ACUTE PAIN
NEWSLETTER of the IASP Special Interest Group on Acute Pain (APSIG)

July 2007

Dear AP SIG members,

With this second Newsletter we will give you some updated information on the development of our special interest group.

Fortunately we finally ended up accepting *Acute Pain* as our official journal with Stefan Schug as Editor. You can get this journal at a very reduced price. I ask you to send original articles or reviews to this journal in order to make it a real platform for our AP SIG. Each issue has a president's corner with the latest news.

We were also successful with some symposia being included in the program for the 12th World Congress on Pain in Glasgow 2008. Thanks to all members who send proposals.

From Nov 30-Dec 01, 2007 we will have our ‘First International Symposium on Acute Pain’ in Cologne, Germany. An outline of the preliminary program is included in this Newsletter (Topic 4, Box 1). I do hope that this program is attractive for you to attend the congress and to experience Cologne during the pre Christmas time with its Christmas markets. Abstracts for the free paper sessions are welcome. The deadline is July 15th. A website will soon be available, please see: www.akutschmerzkongress2007.de.

We are currently working on a website for the AP SIG. The website should be ready in the next few months, which will make communication much easier.

Finally I would like to thank all who already were active in our SIG especially Esther Pogatzki-Zahn, in helping with this Newsletter.

Edmund A.M. Neugebauer
Chairman AP SIG

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**Welcome**

Timely topics in pain research and treatment have been selected for publication, but the information provided and opinions expressed in this SIG on Acute Pain newsletter have not involved any verification by the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP)® or the SIG on Acute Pain of the IASP® or the Officers or Councillors of IASP® or of the Officers of the SIG on Acute Pain. No responsibility is assumed by IASP® or the SIG on Acute Pain for any injury, and/or damage to persons or property resulting, whether as a matter of product liability, negligence or otherwise, from any use of or reliance on any methods, products, instruction or ideas contained in this publication. Because of the rapid advances in the medical sciences, the publisher recommends that there should be independent verification of any diagnoses and drug dosages referenced in this publication.

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**Minutes of the first Business Meeting of the AP SIG**

**Sydney, Australia, August 24, 2005**

The first formal business meeting of the AP SIG was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2005 in the Sydney Convention Center in the Harbourside Meeting Room 6, 4.30 – 5.30 p.m.

1. **Welcome** Prof. Neugebauer opened the meeting and expressed his thanks to IASP for the decision to start a new SIG on Acute Pain. He also appreciated the great interest of IASP members in this first meeting as shown by about 100 members filling the room. He explained the reasons for the formation and gave an overview on the history of events (see also first newsletter). By August 11, 2005 we have already 118 members from a total of 33 countries including 17 specialties. The biggest group is from the USA (25), Germany (13), UK (9), Australia (8), Sweden (7) etc.

2. **The Mission Statement** (see first newsletter) was briefly discussed. It was voted and adapted to the phrase: “The SIG will advance and promote the understanding of mechanisms, assessment, prevention and management of acute pain.”

3. **Aims and Objectives** The aims and objectives (see first newsletter) were briefly discussed. It was decided to include an objective related to guidelines.
was voted and adapted to include the additional phrase: “The exchange of guideline developments, its methodology and implementation strategies.”

4. Constitution and Bylaws
The constitution and bylaws (see first newsletter) were adapted and approved.

5 Election of Officers
Officers on interim steering committee proposed, seconded and voted unanimously.

Steering Committee:
Chairman: Edmund Neugebauer
Vice Chairman: Stephan Schug
Treasurer: Christine Miaskowski
Secretary: Dan Benhamou
All of the officers agreed to take over the posts.

Management Committee:
Advisor on Membership: Narinder Rawal
Newsletter: Esther Pogatzki-Zahn
IASP Council Liaison: Rolf-Detlef Treede
International Pain Registry: Winfried Meißner
Scribe: Wolf Diemer

Except the position of the scribe where we had some discussion finally all committee members were seconded and voted unanimously. Dr. Wiebalck was also proposed as scribe, but did not get a majority.

The chairman thanks all members for their agreement to take over the posts.

Christine Miaskowski gave a short overview. The first financial statement and accounts to June 30, 2005 were approved.

The chairman announced a financial support from Pfizer for an educational grant.

7. Proposals
Stephan Schug proposed to adopt Acute Pain as the official journal of the AP SIG. Stephan Schug is Editor-in-Chief. Normal subscription € 110, AP SIG subscription € 55, Acute Pain has 1800 – 2000 electronic subscribers and 100 paper subscribers. It is cited in EMBASE and is applying for Medline. After some discussion about the merits and disadvantages of Acute Pain and alternative journals it was unanimously agreed that AP SIG should sign a contract with Elsevier for 3 years in the first instance and review the situation at the General Assembly in Glasgow 2008.

There was no time to discuss further issues of the agenda which were: Website; Guidelines; Educational Materials; International Quality Assurance Program; Research Support; Conferences, Satellite Symposia.

It was suggested to have a steering committee meeting to prepare for the open issues.

The meeting was closed at 5.30 pm.

Cologne, October 2005
E. Neugebauer (for the protocol)

Meetings Calendar

2. Nov. 30 – Dec. 01, 2007, Cologne, Germany Maternushaus 1st International Congress of the IASP Special Interest Group on Acute Pain (AP SIG), together with the 5th Symposium on Acute Pain: “Acute Pain in Operative Medicine-Research and Practice” by the special interest group on acute pain of the German Society of Surgery (DGCH); Special interest group acute pain of the German pain society (DGSS); Common special interest group acute pain of the German society of anaesthesiologist and the German society of surgery (GAPS). For further information: www.akutschmerzkongress2007.de

Invitation to the 1st International Congress of the AP SIG
November 30 – December 1, 2007, Cologne, Germany

It is our pleasure to invite you to the first international meeting of the Special Interest Group on Acute Pain (AP-SIG). This meeting will be held in from November 30 - December 1, 2007, Cologne, Germany and will be hosted together with the 5th German Symposium on “Acute Pain in Operative Medicine- Research and Practice”. We have planned main sessions, free paper sessions, poster presentations and workshops on actual topics and future developments. Title of plenary sessions and workshops are outlined below. You are most welcome to send abstracts for free oral presentations and posters online until July 15th, 2007 for an application please visit the website: www.akutschmerzkongress2007.de

We look forward seeing you in Cologne, Edmund Neugebauer, Congress President and Chair of APSIG
Esther Pogatzki-Zahn, Part of the research committee and management committee of APSIG

On July 10, 2007
APSIG had 226 members in 44 countries.
Financial Statement: The SIG account had US$45,617
Friday, November 30th

A. Plenary Sessions:
- Psychological interventions in acute pain management
- Perioperative use of COX II inhibitors
- Procedure specific acute pain therapy
- Pain in Europe-state of the art
- Pain therapy in ambulatory surgery
- Acute pain therapy international
- Chronicification of acute postoperative pain Free lectures
- Guidelines of acute pain therapy
- New instruction concepts in pain therapy

B. Workshops:
- How to identify a good publication?
- Care of the patient with acute pain
- Benchmarking in acute pain therapy
- Regional analgesia, patient information and education

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Update: 12th World Congress on Pain 2008 in Glasgow.

Accepted workshops specifically assigned to the topic “Acute Pain”

We are very pleased to announce three workshops which have been accepted by the Scientific Program Committee of the IASP’s 12th World Congress on Pain to be presented during the World Congress 2008 in Glasgow.

To give you a short overview, below the list of relevant topics, we will summarize an outline of the three workshops

Workshop 1: “Acute Pain - from mechanisms to treatment”  Organizer: Esther Pogatzki-Zahn, Germany

Speaker 1: Prof. T.J. Brennan, Iowa, USA

Title of talk: Update on mechanisms of acute pain

Speaker 2: Prof. E. M. Pogatzki-Zahn, Muenster, Germany

Title of talk: Acute Pain: translation from bench to bedside

Speaker 3: Prof. St. Schug, Australia

Title of talk: What is evidence based in the treatment of acute pain?

Although many new discoveries are being made in pain research, the ability to translate these findings to a number of acute pain states is very limited. Acute pain after surgery, for example, seems not to have improved considerably over the last decade. There are a number of reasons that may explain these; one reason may be that the etiology of acute pain states is very unique. As indicated by recent experiments using animal pain models of different origin, pain caused by different tissue injuries is likely a result of distinct neurochemical and electrophysiological mechanisms. This may explain why treatment strategies for certain pain states are not applicable to others and implicates a more mechanism orientated treatment of pain states in general. In an attempt to define the neurobiology of acute pain, distinct animal and human surrogate models of acute pain have been developed. Studies using these models may help to advance our knowledge in acute pain mechanisms and may facilitate research aimed specifically toward treating acute pain. In the present workshop, we will present and discuss current knowledge about the neurobiology and the treatment of acute pain. This workshop will be intended to clinicians and basic scientist. In close proximity to the foundation of the new SIG “Acute PAIN” of the IASP, this workshop will open up the important issue of “Acute Pain” from a basic scientist and clinical point of view. Scientists and clinicians will conceive a focused, concised presentation on the basic science of acute pain, the translation of these findings into the clinic and concrete, evidence-based treatment strategies to optimize the management of acute pain.

Speaker 1 will give an update about the neurobiology of acute pain based on experiments in animal models of acute pain. He will present recent data from pharmacological and neurophysiological studies using these models indicating that the specific combination of mechanisms underlying hyperalgesia and spontaneous pain behavior following acute tissue injuries are unique.

Speaker 2 will present new findings from human surrogate models of acute pain. Furthermore, she will discuss how to integrate our knowledge about mechanisms of acute pain into clinical practice to improve the management of acute pain states in the clinical setting.

Speaker 3 will discuss therapeutic strategies, well known analgesics and new pharmaceutical drugs for the management of acute pain based on evidence based medicine analysis.

Workshop 2: Lessons and findings from the International Pain Registry (IPR) and similar projects: does this lead to better care and more information about postoperative pain?  Organizer: Ruth Zaslansky, Germany

Speaker 1: Ruth Zaslansky, Berlin, Germany  Title of talk: Pain Registry: what have we learnt from the APS prototype?
Speaker 2: Winfried Meissner, Jena, Germany.
Title of talk: Benchmarking postoperative pain: what information do we gain?

Speaker 3: Arthur Lipman, USA
Title of talk: Core data elements in the IPR – selection process, analysis and use by end users

Registries for trauma, cancer and other diseases have proven their value internationally. Registries make it possible to collect, classify, consolidate and link information to support health care, research, epidemiological and biomedical services. Clinicians can develop and refine new treatment protocols and better assure quality of care. Researchers can envision and undertake investigations that have not been possible so far. Administrators can more accurately estimate costs and objectively assign accountability for success or failure. They can plan for service demands and allocate resources more efficiently. The data can provide a basis for setting standards for care, identify “best practices” for adoption by other centers and create national and international reference norms for key outcomes. A pain registry would afford comparable advantages. The aims and objectives of the IASP include: “To encourage the development of a national and international data bank and to encourage the development of a uniform records system with respect to information relating to pain mechanisms, syndromes, and management.” As the International Pain Registry (IPR) seeks to carry out these aims and objectives, the President of the IASP commissioned a Task Force to guide the development of the IPR. The prototype for the Registry is based on patients cared for by Acute Pain Services (APSs). Later versions of the Registry will include other acute and chronic patient populations found in hospital settings and understudied populations, such as children and the elderly.

Speaker 1 will discuss what have we learnt from the APS prototype.

Speaker 2 will present already established benchmark projects in postoperative pain and what information we gain from these projects.

Speaker 3 will present and debate elements important for collecting and analysing data from APS and non APS pain patients with special interest to clinicians, researchers and health administrators.

Workshop 3: Evidence-based acute pain management – the prospect methodology
Organizer: Edmund Neugebauer, Cologne, Germany

Speaker 1: Henrik Kehlet, Denmark. Title of talk: Postoperative pain management: What are the advantages of a procedure-specific approach?

Speaker 2: Edmund Neugebauer, Germany. Title of talk: Formulating recommendations for evidence-based medicine

Speaker 3: Stephan Schug, Australia. Title of talk: Improving postoperative pain management in practice

Inadequate pain management remains a frequent problem after surgery. Approximately 70% of patients experience moderate, severe or extreme pain following surgery. Use of generalized guidelines that do not consider the characteristics of pain associated with different operative procedures may contribute to the problem; analyses of published data have demonstrated that analgesic efficacy can vary significantly between procedures. The prospect initiative (www.postoppain.org) presents procedure-specific recommendations for postoperative pain management, formulated by consensus of an international panel of surgeons and anaesthesiologists. Recommendations are based on evidence from procedure-specific systematic reviews, and consider the balance of risks and benefits for each intervention in the context of clinical practice. Analgesic, anaesthetic and surgical techniques are reviewed. The ‘prospect’ Web site is used internationally and it is important that users have confidence in the process by which the recommendations are formulated. Building on experience from previous prospect reviews, prospect methodology has recently been fine-tuned to increase rigour and transparency, to reduce potential bias and to enable the user to better judge the strength of the recommendations.

Speaker 1 will introduce to prospect and the arguments for procedure-specific postoperative pain management.

Speaker 2 will discuss the prospect methodology: using evidence from systematic literature reviews and experience from clinical practice to formulate recommendations for postoperative pain management.

Speaker 3 will give examples of evidence and recommendations from prospect. He will discuss how prospect may improve postoperative pain management in clinical practice, including questions for the audience.

Updated SIG Objectives (see ‘Minutes of the 1st business meeting’ in this newsletter)

The SIG will advance and promote the understanding of mechanisms, assessment, prevention and management of acute pain by undertaking the following activities:

• Collaboration for basic and clinical research;
• Study of the underlying mechanisms of acute pain, including the transition from acute to chronic pain, and the implications of acute pain therapy for clinical outcome and quality of life;
• The exchange of guideline developments, its methodology and implementation strategies.

• Exchange of information and experience about the assessment and treatment of acute pain, both within IASP and in exchanges with other national and international NGO’s such as the World Federation of Societies of Anaesthesiologists;
• Identification and implementation of programs to minimize the development of acute pain and related suffering; and
• Furthering the educational objectives of the SIG via international meetings, an annual symposium, workshops at IASP World Congresses, Congress satellite meetings, a newsletter, and the IASP Web site.

Please send your contributions, ideas and comments to PSNS SIG newsletter editor:
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