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### **New Impulses for Pain Research in Europe The EFIC Grünenthal Grant**

According to recent studies, more than 5 percent of the European population suffer from chronic pain with serious personal and social consequences culminating in a society that is becoming older and older. Research into the causes of chronic pain and ways of treating it is a primary objective of European pain societies. The European Association of IASP Chapters (EFIC) is now awarding annual grants to young scientists totalling 100,000 Euros, which will be donated by Grünenthal GmbH (EGG: EFIC GRÜNENTHAL GRANT).

The decision as to which scientists will be sponsored lies solely with the EFIC Research Committee. Purely scientific projects will be sponsored.

"This is the first time that the grants have been awarded and we were very astonished by the 49 applications from young top-class scientists. This made it very difficult for us to make a selection", as the EFIC President, Prof. Harald Breivik from the University of Oslo, put it.

The projects were based on a variety of approaches ranging from psychological basic research to depicting pain-processing systems in the human brain. The seven scientists whose work will be supported with a grant of 14,000 Euros each will be presented by Prof. Harald Breivik at small ceremony in Aachen-Eilendorf on December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004.

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) will sponsor planned projects before they start. In particular EGG will focus on sponsoring young scientists and the dissemination of innovative pain research throughout Europe.

Grünenthal is a research-based, independent, family-owned, pharmaceutical company, operating internationally and concentrating on pain therapy and gynaecology. 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 23 countries with affiliates in virtually all European countries. Grünenthal GmbH has production sites in seven countries. In 2004 Grünenthal GmbH employed about 1,850 people in Germany and 4,700 world-wide.