Welcome to the 2021 Global Year About Back Pain!

We, Paul Cameron (EFIC) and Owen Williamson (IASP), are very honoured to co-chair the 2021 IASP/EFIC Global Year About Back Pain (GYABP) Task Force.

Back pain is a common global problem and at any time is thought to affect over 577.0 million people worldwide. Back pain has been the leading cause of years lived with disability (YLDs) since 1990 and remains a significant global public health concern. It particularly affects working aged people, but also affects children, adolescents and the elderly. It impacts the people living with back pain, their families, communities and countries.

With our dedicated Task Force, we aim to guide and support clinicians, scientists and the public in understanding the global challenges of preventing and treating back pain.

We are very excited to collaborate with GAPPA, the IASP Global Alliance of Partners for Pain Advocacy Task Force, in order to help us address the concerns of people living with back pain and translate the results of back pain research into resources for those who advocate for people living with back pain.

The GYABP Task Force has prepared a number of factsheets that summarise current information on topics such as the global burden of low back pain, the anatomy, biomechanics and pathophysiology of back pain, the assessment of back pain, and treatment of back pain, including supported self-management. The Pain in Childhood and Pain in Older Persons SIGs have also contributed fact sheets about these vulnerable populations.

We invite Chapters, SIGs and interested IASP members to produce webinars that expand on topics introduced in the fact sheets or discuss other topics related to back pain. The webinars will be advertised on the webpage and via the IASP newsletter. We will also designate and allow free access to articles in PAIN and PAIN Reports related to the Global Year theme, allowing everyone to read the latest research on back pain.

Although we will not be meeting in person at the 2021 World Congress on Pain, we look forward to contributing virtually to the scientific content of the Congress.

We know back pain is a global problem. We invite you to work with us, the GYABP Task Force, EFIC and IASP to find solutions. Are you up for the challenge?

Owen D Williamson       Paul Cameron
IASP Co-chair        EFIC Co-chair
2021 IASP/EFIC GYABP       2021 IASP/EFIC GYABP