

## EHF News 19

### The Journal of Headache and Pain

The Journal of Headache and Pain (JHP) is the official Organ of the Italian Society for the study of Headache. It has successfully concluded its first year of activity, with the regular publication of three issues and two supplements.

It is not only another journal dedicated to headache but, also, a Journal devoted to the wider field of pain. The Journal reflects the multidisciplinary nature of our scientific Society and concentrate the contribution of many fields of the Science, from basic science to Neurology, Algology, Childhood and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry, Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry, Anesthaesiology, Internal Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology.

From the first issue of the year 2001 the JHP is also became the official journal of the Italian Society of Pain Clinicians and is included in the EMBASE Excerpta Medica and Elsevier BIOBASE databases.

The structure of the journal includes editorials, original papers, review articles, letter to the editor and news. I would like to draw your attention to rapid communications, an innovative section, which allows the publication of results of high scientific importance, in real time.

We received many articles from all corners of the world, which permitted us to publish papers of high scientific value, but, at the same time, this has not excluded to closely support the younger colleagues and researchers from emerging countries.

The review of the articles was strictly anonymous and each author received a large number of constructive comments which allowed them to greatly improve the quality of their paper.

Eminent researchers have been contacted to debate important and controversy subjects for the Pros and Cons section. The section is at the moment only in its initial phase but we hope that it will allow to clarify the state of the art, the lights and shadows in the complex headache and pain field, and to outline the future roads to follow.

The journal is accessible through the Springer LINK Information Service at [http://link.springer.de/link/service/journals/10194/User-ID, headache2000; Password, sisc](http://link.springer.de/link/service/journals/10194/User-ID,headache2000;Password,sisc)).

In the optic of promoting intense development and scientific debate, I would like to renew my invitation to all the readers to submit an original article or review for one of the future issues.

By V. Gallai Editor inChief

### The Migraine Association of Ireland: The facts

The Republic of Ireland has a population of 3.7 million people with the youngest population in Europe - half are under the age of 29. The last few years have been dramatic as we moved from being a poor country on the edge of Europe to one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Emigration has long been a heartbreaking feature but now immigration is the order of the day!

The interest in headache has largely developed from the ground up with the formation of the Migraine Association of Ireland in 1994. I formed the Association with the purpose of sharing information and providing reassurance to all. This self-help group quickly developed into a vibrant patient advocacy role. In 1998 the

establishment of the first public Headache/Migraine Clinic in Ireland led to a greater interest in headache amongst health professionals and the general public.. We encouraged research projects and have actively fundraised to support a fellowship in Beaumont Hospital, Dublin. A fellow has been appointed for the first time in the field of headache and commences on July 1st next. The patient and medical education projects together with widespread awareness raising of the burden of headache were rewarded after 6 years of voluntary effort. The Irish Government gave us formal status last year and we now have some annual funding. A full time Chief Executive Officer has been appointed to develop the Association further with a free phone helpline etc. A second Headache/Migraine Clinic was opened at Cork University Hospital last September by our Minister for Health and Children. Both Clinics are Consultant led and GP referral is required. For the first time in Ireland a GP was appointed to a Hospital as Clinical Director. A student from the School of General Practice in University College, Cork sits in on the weekly sessions.. The Director also has a lecture slot in the University so the future is brightening for headache education. The Specialist Liaison Nurses together with volunteers from the Association run workshops in the Clinics to help focus patients thinking as they wait for their appointments. This is a first in the headache world and is very well received and are being written up as possible best practice.

This is a very exciting time in our history as peace on the island takes hold, and we look to the future with hope and confidence.

By Audrey Craven (Dublin)