



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 2016 GLOBAL YEAR AGAINST PAIN IN THE JOINTS

What is the Global Year Against Pain in the Joints?

The Global Year Against Pain in the Joints is a year-long awareness campaign that focuses on research, treatment, and education for patients and practitioners alike. Heavily driven by the members of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), the campaign includes free educational materials and events, including a microsite of information, a media and partner outreach strategy, and a virtual toolkit for IASP's 90 chapters that include 20 downloadable fact sheets in several languages, press and website materials, video scripts, ideas for chapter engagement, and more.

What does it hope to achieve?

Pain—particularly chronic pain—is a serious problem that reduces the quality of life for millions of people of all ages and backgrounds. As the average lifespan increases, the issues surrounding pain will grow. In developing countries in particular, numerous serious diseases can cause severe pain, but often little or no pain relief is available. This issue has been a relatively neglected area of governmental concern in the past, despite the fact that cost-effective methods to manage pain are feasible.

IASP's leaders and members strongly believe that raising the profile of pain care and treatment is an urgent health concern. The result should be greater responsiveness by policymakers, the health-care community, and the public to the need for more attention, promotion, and research regarding pain treatment and care.

What is the International Association for the Study of Pain?

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. It is the leading professional forum for science, practice, and education in the field of pain. IASP has more than 7,000 members in 133 countries, 90 national chapters, and 20 Special Interest Groups.

The current IASP president is Rolf-Detlef Treede, Prof., Dr. med., chair of neurophysiology and managing director of the Center for Biomedicine and Medical Technology at Heidelberg University in Mannheim, Germany.

Who specifically is leading this effort?

The co-chairs of the Global Year campaign are [Lars Arendt-Nielsen](#), Prof. Dr. Med., PhD (Aalborg University, Denmark,) and [Serge Perrot](#), Prof. MD, PhD (Université Paris Descartes, France). They are best reached by email, and you are encouraged to reach out through IASP Director of Publications [Dan Levin](#). Please use the subject line, “Media Interview Request-Time Sensitive.”

You may also want to speak with IASP Executive Director [Matthew D’Uva](#) at 202-524-5300 or the elected president of IASP, [Rolf-Detlef Treede](#), who is based in Germany.

How is the Global Year theme chosen?

As with all strategic areas at IASP, the volunteer leaders drive this decision.

What is the history of Global Year initiatives?

IASP has sponsored and promoted the Global Year Against Pain for more than 11 years, focusing annually on a different aspect of pain that has global implications. The effort evolved from the European Federation of IASP Chapters (EFIC) after the success of its Global Day Against Pain in 2001. The event inspired the IASP Council (board of directors) to recognize the need for an even more powerful statement to raise the profile of pain worldwide. IASP launched its first Global Year Against Pain with the slogan “The Relief of Pain Should be a Human Right” in 2004.

Previous years’ topics addressed neuropathic pain, orofacial pain, visceral pain, headache pain, and cancer pain, among others. In 2017, the topic will be pain after surgery, and 2018 will be devoted to excellence in pain education.

Is a high-resolution logo available?

Yes. You may download a copy from the Global Year site or contact IASP Director of Publications [Dan Levin](#).

Where can I get more information?

Contact IASP Director of Publications [Dan Levin](#) via email or at 202-524-5300.