

It is a great privilege to welcome you to the 2026 IASP Global Year on Neuropathic Pain—a year dedicated to advancing global understanding, research, and care for one of the most challenging and impactful types of pain. We are excited to bring together clinicians, researchers, people with lived experience, and advocates from around the world to deepen knowledge and drive meaningful progress.

Our IASP 2026 Global Year on Neuropathic Pain is being led by co-chairs Neil O’ Connell and Angelika Lampert, who have already earned our thanks for their dedication and hard work, which I know will continue throughout the year. I am also truly grateful to the leadership of two IASP special interest groups, Neuropathic Pain (NeuPSIG) and Methodology, Evidence Synthesis, and Implementation (MESSISIG), for their willingness to collaborate. In addition, I sincerely thank the many members and individuals with lived experience who generously volunteered to serve on the 2026 Global Year Task Force.

Neuropathic pain is a significant global health issue, affecting an estimated 7 to 10 percent of the population, which equates to millions of people worldwide. Neuropathic pain can lead to significant disability and reduced quality of life, yet it often remains underdiagnosed and undertreated. Many outside the pain field may not recognize how neuropathic pain connects to common conditions such as sciatica and diabetic neuropathy, or how it intersects with diseases and injuries that disproportionately affect disadvantaged populations, including HIV, Leprosy, Human T-lymphotropic virus 1 (HTLV-1), and nerve injuries from complex polytrauma, such as the after-effects of explosive remnants of warfare. These links build on themes explored during the [2025 Global Year](#), highlighting how neuropathic pain reflects and amplifies global health inequities.

The 2026 Global Year on Neuropathic Pain presents an opportunity to reflect on what we currently know, examine the limitations of available treatments and gaps in knowledge, and consider priorities for future research and potential therapies. Our efforts will highlight two subthemes:

- Creating, synthesizing, and using best evidence
- Advancing toward precision medicine in neuropathic pain

IASP and its partners will develop fact sheets that help explain neuropathic pain in plain language, offer webinars on a variety of subtopics related to neuropathic pain, and spotlight research about neuropathic pain being published in IASP’s journals.

We will explore peripheral and central mechanisms of pain, systemic and focal neuropathies, and the roles of psychological and social factors. We will examine the progress in identifying and managing neuropathic pain. We will discuss the importance of rigorous research and a variety of research methods for neuropathic pain and delve into current translational science activities in neuropathic pain. We will consider the expanding evidence for the pharmacological treatment of neuropathic pain, including advances described in a recent publication supported by IASP's NeuPSIG,¹ as well as nonpharmacological pain therapies. We will also disseminate information about the clinical identification and management of neuropathic pain and share insights from people with lived experience.

We believe that dedicating the IASP 2026 Global Year to neuropathic pain will support our mission by improving public awareness of this critical issue; broadening understanding of the impact it has on the people experiencing it; featuring the progress being made in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of neuropathic pain; and emphasizing the need for continued rigorous, trustworthy, and impactful research on neuropathic pain.

Together, we have the opportunity to deepen the world's understanding of neuropathic pain and accelerate progress toward better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. I invite you to engage fully with the Global Year resources, share them widely, and join us in amplifying this critical conversation.

If there are topics we have overlooked or areas of particular interest, please do not hesitate to contact the [IASP Help Desk](#).

With warm regards,

Andrew S.C. Rice
IASP President

¹ [Pharmacotherapy and non-invasive neuromodulation for neuropathic pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#), Soliman, Nadia Abuukar Abdullahi, Ramla et al., The Lancet Neurology, Volume 24, Issue 5, 413 – 428.