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IASP Sponsors Global Year Against Pain After Surgery

Initiative promotes better pain management through education, increased awareness

Washington, D.C., January 19, 2017 – The 2017 IASP [Global Year Against Pain After Surgery](#) launches today, focusing attention on pain that is commonly well treated in developed countries but undertreated in the less developed world. Sponsored by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), the yearlong campaign focuses on education for health-care professionals and patients who face surgery.

“Hundreds of millions of people worldwide undergo operations each year. We hope physicians, nurses, other health-care providers, and researchers around the world join us as we work to improve education and raise awareness concerning postsurgical pain management,” said IASP President Judith A. Turner (USA). The initiative will mobilize IASP’s 7,000 members and 90 national chapters, and forge partnerships with other professional and scientific organizations to:

- Disseminate information worldwide about pain after surgery
- Educate pain researchers as well as health-care professionals who see the issues associated with such pain first-hand in their interactions with patients
- Increase awareness of postsurgical pain among public officials, members of the media, and the general public
- Encourage government leaders, health-care organizations , and others to support policies that result in improved management of pain after surgery

Two prominent pain experts co-chaired a task force on the Global Year: Daniel B. Carr, MD, DABPM, FFPMANZCA (Hon), a professor of anesthesiology and medicine and founding director of the Tufts University Program on Pain Research, Education and Policy in Boston, Mass., USA; and Bart Morlion, MD, PhD, DESA, director of the Leuven Center for Algology & Pain Management, University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium. Morlion also chairs the European Pain Federation, EFIC.

“Advances in pain research and practice now make speedy and comfortable recovery from surgery possible for nearly all patients in resource-rich countries,” says Carr. “The international pain community must find ways to provide similar benefits in resource-poor settings. Globally, pain persists after one in four or five operations. Severe pain immediately after an operation is one risk factor for acute pain to become chronic.

“Access to early, effective pain control after surgery is not only a patient right,” Carr continues, “but in the long term may improve quality of life and reduce the need for, and costs of, chronic pain care.”

IASP has published a series of Fact Sheets for researchers and health-care professionals that cover a wide array of topics related to postsurgical pain as well as one geared toward patients who are facing surgery. These Fact Sheets will be translated into multiple languages, and all will be available to download for free from the IASP website. Additional resources are available on the Global Year website as well.

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About the International Association for the Study of Pain®

IASP is the leading professional organization for science, practice, and education in the field of pain. Membership is open to all professionals involved in research, diagnosis, or treatment of pain. IASP has more than 7,000 members in 133 countries, 90 national chapters, and 20 special interest groups (SIGs). IASP brings together scientists, clinicians, health-care providers, and policymakers to stimulate and support the study of pain and translate that knowledge into improved pain relief worldwide.