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United States Association for the Study of Pain Monthly Newsletter

May 9, 2023
Volume 18

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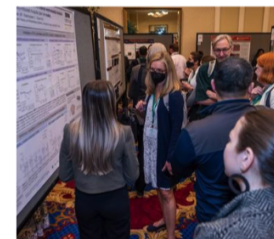
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2023 USASP Scientific Meeting



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the 2023 USASP Annual Scientific Meeting. We had close to 600 attendees attend the conference both in person as well as virtually. Members can view selected recordings of symposia and plenary presentations by logging into the USASP website and viewing the dropdown menu for the 2023 Meeting.

March USASP Trainee Spotlight



Dario Pfyffer, PhD
Stanford University School of
Medicine

Dr. Dario Pfyffer, from the Division of Pain Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine, and mentored by Sean Mackey, M.D., Ph.D. was awarded a Swiss National Science Foundation grant! This award will help support some outstanding work understanding CNS mechanisms of movement induced pain modulation in patients with fibromyalgia using simultaneous brain and spinal cord functional neuroimaging.

Type of grant: Postdoc.Mobility fellowship

Funded by: Swiss National Science Foundation

Funding period: 24 months

Title: Investigating movement-induced corticospinal modulation of pain in fibromyalgia using simultaneous brain and spinal cord fMRI

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Education and Professional Development Event!

USASP Panel Discussion on Pragmatic Clinical Trials in Pain Research



WEDNESDAY, MAY 31 AT 3PM EST
with a Networking Event at 4PM ET



STEVE GEORGE PHD

Duke University



FRANK KEEFE, PHD

Duke University



KATHLEEN SLUKA, PHD

University of Iowa



Visit usasp.org for more information



SUSAN NICOLE HASTINGS, MD
Duke University



LEMNE BAYMAN, PHD
University of Iowa

Call for USASP Committee Volunteers is OPEN!

Deadline to Apply is Friday May 12

Committee Expectations:

Join us for an educational session on pragmatic trials featuring Dr. Keefe, Dr. Sluka, Dr. Hastings, and Dr. Bayman. This multi-disciplinary panel discussion will be led by Dr. George and we invite members of the USASP to serve on a committee for a term of one year.

New volunteers will serve from August 2023-2025. This session is being co-hosted by the Pain, Movement, and Rehabilitation Science SIG and Clinical Trials for Pain Research SIG. Trainees are invited to apply.

We ask that students commit a minimum of 1 year.

- Please submit 1-page statement of interest and CV or Biosketch by using the link below.

Prior to the event we ask that audience members to read the following article. Please submit any questions you have to admin@usasp.org or kbutera@udel.edu ahead of time.

Deadline to Apply is Friday, May 12, 2023

[Apply here](#)

Keefe, F. R., Sluka, K. A., Hastings, S. N., & George, S. Z. (2022). The yin and yang of pragmatic clinical trials of behavioral interventions for chronic pain: balancing design features to maximize impact. *Pain*, 163(7), 1215-1219.

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[Register here to attend this event](#)

NIH HEAL Initiative Funding Opportunities for the Development and Validation of Preclinical Models and

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Measures of Pain

HEAL Initiative Notice of Special Interest (NOSI):
Development and Validation of Pain-Related
Models and Endpoints to Facilitate Non-Addictive
Analgesic Discovery
[NOT-NS-22-095](#)

The purpose of this Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) is to encourage the development, validation, and replication of animal models that recapitulate the phenotypic and physiologic characteristics of a defined pain type/indication and/or disease-associated pain condition and endpoints or outcome measures that can be used therein. The goal of this NOSI is to improve the translational application of animal models and/or outcome measures for the development of non-addictive analgesics. Ideally, models or measures proposed for this NOSI would have the potential to provide feasible and meaningful assessments of efficacy following therapeutic intervention that would be applicable in both preclinical and clinical settings. It utilizes PAR21-123, “Innovation Grants to Nurture Initial Translational Efforts (IGNITE): Development and Validation of Model Systems to Facilitate Neurotherapeutic Discovery.”

Upcoming Receipt Dates: June 20, 2023;
October 20, 2023
Program Contacts: Dr. Rebecca Roof
(Rebecca.Roof@nih.gov)
Dr. Julia Bachman (Julia.Bachman@nih.gov)

HEAL Initiative: Development and Validation of
Non-Rodent Mammalian Models of Pain (R01
Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
[RFA-NS-22-070](#)

This funding opportunity announcement supports research to develop, characterize, and rigorously validate non-rodent mammalian models of pain, associated outcome measures and/or endpoints that will significantly advance translational research for effective pain management. These models are expected to recapitulate molecular, cellular, pathological, behavioral, and/or cognitive aspects of human pain disorders and conditions. Research supported under this NOFO is expected to provide well-validated models and measures that facilitate the development of non-opioid analgesic therapeutic interventions.

Upcoming Receipt Date: July 6, 2023; November
7, 2023
Program Contact: HEALanimalmodels@nih.gov

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Napa Pain Conference

The Culinary Institute of America at Copia
August 18-20, 2023

Keynote Speakers:
Peter S. Staats, MD, MBA, FIPP
Carolyn Bertozzi, PhD

On-Demand CME Credits
Abstract Submission Deadline is July 18
[Welcome Video](#)

[Learn More Here!](#)

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Featured Jobs and Training Opportunities

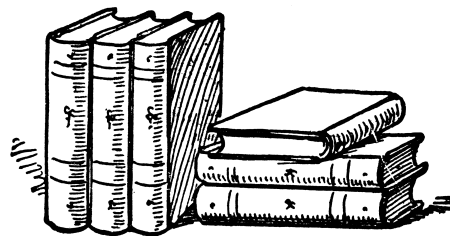
New*

[Assistant Professor/Associate Professor level in the School of Medicine at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center](#)

[Research Assistant/Associate Professor at the University of Rochester](#)

[Rush University Medical Center is seeking several licensed doctoral psychologists in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for chronic pain](#)

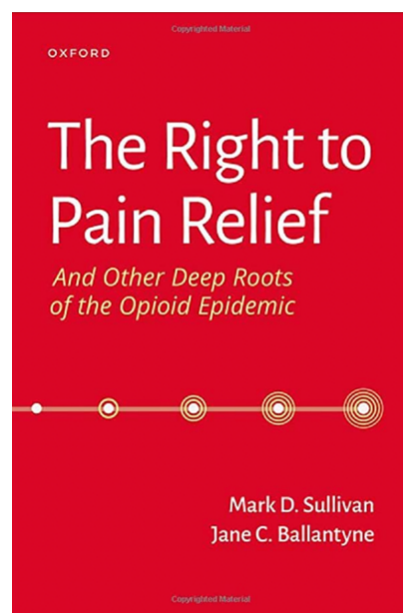
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BOOK CORNER

EDITED BY JOHN LOESER &
DAVID TAUBEN

David Morris' review of Drs. Sullivan and Ballantyne's new book: The Right to Pain Relief And



Oxford University Press 2022

The authors, distinguished clinicians with extended careers in pain medicine, layer up a thick, helpful explanatory context. The eight chapters discuss 1) the transition of pain from a religious to a medical context, 2) the birth of anesthesia and pain medicine, 3) the emergence of a right to pain relief, 4) chronic pain as a disease, 5) a persistence of biological understandings and treatment, 6) the harmful results from a medicalization of pain, 7) the selling of opioids, and 8) the right to pain relief in relation to causal and moral theories. The book concludes with a retrospective meditation on pain and the future of pain relief.

It is a big, wide swath—some terrain familiar, some refreshingly new—covering the opioid crisis and its relation to modern medicine. The running engagement with clinical practice helps set medical judgments about pain and pain relief on a more solid footing.

The heart of the book—as reflected in the title—is the chapter on the right to pain relief. It shows how this worthwhile principle can entail hidden, harmful, unintended consequences. Opioids temporarily relieve pain, but—beyond the clinical and moral questions raised—they also make money, and money, like power, corrupts. Also, in a setting where malpractice litigation and the pharmaceutical industry are hard to ignore, pain raises multidimensional problems and questions for clinicians who must struggle not only to understand an individual patient's hard-to-intractable pain problems but also the (sometimes confounding) recent concept that every patient has a right to pain relief.

Contextualization is a useful instrument for analysis, and the authors use it skillfully, but it runs up against the inherent paradox that it can't explain what it can't explain. The opioid crisis is not only about pain, but also about the desire of many people to get high. "The one thing which we seek with insatiable desire," Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in 1841, "is to forget ourselves...." Drugs rank among his chief routes to "counterfeit" elevation and self-forgetting. A second edition of this book might expand the brief section on addiction. It might ask—from multiple perspectives including race, gender, and biology—why so many addicts wanted to get high, how opioids figured in this new avalanche of desire, and what clinicians might do about its unintended consequences.

—David B. Morris, PhD

Other Deep Roots of the Opioid Epidemic

This timely and valuable book offers a clear picture of what medicine knows and doesn't know about pain, particularly chronic pain. It also, methodically, sets pain within relevant historical and cultural contexts showing how the modern world has redefined pain as a medical problem. Medicine meanwhile often remains in the grip of inadequate (biological) models of nociception. In practice, even biopsychosocial models tend—as reflected in the order of terms—to privilege biology. The problem that drives the book is how pain and pain relief stand in relation to the current opioid crisis, which the authors call an epidemic. The approach to this knotty problem is largely to contextualize it.

Upcoming SIG Meetings and Events

May 12: Deadline to apply to volunteer on USASP Committees. All members are welcome to apply!

May 16-17: NIDA Genetics and Epigenetics Meeting at Natcher Conference Center, NIH, Bethesda MD

May 23: The Yale Program in Addiction Medicine Session #1: Pain, Opioids, and Worker Wellness. A free, live, CME-accredited virtual training for clinicians. [More information can be found here.](#)

May

May 23 (12pmET): USASP Substance Use and Addiction SIG Meeting

May 31 (3-5pm ET): USASP Panel Discussion on Pragmatic Clinical Trials in Pain Research with networking session.

USASP

US Association for
the Study of Pain

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

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