



# PRESS KIT

## 6th Congress of the European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC)

September 9 -12, 2009, Lisbon/Portugal

### LIST OF CONTENTS

- **Press Release**

- Contributing to a better understanding of pain: Findings from research supported by the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant presented at EFIC congress

- **Biographies**

- Dr. Liesbet Goubert, PhD
- Prof. Dr. Carla Nau, MD
- Dr. Markus Ploner, MD
- Dr. D. S. Veldhuijzen, PhD
- Prof. Irene Tracey, PhD

- **Background**

- EFIC-Grunenthal Grant: Promoting innovative pain research
- EFIC-Grunenthal Grant: Winners and projects 2004-2008
- European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC)



## **Contributing to a better understanding of pain**

### **Findings from research supported by the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant presented at EFIC congress**

**Lisbon/Aachen, 10 September, 2009. Basic research is essential for a better understanding of pain. At the sixth triennial congress of the European Federation of Chapters of the International Association for the Study of Pain (EFIC®) in Lisbon, four young scientists presented the results of their pain research on subjects ranging from parental empathy over genetic aspects of nerve fibre function to neuro-imaging of pain mechanisms. All projects were supported by the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant provided by EFIC in cooperation with pain expert Grunenthal GmbH. The grant offers young scientists funding for projects in innovative and exploratory clinical and human experimental pain research and is sponsored by Grunenthal with € 100,000 per year.**

“The research that has been presented today demonstrates the success of the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant, and being a winner of the grant myself, I very well recall what this support meant for my work,” said Professor Irene Tracey, University of Oxford, UK, and EFIC-Grunenthal Grant winner in 2005. “Winning the grant provided the necessary funding at a critical time to pursue an exciting new line of research. It was from this start that a large programme of research, further funding and several publications have been made possible and I am extremely grateful to the grant organisers and committee for their most generous support.”

At the scientific symposium held at the EFIC congress in Lisbon EFIC-Grunenthal Grant winners of the years 2006 and 2007 presented findings from their research, giving an impressive overview on how their work will contribute to a better understanding of pain.

#### **Facing their child's pain: the importance of parental empathy**

Dr Liesbet Goubert, EFIC-Grunenthal Grant winner in 2006, investigated how parents' characteristics as well as children's characteristics affect the parental empathic responses towards their child suffering from pain. She found that a higher frequency of parental catastrophising thoughts about their child's pain was related to higher estimates of their child's pain, more distress when faced with their child in pain, and a higher tendency to stop their child from doing a particular pain-provoking test.

These findings provide further evidence for the biopsychosocial conceptualisation of pain, and in particular for the importance of social dimensions in pain. Previous research has demonstrated the impact of parental behaviours upon child's pain and pain-related distress. However, almost no research was available on determinants of parental responses to their child's pain, and on the underlying processes of how parents may have an impact upon their child. The research conducted by Dr Goubert can contribute to a better understanding of these processes and, in sum, further attests to the importance of including parents in paediatric pain management programmes.

### **The role of Nav1.7 protein in small nerve fibre function and pain**

In her research, Professor Carla Nau, EFIC-Grunenthal Grant winner in 2006, focused on patients with erythermalgia, a rare disorder characterised by recurrent attacks of red, hot and painful distal extremities. Some families with autosomal dominant primary erythermalgia and some sporadic cases carry mutations of gene SCN9a. SCN9a encodes the voltage-gated sodium channel Nav1.7, which is preferentially expressed in nociceptive and sympathetic neurons.

In the project, SCN9a and other genes encoding pain-related sodium channels in patients with erythermalgia have been analysed and sequence variants have been functionally characterised. Impairment of small nerve fibres has also been assessed in these patients. Correlation of functional genetic with clinical experimental data has helped provide insight into the heterogeneous pathophysiology of erythermalgia and into the role of Nav1.7 in small nerve fibre function and pain.

### **Gamma oscillations and human pain perception**

Dr Markus Ploner, EFIC-Grunenthal Grant winner in 2007, used electroencephalography to investigate how the involuntary attentional effects of pain are subserved in the human brain. His results show that the attentional demands of pain are closely related to changes in periodic neuronal activity such as neuronal gamma oscillations. These effects of pain on neuronal gamma oscillations result in an attentional amplification of pain processing at the expense of ongoing behaviour.

Abnormal increases of the involuntary attentional effects of pain have been implicated in the pathogenesis of chronic pain. Thus, the investigation of pain-related gamma oscillations as a neuronal substrate of the attentional effects of pain may open a new window towards a better understanding of chronic pain.

### **Sympathetic arousal and pain in fibromyalgia**

The research project of Dr Judy Veldhuijzen, EFIC-Grunenthal Grant winner in 2007, investigates autonomic nervous system dysfunction in fibromyalgia patients. First study findings indicate sympathetic hyperactivity in fibromyalgia, particularly when patients are at rest. Pain in fibromyalgia was found to be closely associated to the psychological factors reactivity and perceived stress. Pain scores and baseline sympathetic activation correlated to brain activity in the ventromedial prefrontal cortex in fibromyalgia patients.

The results indicate that the autonomic nervous system is dysfunctional in patients with fibromyalgia, and that the cortical representation of sympathetic activation may potentially underlie pain augmentation in fibromyalgia. Psychological factors closely associated to sympathetic arousal also seem to be important. These findings provide new insights into the mechanisms of pain in fibromyalgia and may help in developing novel therapies acting on the autonomic nervous system or targeting psychological factors involved in pain in fibromyalgia.

### **About EFIC**

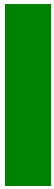
The European Federation of IASP<sup>®</sup> Chapters (EFIC<sup>®</sup>) is a multidisciplinary professional organisation in the field of pain science and medicine, made up of over 34 European Chapters of IASP<sup>®</sup>. Established in 1993, by Professor Ulf Lindblom, EFIC's constituent chapters represent close to 20,000 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 passionate about globally being the preferred partner in pain management for patients, health care professionals and payors. The corporation drives innovation to expand European market leadership in moderate to severe pain. Grunenthal is an independent, family-owned German corporation with companies in 34 countries all over the world. Founded in 1946, the corporation employs 2,000 people in Germany and 5,200 worldwide. In 2008, Grunenthal achieved revenues of about 864 million Euros. More information:

[www.grunenthal.com](http://www.grunenthal.com)



**GRÜNENTHAL GMBH**  
BACKGROUND



**Contacts:**

Grunenthal GmbH

**Dr Nicole Foellmer**

Phone: +49 241 569-2858

Fax: +49 241 569-52858

[nicole.foellmer@grunenthal.com](mailto:nicole.foellmer@grunenthal.com)

Hering Schuppener Healthcare

**Bjoern Haertel**

Phone: +49 40 36 80 75-21

Fax: +49 40 36 80 75-99

[bhaertel@hs-healthcare.de](mailto:bhaertel@hs-healthcare.de)

Current press materials are available in the press section at [www.grunenthal.com](http://www.grunenthal.com).

# CURRICULUM VITAE

---

**Liesbet Goubert, PhD**

# CURRICULUM VITAE

---



## **Liesbet Goubert, PhD**

Ghent University, Belgium  
Department of Experimental Clinical and  
Health Psychology

Contact details:

Tel: +32 (0) 9264 62 62

Fax +32 (0) 9264 64 89

Email: [liesbet.goubert@ugent.be](mailto:liesbet.goubert@ugent.be)

---

Liesbet Goubert was born in Bruges, Belgium, in 1976. Due to her life-long intrigue with the complexities of the human brain, she started her study of Psychology in 1994. She became particularly intrigued by the mind-body interaction and started her PhD as a researcher of the Fund for Scientific Research in 2004, which focused on the role of fear-avoidance beliefs in non-specific chronic low back pain. She also experimentally analysed the processes of two cognitive-behavioural techniques (exposure and attentional distraction) to reduce disability. She completed her PhD in 2004, and worked as a postdoctoral fellow of the Fund for Scientific research between 2004 and 2007, in which she shifted her research focus to interpersonal processes of pain.

Since October 2007, she has worked as an assistant professor at the department of Experimental-Clinical and Health Psychology at Ghent University, Belgium. Her main research interests are

- how pain signals in others are detected and interpreted
- its consequences for observers' affective and behavioural responses
- the effects and processes involved in observational learning in the context of pain, and
- interpersonal processes of goal regulation and the association with quality of life.

CURRICULUM VITAE

---

**Professor Carla Nau, MD, PhD**



# CURRICULUM VITAE

---



## **Professor Carla Nau, MD, PhD**

Universitaetsklinikum Erlangen, Germany  
Department of Anaesthesiology

### Contact details:

Tel: +49 (0) 9131-85 33 103

Fax +49 (0) 9131-85 39 399

Email: [carla.nau@kfa.imed.uni-erlangen.de](mailto:carla.nau@kfa.imed.uni-erlangen.de)

---

Carla Nau is professor for anaesthesiology with the focus on Pain Research at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg. She is head of the Interdisciplinary Clinical Research Group at the Department of Anaesthesiology in Erlangen, which investigates the determinants and modulators of postoperative pain.

She finished Medical School from the University Giessen in 1994 and started a residency in Anaesthesiology. She received a doctoral degree (PhD) in 1996. From 1997-1999, she was a postdoctoral research fellow at the Department of Anesthesia Research Laboratories at Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. In 2000 she was awarded a renowned Emmy Noether-Scholarship by the German Research Council (DFG) that enabled her to engage in independent scientific work linked with heading a career development group at the Department of Anaesthesiology in Erlangen. She received her postdoctoral lecturer qualification (habilitation) and *venia legendi* for "Experimental Anaesthesiology" in 2002 and was board certified for anaesthesiology in 2005. Since 2006, she is professor for anaesthesiology.

Her research focuses on the structure and function of transmembrane proteins in the peripheral nervous system involved in nociception and on the molecular mechanisms of nociception and its plasticity under tissue injury and inflammation.

The project, which has been funded by the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant, focuses on patients with erythralgia, a rare disorder characterized by recurrent attacks of red, hot and painful distal extremities. In some families with autosomal dominant primary erythralgia and in sporadic cases, mutations of gene SCN9a have been found. SCN9a encodes the voltage-gated sodium channel Nav1.7, which is preferentially expressed in nociceptive and sympathetic neurons. In patients with erythralgia, the SCN9A has been analyzed and sequence variants have been functionally characterized. Impairment of small nerve fibers has also been assessed in these patients. Correlation of functional genetic with clinical experimental data has helped provide insight into the role of Nav1.7 in small nerve fiber function and pain.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

---

**Markus Ploner, MD**

# CURRICULUM VITAE

---



## **Markus Ploner, MD**

Technische Universitaet Muenchen, Germany  
Department of Neurology

### Contact details:

Tel: +49 (0) 89 4140-46 08

Fax +49 (0) 89 4140-76 81

Email: [ploner@lrz.tu-muenchen.de](mailto:ploner@lrz.tu-muenchen.de)

---

Markus Ploner was born in Cologne, Germany. He decided to become a doctor and obtained his MD at the University of Cologne. He was always fascinated by the brain and specialised in neurology at the University of Duesseldorf. Markus likes to combine clinical work and research. His research focuses on basic questions on pain processing in the human brain by using electrophysiology and functional imaging. For him, pain is a unique and multifaceted window to brain function.

In 2007 he moved with his family to Oxford to spend a year as a Humboldt Research Fellow with Irene Tracey at the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain. Since 2008 he has been working as a consultant of neurology at the Technische Universitaet Muenchen. He is married and has 4 children between the ages of 1 and 12 years.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

---

**D. S. Veldhuijzen, PhD**

# CURRICULUM VITAE

---



## **D. S. Veldhuijzen, PhD**

University Medical Center Utrecht, The Netherlands  
Department of Anaesthesiology

### Contact details:

Tel: +31 (0) 88 75 508 50

Fax +31 (0) 88 75 555 11

Email: [D.S.Veldhuijzen@umcutrecht.nl](mailto:D.S.Veldhuijzen@umcutrecht.nl)

---

Judy Veldhuijzen was born in 1975 in Tiel, a village close to Utrecht in the centre of the Netherlands. In 2000, she completed her Masters degree in Biological psychology and Neuropsychology at the University of Utrecht. For her PhD thesis she worked at the department of Psychopharmacology where she investigated the effects of pain medication on brain function, cognition and the ability to drive a car. After receiving her PhD she spent two years in the USA as a Postdoctoral Fellow working with Prof Joel Greenspan at the University of Maryland. Her work focused on sensory testing of central post stroke pain patients, and functional brain imaging of sex differences in pain.

Today she is working as an assistant Professor at the Pain Clinic in the University Medical Center Utrecht in the Netherlands. Her project, which is supported by the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant, investigates autonomic nervous system functioning in fibromyalgia.

# CURRICULUM VITAE

---

**Professor Irene Tracey, PhD**

# CURRICULUM VITAE

---



## **Professor Irene Tracey, PhD**

University of Oxford, UK  
Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics  
Department of Clinical Neurology

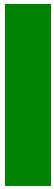
Contact details:  
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 222 724  
Email: [irene@fmrib.ox.ac.uk](mailto:irene@fmrib.ox.ac.uk)

---

Irene Tracey is the Nuffield Professor of Anaesthetic Science and Director of the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain (FMRIB) at the University of Oxford. Over the past 10 years her multidisciplinary research team has contributed significantly to a better understanding of pain perception and nociceptive processing within the injured and non-injured human CNS using techniques such as FMRI and EEG. Her team members are experts in understanding the neural basis for pain relief, induced either psychologically or pharmacologically, and have pioneered the use of FMRI for drug discovery. The FMRIB Centre is a recognised world-class MR imaging laboratory that integrates research into key neurological and neuroscientific problems with cutting-edge developments in MR physics and data analysis.

Irene Tracey performed her undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Oxford where she graduated with First Class Honors, winning the Gibb's Prize. She held a post-doctoral position at Harvard Medical School before returning to the UK in 1996 to help co-establish the FMRIB Centre, and became tenured in 2001 at the University of Oxford. She is a newly appointed council member to the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), and a fellow by special election to the Royal College of Anaesthetists. In 2008 she won their triennial Patrick Wall award for her contributions to pain research.

She is married to Dr Myles Allen, a climate physicist, and they have three wonderful and very lively children: a daughter, Colette, and two sons, John and Jim.



## **EFIC-Grunenthal Grant**

### **Promoting innovative pain research**

The EFIC-Grunenthal Grant is provided by the European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC®) in cooperation with pain expert Grunenthal GmbH and offers young scientists support for funding projects in innovative and exploratory clinical and human experimental pain research. Grunenthal donates a total of € 100,000 for the annual grant to be divided between 4-5 applicants.

A better understanding of pain is the basis for an improved management of pain. But obtaining funding for such research projects is not easy. This is especially true for young scientists and the reason why EFIC together with Grunenthal decided to actively sponsor research that is under way or still planned instead of honouring research projects already conducted. This makes the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant fit to really promote and facilitate pain research.

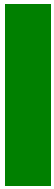
From 2004 until 2008, 27 young scientists from 10 European countries received up to € 25,000 funding by the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant. Subjects of the supported research projects range from genetic aspects over neuro-imaging of pain mechanisms to psychopathological and behavioural aspects associated with pain.

### **Decision made by EFIC Subcommittee on Research**

The decisions on the recipients of the grant are entirely made by the EFIC Subcommittee on Research, which consists of internationally renowned specialists in the field of pain science and medicine. The decision is based on the following quality criteria:

1. Strength of the applicant – Including training, research publication record (relevance, quality of journals) and recommendations.
2. Novelty of the research question – Including societal and scientific importance. This may include plans to obtain data in support of a future application to a major granting institution. Hypothesis testing is preferred over empirical data collection. Exploratory research on particularly interesting ideas is encouraged, even if there is a risk of failure.
3. Quality of the research plan – The plan should lead to a clear answer to the question(s) posed, within the time and budget available. Projects that are overly ambitious have to be avoided.





Interested young scientists located in any country with an EFIC chapter (see [www.efic.org](http://www.efic.org)) can submit their application to the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant online at [www.e-g-g.info](http://www.e-g-g.info).

**EFIC Subcommittee on Research**

Prof Martin Koltzenburg, FR CP (Chairman)  
London, United Kingdom

Prof Michelle Curatolo, MD, PhD  
Bern, Switzerland

Prof Hans Georg Kress, MD, PhD  
Vienna, Austria

Prof Luis Villanueva, DDS, PhD  
Paris, France

Prof Oliver H.G. Wilder-Smith, MBChB MD, PhD  
Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Prof Hanns U. Zeilhofer, MD  
Zurich, Switzerland

**EFIC-Grunenthal Grant ceremony and applications 2010**

The EFIC-Grunenthal Grant winners 2009 will present their research projects at the official prize ceremony at Grunenthal in Aachen on December 4th, 2009. EFIC and Grunenthal will continue cooperate in order to support innovative pain research in the future. Applications for the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant 2010 will be accepted starting end of 2009.

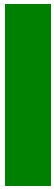
**About EFIC**

The European Federation of IASP® Chapters (EFIC®) is a multidisciplinary professional organisation in the field of pain science and medicine, made up of over 34 European Chapters of IASP®. Established in 1993, by Professor Ulf Lindblom, EFIC's constituent chapters represent close to 20,000 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 passionate about globally being the preferred partner in pain management for patients, health care professionals and payors. The corporation



**GRUNENTHAL GMBH**  
BACKGROUND



drives innovation to expand European market leadership in moderate to severe pain. Grunenthal is an independent, family-owned German corporation with companies in 34 countries all over the world. Founded in 1946, the corporation employs 2,000 people in Germany and 5,200 worldwide. In 2008, Grunenthal achieved revenues of about 864 million Euros. More information:

[www.grunenthal.com](http://www.grunenthal.com)

**Contacts:**

Grunenthal GmbH

**Dr Nicole Foellmer**

Phone: +49 241 569-2858

Fax: +49 241 569-52858

[nicole.foellmer@grunenthal.com](mailto:nicole.foellmer@grunenthal.com)

Hering Schuppener Healthcare

**Bjoern Haertel**

Phone: +49 40 36 80 75-21

Fax: +49 40 36 80 75-99

[bhaertel@hs-healthcare.de](mailto:bhaertel@hs-healthcare.de)

Current press materials are available in the press section at [www.grunenthal.com](http://www.grunenthal.com).

## **EFIC-Grunenthal Grant: Winners and projects 2004-2008**

### **EFIC-Grunenthal Grant 2008**

Marijana Bras, MD, PhD, Croatia

*The association of COMT polymorphisms with chronic low back pain in combat related PTSD*

Emanuel van den Broeke, MSc., The Netherlands

*The response of the brain to non-painful somatosensory stimuli before and after the induction of nociceptive long-term potentiation: An EEG study in healthy subjects.*

Kate Limer, PhD, United Kingdom

*Investigated the role of the pain modulating DREAM pathway genes in chronic musculoskeletal pain*

André Mouraux, MD, PhD, Belgium

*Steady-state evoked potentials to explore the cortical processes underlying the perception of pain*

Gorazd Svetlic, MD, Switzerland

*Determining optimal drug regimen in individual patients with chronic pain*

### **EFIC-Grunenthal Grant 2007**

Thomas Graven-Nielsen, PhD, MDSc, Denmark

*Referred pain related to 'Memory' in the nociceptive system*

Valéry Legrain, PhD, Belgium

*Behavioural and neurophysiological explorations of cognitive modulations of pain*

Christian Netzer, MD, Germany

*Comprehensive genetic analysis of the calcitonin gene-related-peptide pathway in migraine with aura*

Markus Ploner, MD, Germany

*Gamma oscillations and human pain perception*

D. S. Veldhuijzen, PhD, The Netherlands

*Functional imaging of sympathetic arousal in fibromyalgia*

### **EFIC-Grunenthal Grant 2006**

Ulrike Bingel, MD, Germany

*Imaging how pain interferes with information processing in other modalities*

Liesbet Goubert, PhD, Belgium

*Facing their child's pain: the importance of parental empathy*

Christian Maihöfner, MD, PhD, Germany

*Functional imaging of C-fibre-induced plasticity within the human brain*

Carla Nau, MD, Germany

*Erythralgia as a model disease to assess contribution of Nav1.7 to small nerve fibre function and pain*

Phillip Krause, MD, Germany

*Interhemispheric inhibition in patients with complex regional pain syndrome type I*

### **EFIC-Grunenthal Grant 2005**

Prof Jens Ellrich, MD, PhD, Germany

*Long-term depression of human pain processing*

Dr Anthony R. Hobson, PhD, United Kingdom

*Can somatic allodynia be used as a biomarker of central sensitisation in a human model of visceral injury?*

Helge Kasch, MD, PhD, Denmark

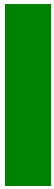
*Psychological intervention in chronic whiplash syndrome. A placebo controlled randomized study*

Irene Tracey, MA, PhD, United Kingdom

*High resolution FMRI of anti- and pro- nociceptive processing in the human brainstem of patients with IBS and FM*

Dr Christina Lioffi, CPsychol, United Kingdom

*Fellowship winner*



## **EFIC-Grunenthal Grant 2004**

Jeffrey Roelofs, PhD, The Netherlands

*The role of self-discrepancies in patients with chronic pain*

Esther Pogatzki-Zahn, MD, Germany

*Modulation of pain perception in uninjured and injured tissue in human volunteers*

Ron Kupers, PhD, Denmark

*MRI study on the affective modulation of pain processing in the human brain*

Prof Audun Stubhaug, MD, PhD, Norway

*Genetic and environmental influences on pain sensitivity and regulation.  
Psychological and pharmacological mechanisms*

Stefaan Van Damme, PhD, Belgium

*Attention to pain in the crossmodal construction of space*

Maud Gaëlle Frot, PhD, France

*Neurophysiology of pain perception in the human brain*

Predrag Petrovic, MD, PhD, Sweden

*Interaction between the endogenous opioid system in the brain and cognitive modulation of pain*

For further information on projects and winners of the EFIC-Grunenthal Grant please visit: <http://www.e-g-g.info>.

### **Contacts:**

Grunenthal GmbH

**Dr Nicole Foellmer**

Phone: +49 241 569-2858

Fax: +49 241 569-52858

[nicole.foellmer@grunenthal.com](mailto:nicole.foellmer@grunenthal.com)

Hering Schuppener Healthcare

**Bjoern Haertel**

Phone: +49 40 36 80 75-21

Fax: +49 40 36 80 75-99

[bhaertel@hs-healthcare.de](mailto:bhaertel@hs-healthcare.de)

Current press materials are available in the press section at [www.grunenthal.com](http://www.grunenthal.com).



## **EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF IASP CHAPTERS (EFIC)**

The European Federation of IASP<sup>®</sup> Chapters (EFIC<sup>®</sup>) is a multidisciplinary professional organisation in the field of pain science and medicine, made up of over 34 European Chapters of IASP<sup>®</sup>. Established in 1993, by Professor Ulf Lindblom, EFIC's constituent chapters represent close to 20,000 scientists, physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists and other healthcare professionals across Europe, who study pain and treat patients in pain.



Professor Ulf Lindblom

The European Federation of IASP<sup>®</sup> Chapters (EFIC<sup>®</sup>) was formed by the presidents of the European Chapters at a joint meeting held at the time of the World Congress on Pain, in Paris in August, 1993. Initially just few European IASP<sup>®</sup> Chapters converged to form the federation; however, following the meeting there emerged a great enthusiasm for the federation, and practically all the European IASP<sup>®</sup> Chapters requested to be included. The first Executive Board was represented by Ulf Lindblom (President, Sweden), Andrew Diamond (Vice-President, UK), and Giustino Varrassi (Secretary, Italy).

## **EFIC OBJECTIVES**

- To advance the understanding and knowledge of pain mechanisms, pain characteristics, diagnosis of pain conditions, the way pain affects the individual, and the management of pain, by promoting research, education and clinical management of pain
- To promote communication and co-operation among the European IASP Chapters in order to achieve the objectives listed above
- To promote the aims and objectives of IASP, which are to foster and encourage research into pain mechanisms and pain syndromes and to support improvement in the management of patients suffering from acute and chronic pain. The latter is to be achieved by bringing together basic scientists, physicians, and other health professionals of various disciplines and backgrounds, all of whom have an interest in pain research and management

- There are various ways in which EFIC achieves these aims and objectives.

These include:

- Organising pain congresses; Pain in Europe
- Organising additional scientific meetings
- Publishing the *European Journal of Pain* since January 2007 (8 issues/year)
- Having a website: [www.efic.org](http://www.efic.org)
- Establishing new bodies in relation to EFIC activities for the further promotion of EFIC

### **TRIENNIAL EFIC CONGRESSES – PAST & PRESENT**

09.-12.09.2009	Pain in Europe VI: Lisbon
13.-16.09.2006	Pain in Europe V: Istanbul
02.-06.09.2003	Pain in Europe IV: Prague
27.-30.09.2000	Pain in Europe III: Nice
24.-27.09.1997	Pain in Europe II: Barcelona
18.-21.05.1995	Pain in Europe I: Verona

### **EFIC KEY INITIATIVES & MEETINGS – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

19.-25.10.2009	European Week Against Pain "Chronic Pain and Depression"
20.-26.10.2008	European Week Against Fibromyalgia
15.-21.10.2007	European Week Against Pain in Women
11.10.2004	First Global Day Against Pain organised by EFIC and IASP
08.-13.10.2001	First European Week Against Pain
26.03.1999	Second EFIC Council Meeting: Crete
22.10.1994	First EFIC Council Meeting: Dresden