

## **EFIC and Grünenthal Award Grants Totalling € 100,000 for Five Top Young Researchers**

**Aachen, Germany, November 22, 2006. Winners of the 2006 EFIC Grünenthal Grant (E-G-G) today presented their proposals for innovative and exploratory clinical and human experimental research projects in the field of pain to an audience of international opinion leaders and experts in pain therapy. The E-G-G will support these projects with funds totalling €100,000, provided by Grünenthal and administered by the research committee of EFIC (European Federation of Chapters of the International Association for the Study of Pain).**

The funded projects include a functional analysis of a known pain-related gene, MRI imaging of pain processing in the brain, and a psychological study of pain perception between parents and children in pain. The grant also includes a fellowship to assess the impact on the brain of pain from an injury to an extremity. The winners of the E-G-G 2006 are Ulrike Bingel, MD, PhD (Hamburg, Germany); Liesbet Goubert, PhD (Ghent, Belgium); Christian Maihöfner, MD, PhD (Erlangen, Germany); and Prof. Carla Nau, MD, PhD (Erlangen, Germany). The fellowship has been awarded to Phillip Krause, MD, PhD (Munich, Germany).

“It is an honour to be able to recognize young scientists and enable their projects to move from an innovative idea into clinical study. All of the funded projects are exciting and represent critical steps toward a better understanding of how pain functions and how we may better be able to treat patients,” stated Prof. Serdar Erdine, MD, President of the EFIC and Director, Department of Algology, Istanbul University Faculty of Medicine.

“Grünenthal is convinced that working with EFIC and providing the funding for this grant will make a long-term impact on improving pain treatment,” Rob Koremans, MD, Member of the Executive Board of Grünenthal GmbH, stated. “Pain goes far beyond being just a symptom. Better treatment of pain means not only less suffering for patients, but it can be fundamental to the healing process and for increasing the quality of life for many who have chronic pain.”

“The E-G-G is a great opportunity because the grant encourages you to take a calculated risk that might otherwise preclude you from getting research funding,” said Prof. Carla Nau, MD, PhD, Friedrich-Alexander-University, Erlangen-Nuremberg Department of Anaesthesiology. “Another difference is the focus on clinical and human pain research, which is so important to help decrease the existing gap between our current understanding of pain mechanisms and our ability to treat it effectively.”

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The EFIC and Grünenthal will begin accepting submissions for the 2007 E-G-G on October 1, 2006. More information on the E-G-G is available at <http://www.e-g-g.info>.

#### **About EFIC**

The European Federation of Chapters of the International Association for the Study of Pain (EFIC) is a multidisciplinary professional organization in the field of pain science and medicine, made up of the 29 European chapters of IASP (International Association for the Study of Pain) representing 33 countries. Established in 1993, EFIC's chapters represent close to 18,000 scientists, physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists and other healthcare professionals across Europe who study pain and treat patients in pain. EFIC's aims are to advance research, education, clinical management and professional practice related to pain, and to serve as an authoritative, scientifically based resource concerning policy issues related to pain and its management.

#### **About Grünenthal**

Grünenthal researches, develops and produces high therapeutic value medicines and markets them throughout the world. Grünenthal is an expert in drugs for pain therapy and gynaecology and a leader in the field of intelligent, user-friendly drug delivery technologies. Grünenthal is an independent, family-owned company with a long history of international cooperations. The company was founded in 1946 and has its headquarters in Germany. We supply our markets from seven production sites around the world and have affiliates in 27 countries. Grünenthal employs about 1,900 people in Germany and about 4,700 world-wide. Sales in 2005 amounted to approximately 777 million Euros.

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