

IASP Commits 2019 Global Year Campaign to Raising Awareness, Accelerating Actions Against Pain in the Most Vulnerable Populations



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Even the most optimistic person can at times feel daunted by the world's myriad health problems, especially those involving pain of highly vulnerable populations--children and babies; older adults; survivors of torture, organized violence, and war; and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Individuals in these patient groups frequently are unable to communicate effectively with health care providers, placing them at high risk for inadequate pain assessment and management.

My passion to address their often-needless suffering has inspired me to dedicate 12 months of my IASP presidency to a [2019 Global Year Against Pain in the Most Vulnerable Populations](#).

I have seen firsthand the challenges, but I do not believe the many problems are unsolvable. My hope is that--although many patient groups have diverse experiences with pain and effective treatments--IASP's work during the Global Year will support more research, education, and emphasis on pain treatment to aid the most vulnerable populations.

IASP is well-positioned to unite and lead the diverse pain community in this year-long education and outreach campaign to generate hope and accelerate help. Already we have partnerships with our 92 chapters, 20-plus special interest groups, and myriad external stakeholders such as nonprofits, patient health groups, and others in the government and medical communities that have influence and broad scope.

We hope all IASP members will engage in our Global Year and remain connected to the IASP special interest groups related to each of these vulnerable populations. These include SIGs on [Pain in Childhood](#); [Pain in Older Persons](#); [Pain Related to Torture, Organized Violence, and War](#); and [Pain And Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#).

In addition, other SIGS--such as those devoted to Neuropathic Pain (NeuPSIG) and Abdominal and Pelvic Pain--also want your input and ideas during related education sessions at their conferences. Register today for the following meetings and look for more in-person opportunities to come:

- [7th International Congress on Neuropathic Pain](#) (NeuPSIG 2019) May 9-11, London
- [4th World Congress on Abdominal and Pelvic Pain](#), May 11-12, London
- [12th International Symposium on Pediatric Pain](#), June 16-20, Basel, Switzerland

One of my strategic initiatives is likewise to engage patients and patient organizations in various IASP activities, and I hope we will start seeing much more patient engagement in this IASP initiative.

The Global Year is a unique opportunity for our chapters to engage in the theme and to influence local policy and decision makers.

Of special note is the constructive partnership forged between IASP and the European Pain Federation (EFIC), led by President Bart Morlion. EFIC and IASP have adopted the same themes for the Global Year Against Pain. Be updated on the recent research on pain in the most vulnerable population at the [10th Conference of the European Pain Federation \(EFIC\)](#) September 6-9, 2019, in Valencia, Spain.

Meanwhile, for on-demand and virtual education, we have launched a special Global Year website with free, downloadable tools; peer-reviewed fact sheets in English with many scheduled translations; free quarterly webinars; PAIN article compilations, a calendar of events, and more.

The Global Year Against Pain in Vulnerable Populations is an opportunity for you to be part of an inclusive, profession-wide campaign to transform the quality of millions of lives. Start by exploring this entire [Global Year website](#) and add your voice to the conversation via the Twitter hashtag #GYPainVulnerable and other IASP social media.

I look forward to experiencing many activities by engaged IASP volunteers throughout the year as we strive to transform the lives of millions of individuals and families whose voices may otherwise never be heard.