

# 2019 Global Year Aims and Objectives



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This year targets vulnerable populations who are - due to (i) physical, psychological and/or verbal impairments, and/or due to (ii) social circumstances and/or due to (iii) shortcomings in healthcare - at risk to be under-assessed and undertreated for pain. Vulnerable individuals surely encompass a large variety of populations. The selection of the Global Year's special vulnerable populations was guided by the expertise within this year's task force group and includes: adults with dementia, children, individuals with intellectual disabilities, survivors of torture, and people with psychiatric disorders. The 2019 Global Year Task Force recognizes that there may be other populations, but we remained within our expertise.

## ***Aim***

The aim of this year is to highlight the needs of people who are unable to articulate their pain in a way that health professionals can understand and/or whose pain problems are underestimated and so they are more likely to receive inadequate pain control. Such groups include: older persons (including pain in dementia), infants and young children, individuals with cognitive impairments (non dementia-related) or psychiatric disorders, and pain in survivors of torture. Ultimately, the Global Year Task Force aims to raise awareness, as well as to improve pain assessment and management for these groups.

## ***Objectives***

1. To identify the barriers which prohibit the assessment and management of pain in vulnerable groups
2. To explore the types of pain which may occur in vulnerable populations
3. To identify the most appropriate assessment tools for the measurement of pain in vulnerable populations
4. To identify appropriate management techniques for use with vulnerable populations
5. To explore the educational needs of health professionals required to deal with pain in vulnerable populations
6. To identify areas for research and development in the field