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The German Migraine and Headache Society

The German Migraine and Headache Society (DMKG) was founded in 1979 by a group of dedicated headache scientists and today has more than 450 members, mainly Neurologists, Anaesthetists and General Practitioners, as well as Psychologists and Pharmacologists. It is a non profit making organisation with the following aims:

The improvement of treatment possibilities for patients with acute and chronic headache.

Combining basic disciplines in the fields of Medicine, Pharmacy and Psychology with an interest in headache research.

Improving the basic education, postgraduate education and teaching on headache and organising congresses and further education sessions for medical specialist groups.

Making public the latest results of research in the headache field and advances in the treatment of headache.

For this reason, an index of the members of the German Migraine and Headache Society is available, so that headache sufferers have the possibility of finding a competent medical authority more easily.

Explanations are given on various aspects of headache: Headache as a major problem in public health; how headache can affect and diminish the quality of life; the consequences of analgesic abuse with information on withdrawal treatment and institutions which carry out this type of withdrawal.

As well as this, the German Migraine and Headache Society maintains contact with health authorities, health insurance organisations and other institutions or scientific bodies and work groups with similar goals. The WEB site www.dmkg.de has a forum for any questions on the subject of headache or require further information,.

If you have any questions related to the society and its structure please contact the General Secretary (Dr. Arne May e-mail: arne.may@klinik.uni-regensburg.de).
By EffeA

The WHA: who they are?

The World Headache Alliance (WHA) exists to relieve the suffering of people affected by headache throughout the world, in particular, by sharing information among headache organisations and by increasing the awareness and understanding of headache as a public health concern with profound social and economic impact.

WHA was incorporated on November 12, 1997. Through offices in London, England, and Toronto, Canada, the WHA brings together the efforts of 44 headache organizations in 30 different countries. The International Headache Society (IHS), a professional scientific group, has a similar mission and the WHA and the IHS enjoy a close working relationship.

WHA acts as a vehicle to assist in reducing the burden of headache and has these two main strategic goals in mind:

To lobby governments and other agencies on the unmitigated burdens of headache and the cost-effectiveness of their alleviation and

To raise awareness of headache as a public health concern.

In the short time that WHA has been in existence, the organisation has taken

large steps toward these goals. WHA has successfully hosted two global conferences, published a Web site, declared the first global headache awareness month, worked with its members on governmental affairs and media training initiatives, and is even working toward developing a relationship with the World Health Organisation.

For more information on WHA, contact:

WORLD HEADACHE ALLIANCE (WHAmail@aol.com)

By EffeA