

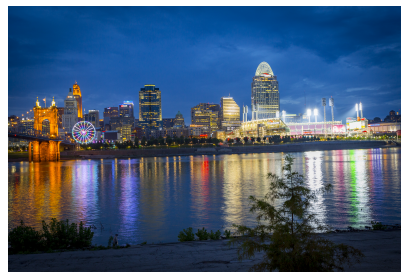
# USASP

US Association for  
the Study of Pain

## Members Newsletter

May 10th, 2022  
Volume 7

[Register for the 2022 USASP Annual Scientific Meeting \(May 18-21\)](#)



## 2022 USASP Annual Scientific Meeting

The 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting for the United States Association for the Study of Pain (USASP) aims to provide a platform for scientists, clinicians and healthcare professionals, and trainees from basic science, translational, behavioral, clinical, and other settings to share and discuss current information related to pain mechanisms, pain prevention and pain intervention, and other relevant topics.

We have an exciting program in place and hope you will plan to join us either in-person in Cincinnati, Ohio or online as a virtual participant. (**Note:** Not all conference activities will be available in the virtual format. You will get the MOST out of the conference by attending in person, but we also wanted to offer a virtual component for those who are unable to join us in Cincinnati.) The conference venue is large enough to support our group, yet small enough to feel a sense of community among conference participants and is being hosted by the Dept. of Anesthesiology at the College of Medicine, University of Cincinnati.

[Meeting Home Page](#)

[COVID Statement](#)

[Plenary Speakers](#)

[Conference Program](#)

[Registration](#)

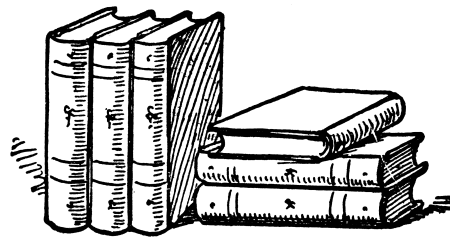
[Venue and Hotels](#)

## From the National Institutes of Health

The next **NIH Pain Consortium webinar** in the series on NIH programs and policies in support of pain research will be held on **May 12, 2022, from 3:00 pm to approximately 4:30 pm** (U.S. Eastern time), and will focus on **NIH data policy and data harmonization**. During this session, NIH staff will discuss NIH data sharing policies, including genomic data sharing and the Helping to End Addiction Long-term Initiative (NIH HEAL Initiative) data ecosystem, data sharing agreement, and clinical pain common data elements (CDE).

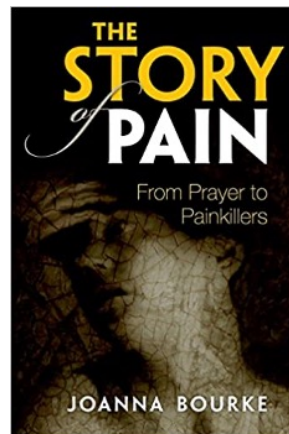
There is no cost for these webinars, but attendees must register in advance. The link to register can be found [here](#). You may choose to register for any one of the sessions at this time, but we will also send out reminders as each one approaches.

The webinars will be recorded and after each one concludes it will be archived on the [NIH Pain Consortium Website](#).



## BOOK CORNER

EDITED BY JOHN LOESER &  
DAVID TAUBEN



Oxford University Press, 2014. 416 pages.  
\$15-25 based on format.  
ISBN:9780199689439

### The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers

Joanna Bourke

“Everyone knows what pain is, surely?” asks Joanna Bourke, Professor of History, Classics and Archaeology at the University of London. But do we really? And what of the pain of others? This topical history insists that pain can be experienced only within the “complex social and cultural matrices... in which participants interpret and understand the meaning of pain.” It surely matters that we, the pain experts, understand this as best we can.

### A review of *The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers*

In *The Story of Pain: From Prayer to Painkillers*, Professor Bourke presents the voices of “the

person-in-pain” from extensively researched historical accounts of patients and contemporaneous reports by their physicians over the past 300 years. Her scope is just the English-speaking world, a limitation; but she does provide a blueprint for additional historians to extend across other cultures. Chapter topics include: estrangement (“alienation of sufferers from themselves” and others), metaphor (descriptors resistant to expression), religion (“why we suffer” affects “our mode of suffering it”), diagnosis (pain... “the most baffling and misleading symptom”), gestures (non-linguistic movements constituting meaning), sentience (exposing misbeliefs that still lead to disparities in pain care in regard to children, gender, race and culture), sympathy (our response to the pain of others), and pain relief (what we strive to achieve).

Among many of her key framing perspectives, Bourke asserts that the patient’s communication of “pain” should be deemed an adverb since it expresses an action, a “type of event”, not a noun – a “separate thing in itself” whether within or outside of ourselves. “Pain describes the way we experience something not what is experienced.” This statement and the way we say it, can help direct us to improve our patient’s agency: Pain is neither who we are nor something beyond our ability to manage. I also welcomed her view that asking “how much pain hurts” makes it worse, by making it more salient. Better to ask how much pain hurts sleep, mood, function and enjoyment of life, since these are more likely to respond to targeting effective treatments.

Joanna Bourke’s book is highly detailed as would be expected from a prominent scholar, so non-historians best be prepared for copious details. Though my reading was slowly paced over several weeks, I found her story of pain quite engaging. I was thoroughly immersed and quite struck by the continuing relevance of each of her nine chapters. The past surely instructs us about our present and if we have the time and patience to learn it, we can more successfully advance our current pain knowledge, research and practices.

- David J. Tauben, MD, FACP

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# USASP

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If your SIG or committee has updates or events you would like shared with USASP membership please email them using the contact below.

### Contact Info:

US Association for the Study of Pain  
[admin@usasp.org](mailto:admin@usasp.org)

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