs, both at a national and European level. The urgency of the matter is evident.

Chronic pain is one of the major health challenges in Denmark and Europe today. It poses a heavy burden on both individuals and on the societies, including an enormous negative economic impact on our healthcare and social security systems.

- 20,2 % - about 1.1 million Danes suffer from chronic pain<sup>ii</sup>
  - 17 % of these people have been on sick leave during the past 14 days<sup>iii</sup>
  - 28 % of these people needed to stop working<sup>iv</sup>
- Chronic pain causes a loss of 1 million working days each year<sup>v</sup>
- It costs more than DKK 40 billion each year<sup>vi</sup>:
  - DKK 2.2 billion due to doctor contacts
  - DKK 2 billion due to sick leave
  - DKK 35 billion due to early retirement



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The SIP 2012 symposium is hosted by the Danish Association for Chronic Pain Patients (FAKS). The scientific framework of SIP 2012 is under the responsibility of the European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC®). The pharmaceutical company Grünenthal GmbH is responsible for funding and non-financial support (e.g. logistical support). The scientific aims of the SIP 2012 symposium have been endorsed by a large number of pain advocacy and scientific organisations.



In the first half of 2012, Denmark will host the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Supported by a large group of Danish and European stakeholders, SIP 2012 aims to raise awareness during the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the societal impact of pain by organising SIP 2012 in Denmark.

The format of the symposium has been designed to maximise interaction and in-depth dialogue between participants from a broad range of EU and national stakeholders. The aim is to develop concrete solutions, based on state-of-the-art knowledge, with the potential of gaining acceptance and endorsement among both European and national policy and decision makers. Hence, the symposium begins with two days (May 29-30) of special group meetings, and workshops addressing the societal impact of chronic pain from various perspectives.

During the plenary session on the third day of the symposium (May 31) the workshop results will be presented together with topics on pain education and research. Finally, an action-plan about the pan-European pain management implementation will be discussed.

The meeting language during the workshops and plenary session will be English.

For further information regarding SIP 2012, including registration, accommodation and venue, please refer to the attached announcement flyer.

Additional information is also available at [www.sip-platform.eu](http://www.sip-platform.eu).

Use this opportunity to advance chronic pain management and join the workshops!

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Graven-Nielsen, DMSc, PhD  
EFIC Councillor, Denmark

Pia Frederiksen  
President FAKS

Prof. Hans G. Kress, MD, PhD  
President EFIC®



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## SIP 2012 Workshops 30 May, 2012

### **Workshop 1: Chronic Pain as a disease in its own right**

Chronic pain as a disease is yet to be fully accepted outside the expert community. Nevertheless, the evidence and rationale for regarding chronic pain as a disease in its own right is growing. By joining this workshop you will get the opportunity to contribute to a constructive and well-informed discussion around the medical and healthcare managerial implications of such a development.

The workshop is of particular relevance to delegates representing health authorities, healthcare commissioners and health policy makers.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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### **Workshop 2: Active & Healthy Ageing: Pain management for an improved quality of life**

Europe is ageing. A more active, healthy and pain-free ageing population makes sense for obvious reasons. It promotes people to remain longer in the workforce and keeps the costs of health- and homecare providers at bay. The workshop will be a chance for you to exchange best practises on improving quality of life in the context of chronic pain, and influence a position on outcome criteria, health care indicators and tools to document the quality of pain management and its societal impact in relation to an ageing population.

The workshop is of particular relevance to delegates representing public health agencies, health- and homecare commissioners, labour market organisations, senior citizens advocates and policy makers.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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### **Workshop 3: Improving pain management: Delivering results in pain management; best practise cooperation models**



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There is good evidence that pain treatment programmes can reduce suffering, improve medical outcomes and maintain people in the workforce. Yet, we lack internationally accepted quality indicators for pain management, which are becoming more and more important for effective healthcare commissioning and funding. At this work shop you will know more about promising commissioning and cooperation models, while discussing best practice and measurable deliverables in pain management.

The workshop is of particular relevance to delegates representing social security agencies, health care providers, health care commissioners, patient advocates and health authorities.

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**Workshop 4: Benchmarking, education and research programmes on pain management in the European Union**

In order to improve pain management environment at a national level, substantial investment in research and education will be necessary. The benefits of pan-European collaboration to advance our understanding and management of chronic pain are obvious. At the workshop you will exchange best practices on current international benchmark, educational and research programmes in pain management with Nordic and European counterparts. As a participant you will have the opportunity to impact a proposal for minimum requirements on education and research at national and EU level.

The workshop is of particular relevance to delegates representing health authorities, academia and policy makers.

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Workshop 5: Establishing multi-stakeholder pain platforms in Europe**

In May 2011 the symposium “Societal Impact of Pain” took place in the European parliament. An important outcome was the “SIP – Road Map to Action”<sup>vii</sup>, which outlines how the EU institutions and member states could effectively address the societal impact of pain at both EU and national level. The objective of this workshop is to discuss and share local and national best practices. As a



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participant you will be a part of the development of a practical guide to national implementation of the SIP Roadmap for Action.

The workshop is of particular relevance to delegates representing health care providers, health care commissioners, policy maker, patient advocates and health authorities.

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<sup>ii</sup> Sjøgren P, Ekholm O, Peuckmann V, Grønbaek M. Epidemiology of chronic pain in Denmark: an update. *Pain* 2009; 3(3):287-92.

<sup>iii</sup> Eriksen J, Jensen MK, Sjøgren P, Ekholm O, Rasmussen NK. Epidemiology of chronic non-malignant pain in Denmark. *Pain* 2003; 106:221-228.

<sup>iv</sup> Statens Institut for Fokesundhed, Kronisk Smerte, Ugens tal, uge 17, [http://www.si-folkesundhed.dk/Ugens%20tal%20for%20folkesundhed/Ugens%20tal/Uge\\_17\\_2005.aspx](http://www.si-folkesundhed.dk/Ugens%20tal%20for%20folkesundhed/Ugens%20tal/Uge_17_2005.aspx), Eriksen J, Jensen MK, Sjøgren P, Ekholm O, Rasmussen NK. Epidemiology of chronic non-malignant pain in Denmark. *Pain* 2003; 106:221-228.

<sup>v</sup> Eriksen, j & al : Epidemiologiske forhold vedrørende langvarige/kroniske noncancersmertetilstande i Danmark , U.f.l. 2006.

<sup>vi</sup> [http://www.sbu.se/upload/Publikationer/Content0/1/smarta\\_sammanfattning.pdf](http://www.sbu.se/upload/Publikationer/Content0/1/smarta_sammanfattning.pdf)  
[http://www.irf.dk/download/pdf/stormoede\\_2009/smertebehandling\\_almen\\_praksis.pdf](http://www.irf.dk/download/pdf/stormoede_2009/smertebehandling_almen_praksis.pdf)  
<http://samvirke.dk/magasin/2011/08.html>

<sup>vii</sup> The result of SIP 2011 was a "Road Map for Action" consisting of seven action points:

*Road Map for Action*

We call on European governments and the EU Institutions to:

1. Acknowledge that pain is an important factor limiting the quality of life and should be a top priority of the national health care system.
2. Activate patients, their family, relatives and care-givers through the availability of information and access to pain diagnosis and management.
3. Raise awareness of the medical, financial and social impact that pain and its management has on the patients, their family, care-givers, employers, and the healthcare system.
4. Raise awareness of the importance of prevention, diagnosis and management of pain amongst all healthcare professionals, notably through further education.



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5. Strengthen pain research (basic science, clinical, epidemiological) as a priority in EU framework programme and in equivalent research road maps at national and EU level, addressing the societal impact of pain and the burden of chronic pain on the health, social, and employment sectors.
  6. Establish an EU platform for the exchange, comparison and benchmarking of best practices between member states on pain management and its impact on society.
  7. Use the EU platform to monitor trends in pain management, services, and outcomes and provide guidelines to harmonize effective levels of pain management to improve the quality of life of European Citizens.



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