

## Global alliance against IBD

This Thursday, on 18 October 2012, the European Federation of Crohn's & Ulcerative Colitis Associations (EFCCA) will meet in Brussels with worldwide patient associations to hold the first ever World Symposium on IBD research funded or promoted by IBD patients' associations.

IBD, which stands for inflammatory bowel disease and comprises Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis are serious, chronic diseases which affect over 5 million people worldwide. In most cases the illness can be kept under control with medication, but despite extensive research there is currently no known cause or cure for IBD.

The World Symposium will gather evidence and information from IBD patient associations that directly fund or promote research into the causes and treatment of IBD and will provide a unique platform for IBD associations from as far as Australia, Canada, the US, Brazil, Israel, New Zealand and Europe to share their knowledge and experience.

The scientific community will be presented by well-known IBD medical specialists such as Professor Claudio Fiocchi, Professor Laurent Beaugerie, Professor Gerhard Rogler and Professor Silvio Danese.

*"Research is the main pathway that leads to a better future for people with IBD. Through it we will be able to determine the causes of IBD and hopefully a cure. In a word, research means "HOPE" to us. I hope this Symposium will become the first step towards a stronger global alliance against IBD. "* says Marco Greco, EFCCA chairperson.

The findings of the event will be published in the "White Book on IBD Research funded or promoted by IBD patient associations." with the aim to become a handbook and reference that IBD patient associations can use for getting new ideas in developing research-support strategies.

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