

New Impulses for Pain Research in Europe

The EFIC Grünenthal Grant

Aachen/Stolberg, 23 May 2005. Recent studies reveal that more than 5 per cent of the European population suffer from chronic pain with serious personal and social consequences which are constantly escalating in a steadily ageing society. Research into the causes of chronic pain and ways of treating it is a primary objective of the European pain societies. The EFIC (European Federation of IASP Chapters) is now for the second time awarding research grants totalling 100,000 Euros, donated by Grünenthal GmbH (EGG: EFIC GRÜNENTHAL GRANT). Prizewinners will be presented at a celebration on Friday, 10 June 2005.

The decision as to which scientists will be sponsored with which projects lies with the EFIC Research Committee. Purely scientific projects are sponsored. "Traditional research prizes consider the results of work already performed and therefore often tend to be awarded to specialists in established research centres. In contrast, the EFIC Grünenthal Grant (EGG) sponsors planned projects before they start. In particular EGG focuses on sponsoring young scientists and the dissemination of innovative pain research throughout Europe." explains Rob Koremans, Managing Director of Grünenthal GmbH.

This year sees a variety of different approaches ranging from imaging of chronic pain processes in the brain to the psychological management of pain patients following cervical spine injuries. The five sponsored scientists come from the UK, Denmark and Germany. Four of them are receiving a grant of 20,000 Euros each for their research project. One of the prizewinners is from Aachen: Professor Jens Ellrich who submitted a project on the long-term control of pain processing. Studies in volunteers are designed to investigate and depict the processes occurring during pain perception in the brain.

The fifth prizewinner is receiving 15,000 Euros to learn a special research technique at a different institute. The award ceremony will be attended by international pain specialists and the Presidents of the World Pain Society (Professor Sir Michael Bond) and the European Pain Society (Professor Serdar Erdine).

The winners of EGG 2005: Prof. Jens Ellrich (Germany), Dr. Anthony R. Hobson (United Kingdom), Dr. Helge Kasch (Denmark), Dr. Irene Tracey (United Kingdom) and Dr. Christina Lioffi (United Kingdom).

Grünenthal is a research-based, independent, family-owned, pharmaceutical company, operating internationally and concentrating on pain therapy, gynecology and new technologies. It was founded in Stolberg in 1946. The operative unit in Germany is Grünenthal GmbH located in Aachen, where production, research and development are concentrated. Grünenthal GmbH is currently represented in 25 countries with affiliates in virtually all European countries. Grünenthal GmbH has

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