Dear PAIN OUT partners and friends,

Main topic of this newsletter is the successful national network in MEXICO!

In 2016, we established a 10-hospital working group (network) in Mexico City, under the direction of Drs Victor Acosta and Ana Garduño. This is a 2-year project, co-funded by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer. Between June 2016 and March 2017, surveyors collected baseline data from 1,761 patients treated in 15 wards (general surgery, orthopedics, thoracic, obstetrics and urology) in the participating hospitals. In April of this year, the findings were presented during the network workshop and used to detect strengths and weaknesses in practices and in patient reported outcomes in each of the participating hospitals. Winfried Meissner, Dick Chapman and Ruth Zaslansky represented PAIN OUT in the workshop. It was intriguing to become acquainted with the teams and with pain management issues which were common and unique to the different hospitals and surgical disciplines.

Drs Victor Acosta and Ana Garduno and their colleagues were warm and generous hosts, keen to show intriguing aspects of Mexico City beyond those related to pain.

The workshop was followed by several months during which the participants planned and implemented intervention(s) in their respective hospitals aiming to address the weakness recorded at baseline. Another round of data collection is beginning these days in each of the participating hospital. The findings will be analyzed in preparation for the summary network workshop. Plans for continuing and possibly, upscaling the work, within the network will be made at the summary workshop.

Participating hospitals are: Fundación Clínica Medica Sur, Hospital General Ruben Leñero, Hospital General de México “Dr. Eduardo Liceaga”, Hospital General Regional No. 2 Villa Coapa, Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Respiratorias INER, Instituto Nacional de Rehabilitación, Unidad Medica de Alta Especialidad Lomas Verdes, Instituto Nacional de Cancerología INCAN, Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán, Hospital de Especialidades Centro Médico Nacional Siglo XXI.

The Mexican Network is an example of how PAIN OUT and its methodology can be implemented and that having dedicated collaborators is a key factor for success.

Many thanks to our colleagues from Mexico-City involved in PAIN OUT!

The experience we are gaining working with our Mexican colleagues is invaluable in formulating the new EFIC PAIN OUT project in 8 countries within Europe.

Your PAIN OUT coordination team