

## Tracing the origins of pain: EFIC-Grunenthal Grant winners for 2008 announced

Brussels, Belgium / Aachen, Germany, 23 September, 2008. The European Federation of Chapters of the International Association for the Study of Pain (EFIC) and the pharmaceutical company Grunenthal recently announced the winners of the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant 2008. Each year the grant supports young international scientists in carrying out their excellent work in innovative and exploratory clinical and human experimental pain research. This year 36 young researchers applied for funds totaling €100,000.

This year the EFIC-Research Committee decided to support the five following research projects with €20,000 each:

- **Marijana Bras, University Hospital Centre, Zagreb Croatia**  
'The association of COMT polymorphisms with chronic low back pain in combat related PTSD'
- **Emanuel van den Broeke, University Medical Centre St Radboud, Nijmegen, The Netherlands**  
'Electrophysiological changes in the brain associated with the induction of nociceptive long-term potentiation: An EEG study in healthy subjects'
- **Kate Limer, University of Manchester, Great Britain**  
'Investigated the role of the pain modulating DREAM pathway genes in chronic musculoskeletal pain'
- **André Mouraux, Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium**  
'Steady-state evoked potentials to explore the cortical processes underlying the perception of pain'
- **Gorazd Svetcic, University Hospital of Bern, Switzerland**  
'Determining optimal drug regimen in individual patients with chronic pain'

Professor Margarita Puig, M.D., Chair of the EFIC Scientific Committee, Hospital del Mar Barcelona, Spain, and Professor Giustino Varrassi, M.D., EFIC President, L'Aquila University, Italy, comments the choice: "The disease of pain and therefore the research activities relating to this have a very high relevance for our population. Suffering from permanent pain has not only social consequences for the pain patients but also for their relatives. Also the costs set in for treatments have to be taken into account and should not be underestimated. For this reason we appreciated getting so many highly qualified applications for this grant and selecting these five winners was not easy for us."

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The prize award ceremony will take place in Aachen on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Wolfgang Becker, Member of the Executive Board of Grunenthal GmbH, looks forward to this ceremony: "I am tensely awaiting the ceremony, again with renowned experts, as well as the next call for applications for the 2009 EFIC-Grunenthal Grant, which will be issued in October 2008.

According to recent studies, more than fifteen percent of the European population suffers from chronic pain, which may have serious personal and social consequences for their quality of life. Due to this large number of affected people, EFIC and Grunenthal dedicate themselves to support young researchers in their projects on clinical and human experimental pain research.

More information on the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant and this year's winners is available at [www.e-g-g.info](http://www.e-g-g.info).

#### **About EFIC**

The European Federation of IASP chapters (EFIC®) is a multidisciplinary professional organization in the field of pain science and medicine, made up of the 31 European Chapters of IASP (International Association for the Study of Pain). Established in 1993, by Prof. Ulf Lindblom, EFIC's 31 constituent chapters represent 34 countries and close to 19,000 scientists, physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists and other healthcare professionals across Europe, who study pain and treat patients in pain. [www.efic.org](http://www.efic.org)

#### **About Grunenthal**

Grunenthal is an expert in pain therapy and gynaecology and a pioneer in intelligent, user-friendly drug delivery technologies. The company discovers, develops, produces and markets high therapeutic value pharmaceuticals that contribute to patients' ability to control their own lives. Grunenthal is an independent, family-owned German company with companies in 29 countries all over the world. Founded in 1946, the company employs 1,900 people in Germany and 5,300 worldwide. In 2007, Grunenthal achieved revenues of 846 million Euros. More information: [www.grunenthal.com](http://www.grunenthal.com)

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