

United States Association for the Study of Pain Monthly Newsletter

October 10, 2023

Volume 23

Newsletter Highlights

[Trainee Spotlight](#)

[Call for
Nominations](#)

[Rita Allen
Foundation
Scholars Award in
Pain](#)

[2024 USASP
Meeting: Call for
Proposals](#)

[Upcoming Pain
Meetings](#)

[Journal of Pain](#)

[Funding
Opportunities and
Webinars](#)

[Book Corner:
Chronic
Conditions](#)

October Spotlight



Nathaniel Hernandez, BS
PhD Candidate

Center for Translational Pain Medicine
Department of Anesthesiology
Department of Pharmacology & Cancer
Biology

Nathaniel Hernandez graduated with honors from Duke University with his BS in Biology with a Pharmacology concentration while working in the lab of Dr. Cynthia Kuhn. He is now completing his PhD Training in Duke's Pharmacology program while being advised by Dr. Andrea "Andi" Nackley where he studies the relationship between microRNAs and chronic primary pain.

Mr. Hernandez has presented his work exploring the mechanisms of genetic regulation on pain onset and resolution at USASP, IASP, and SfN meetings. He was recognized as a "*Best Poster Presentation Finalist*" at the Triangle Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience 2023 meeting. Additionally, he has been awarded an F31 training grant from NINDS to continue his research and scientific development. For USASP, he has served on the Sex Differences in Pain and Analgesia & Basic Science SIGs and helped organize the Early Career Forum with the Education

and Professional Development Committee for the 2023 meeting. He continues to volunteer with the Communications Committee and the Journal of Pain where he helps draft summaries of articles published in the journal to social media pages.

[Back up to menu](#)

Call for Nominations for the USASP Board of Directors

Your consideration of this opportunity, if you haven't already done so, would be greatly appreciated. The appointment starts at the 2024 USASP Annual Meeting. Because we are the IASP chapter in the United States, IASP membership is requested of all board members, but we understand that there may be concerns, and if this is an issue for any of you, we are happy to discuss alternatives for this requirement with you. Please consider how you might get more involved with the USASP and being a member of the board is a great way to do that.

The USASP is looking to fill three Director seats (information about these positions is provided below) on the Board of Directors and two Officers, the President-Elect and the Secretary. The USASP is committed to (1) transparency in the nomination and election process and (2) board membership that reflects the diversity of the membership of the USASP. Therefore, the USASP will accept nominees who meet the criteria for any of the seats described below.

General Eligibility Criteria for Open Positions:

- An active member of the USASP in good standing
- Recent experience serving on USASP committees or working groups or comparable experience in other organizations.
- An active member of the International Association for the Study of Pain

Seat 1: Mid- to Senior-career investigator (Assoc./Full or Senior Scientist/Director) whose primary designation** is Basic Research -Preclinical

Seat 2: An individual from any career stage whose primary designation** is Clinical Care and/or Patient Advocacy

Seat 3: An individual from any career stage whose primary designation** is Behavioral and Social Sciences or Population Health and Health Services

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Call for Rita Allen Foundation Scholars Award in Pain Opens October 18



Applicants should submit proposals for research topics that are directed toward the molecular biology of pain and/or basic science topics related to the development of new analgesics for the management of pain. Completed applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM EASTERN TIME on December 14, 2023. Applications are reviewed by a Selection Committee that includes past Award in Pain recipients, as well as other leading pain researchers. Grant awards will be announced in summer 2024. Please click the link below for more information about eligibility, application requirements, and past award recipients.

[Click to view more information about the award.](#)

[Back up to menu](#)

2024 USASP Meeting Updates



This 2024 USASP Annual Scientific Meeting will take place from April 14-17 at The Westin Seattle. This year's conference theme is *Understanding the Complexity of Pain from Diverse Perspectives*. Registration and the hotel room block will be opened in January. More information can be found here: <https://usasp.memberclicks.net/2024-meeting>

Submit Your Pre-Conference Workshop Proposal

Are you passionate about sharing your expertise and helping others grow? We invite you to submit a proposal for a half-day or full-day workshop in any area related to skill development or qualifications important for pain researchers.

Click here for more information: <https://www.usasp.org/call-for-preconference-workshops>

The deadline to submit proposals is November 1, 2023

Now Accepting Proposals for Symposia

Symposia should encompass topics related to clinical practice, basic science or mechanisms, and translational research related to pain. Ideally, presentations include multiple disciplines (e.g., two or more presentations representing one or both clinical and/or basic science disciplines).

Click here for more information: <https://www.usasp.org/call-for-symposia-2024>

The deadline to submit proposals is November 1, 2023

[Back up to menu](#)

Upcoming Pain Meetings & Events



CANADIAN PAIN SOCIETY

44th Annual Scientific Meeting organized in partnership with Health Canada
April 27-30, 2024 at the Westin Ottawa, Ontario

**Call for Symposia Extended to
October 15, 2023 at midnight (ET)**

Click here to learn more: <https://www.canadianpainsociety.ca/so/d6OhtXhi9?languageTag=en&cid=7fb82526-c20b-4514-8074-6ec515a99371>




Shan Meltzer, Harvard University
Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Mammalian Touch Circuit Assembly

Celine Santiago, Harvard University
Activity-Dependent Development of the Body's Touch Receptors

Ilyas Singec, FUJIFILM Cellular Dynamics, Inc.
Highly Efficient Generation of Functional Human Sensory Neurons from iPS Cells

Gulf Coast Consortia
#Pain2023 Workshop
Mechanisms of Sensory Neuron Development
Oct. 20, 2023

Registration



Gulf Coast Consortia invites you to [register](#) (registration closes at midnight on October 19) for our October #Pain2023 series focusing on *Mechanisms of Sensory Neuron Development*. The event will occur online, on October 20, 2023, from 1-2 pm (CDT).



The 15th Annual Texas Pain Society Scientific Conference will be held October 27-29, 2023, at Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort & Spa.

As the premier educational event for pain management physicians in Texas, this is an opportunity to earn CME. The Texas Medical Association accredits the Texas Pain Society to provide continuing medical education comprised of TMB opioid requirements, MATE Act training, and beyond.

Each year, over 300+ medical professionals attend this one-of-a-kind event, which also includes:

- The Racz-Raj Case Study Abstract Submissions (for pain medicine fellows and anesthesiology residents - top five will present live)
- The Hassenbusch Continued Learning Scholarship
- Awards such as the Heavner Basic Science Lectureship, Schade Hill Public Policy Pain Champion Award, Samuel J. Hassenbusch Lectureship Award, Lifetime Achievement, Racz-Raj Award for Outstanding Presentation, and Mark White Academic Excellence Award

More information and registration can be found here: <https://www.texaspain.org/annual-scientific-meeting>

Save the Date



12th World Congress on Itch

Miami, Florida, USA
November 5-7, 2023



CHAIR OF THE MEETING
GIL YOSIPOVITCH, MD

PRESIDENT IFSI
ELKE WEISSHAAR, MD

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

GALIT YOSIPOVITCH, MBA, ENG LEIGH NATTKEMPER, PHD ETHAN LERNER, MD, PHD SANTOSH MISHRA, PHD

www.itchworldcongress2023.com

wci2023@aicgroup.it

CONGRESS VENUE

JW Marriott Miami

1109 Brickell Avenue Miami, Florida 33131



INVITATION

From EuroPainClinics & PRO Academy to
**Pan Europe Interventional Pain
Management Series Updates & Innovations**



Chairman: Róbert Rapčan M.D. FIPP, MBA, PhD.
Keynote speakers: Ashish Shetty M.D., MBBS, FRCA, ECFMG, FPPMRCA
Sadiq Bhayani FRCA, M.D., MBBS
Manfred Greher M.D., MBA

This two-day course will teach you the technical skills of working with an ultrasound and comprehensively present the possibilities of using it in interventional algesiology.

At the same time, we will introduce you to a new product for performing interventions – Evotouch - 7StarScope - a combination of endoscopic and ultrasound navigation.

    Friday 10-Nov-2023 to Saturday 11-Nov-2023  Hotel Jalta / Prague / Czech Republic

Dear colleagues,

We have prepared a unique course, with highlights such as pediatric endoscopy, live case videos and many other novelties. A world novelty in endoscopic visualization will be presented - a combination of ultrasound visualization and endoscopy. Step forward on a journey with us to Prague this November, where innovation meets precision in the world of ultrasound diagnostics and new approach.

What to expect:

- A professional program with over 30 faculty members from around the world, ensuring the most individualized course globally.
- Debut of Needlescopy 7 StarScope: a device integrating an endoscope and ultrasound, a first in its kind.
- Live video cases from everyday clinical practice.
- 20 ultrasound stations with models
- Years of experience in the field of interventional pain medicine
- All of this in the heart of Prague, with the world's best beer.

Website: <https://interventionalpainacademy.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100093361332962>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/interventionalpainacademy/>

[Back up to menu](#)

The JOURNAL of PAIN

The official journal of the US Association for the Study of Pain

Call for Applications

[*The Journal of Pain Assistant Editors for Transparent Reporting*](#)

Deadline to apply: October 15, 2023

[*The Journal of Pain Early Career Editorial Fellowship Program to Promote Diversity in Editorial Leadership*](#)

Deadline to apply: November 1, 2023

Special Issue on Pain Disparities

Accelerating Innovative Strategies for Greater Equity and Inclusion in Pain Care and Research

Call for Submissions: *Journal of Pain* and *Health Psychology* Coordinated Special Issues on Pain Disparities

Guest Editors: Emily Bartley, Mary Janevic and Martha Kenney (*Journal of Pain*); Adam Hirsh, Vani Mathur, Ericka Merriweather, Fenan Rassu (*Health Psychology*)

Background

There is growing awareness of the need for research to address pain inequities and to prioritize historically excluded groups, who are often disproportionately affected by pain but whose pain experience is not well documented or understood. Pain research and management faces a critical juncture. It is time to accelerate pain research to move beyond simple group comparisons to focus efforts on explaining how these inequities are generated and perpetuated, and on identifying the specific interventions, policies, and other approaches that can be used to mitigate them.

Healthy People 2030 defines health disparity as a health difference “linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage” and “affecting people who experience greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.” Guided by the Healthy People 2030 framework, the *Journal of Pain* and *Health Psychology* are collaborating on companion special issues focused on pain disparities. With this joint effort, we aim to stimulate

innovative scholarship that reaches a broad audience across the biological, psychological, social, and implementation sciences.

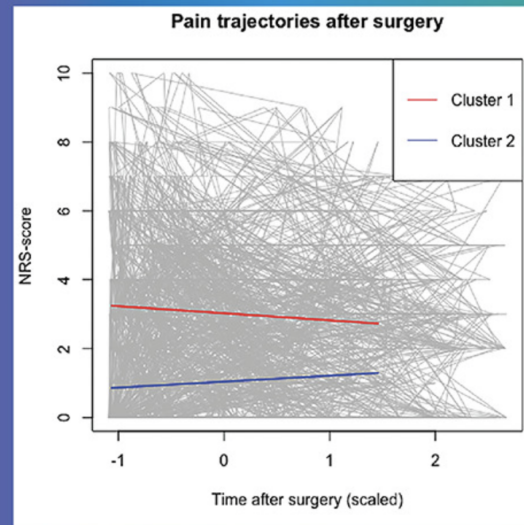
We particularly welcome contributions from those outside the traditional boundaries of psychological, social, and pain sciences. This cross-pollination of perspectives and methodologies will provide an enriched understanding of the challenges at hand and spur novel strategies for promoting equity and inclusion in pain research and care. Details on the specific criteria for manuscript solicitations from each journal can be found below.

Details: Journal of Pain

The *Journal of Pain* special issue will incorporate papers that are submitted in response to this open call. We seek contributions that focus on inequities in the human experience of pain, especially from underrepresented populations and/or social identity groups across the lifespan who experience unique burdens and/or resilience factors. Likewise, and consistent with the [journal's commitment to advancing inclusion and diversity](#), we encourage submissions from scholars who represent a range of diverse identities, experiences, and perspectives on pain disparities. These contributions may include, but are not limited to, original research reports, focus articles and reviews, intervention research, translational science reports, and guidelines and catalyst pieces that address contemporary debates and identify priorities to advance knowledge on pain disparities. The overall aim of this special issue is to promote research that goes beyond documenting differences among groups and instead focuses on explaining or addressing disparities.

[Click here to learn more](#)

October 2023 Volume 24 Issue 10



Editor-in-Chief:
Tonya M. Palermo, PhD



Featured Article

Cluster-Randomized Comparative Effectiveness Trial of Physician-Directed Clinical Decision Support Versus Patient-Directed Education to Promote Appropriate Use of Opioids for Chronic Pain

Brennan M.R. Spiegel,* Garth Fuller,* Xiaoyu Liu,* Taylor Dupuy,* Tom Norris,† Roger Bolus,‡
Rebecca Gale,* Itai Danovitch,§ Sam Eberlein,* Alma Jusufagic,¶ Teryl Nuckols,|| and Penney Cowan†

*Department of Medicine, Division of Health Services Research, Cedars-Sinai, Los Angeles, California, †American Chronic Pain Association, Rocklin, California, ‡Research Solutions Group, Encinitas, California, §Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, Cedars-Sinai, Los Angeles, California, ¶Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, Pennsylvania, ||Department of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine, Cedars-Sinai, Los Angeles, California

Abstract

We compared the effectiveness of physician-directed clinical decision support (CDS) administered via electronic health record versus patient-directed education to promote the appropriate use of opioids by conducting a cluster-randomized trial involving 82 primary care physicians and 951 of their patients with chronic pain. Primary outcomes were satisfaction with patient-physician communication consumer assessment of health care providers and system clinician and group survey (CG-CAHPS) and pain interference patient-reported outcomes measurement information system. Secondary outcomes included physical function (patient-reported outcomes measurement information system), depression (PHQ-9), high-risk opioid prescribing (>90 morphine milligram equivalents per day [≥ 90 mg morphine equivalent/day]), and co-prescription of opioids and benzodiazepines. We used multi-

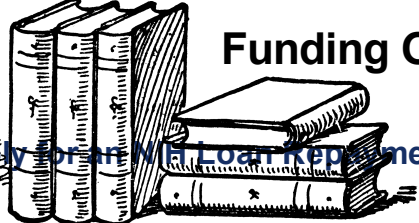
level regression to compare longitudinal difference-in-difference scores between arms. The odds of achieving the maximum CG-CAHPS score were 2.65 times higher in the patient education versus the CDS arm ($P = .044$; 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.03–6.80). However, baseline CG-CAHPS scores were dissimilar between arms, making these results challenging to interpret definitively. No difference in pain interference was found between groups (Coef = -0.64 , 95% CI -2.66 to 1.38). The patient education arm experienced higher odds of Rx ≥ 90 milligrams morphine equivalent/day (odds ratio = 1.63 ; $P = .010$; 95% CI 1.13, 2.36). There were no differences between groups in physical function, depression, or co-prescription of opioids and benzodiazepines. These results suggest that patient-directed education may have the potential to improve satisfaction with patient-physician communication, whereas physician-directed CDS via electronic health records may have greater potential to reduce high-risk opioid dosing. More evidence is needed to ascertain the relative cost-effectiveness between strategies.

Perspective

This article presents the results of a comparative-effectiveness study of 2 broadly used communication strategies to catalyze dialog between patients and primary care physicians around chronic pain. The results add to the decision-making literature and offer insights about the relative benefits of physician-directed versus patient-directed interventions to promote the appropriate use of opioids.

[Click to read more](#)

[Back up to menu](#)



Funding Opportunities & Webinars

BOOK CORNER

EDITED BY JOHN LOESER & DAVID TAUBEN

[Apply for an NIH Loan Repayment Programs \(LRP\) Award!](#)

We are excited to announce that the NIH is accepting applications for the Extramural LRP until **November 16, 2023**. By applying for this two-year LRP award, you have the opportunity to get up to \$100,000 of your qualified

You can also visit the [LRP](#) website. Remember, the deadline

November 16, 2023.

The NIH HEAL Initiative for Understanding In

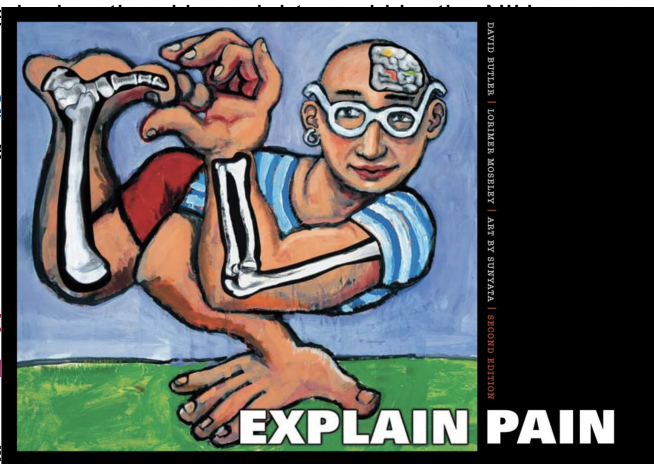
unding opportunity ons.

HEAL Initiative: Understanding Pain in Clinical Trial Optional) [RFA-NS-24-021](#)

onditions (R01 -

This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) from the [NIH's Helping to End Addiction Long-](#)

[term® \(HEAL\) Initiative](#) aims to support research aimed at holistic understanding of inter-individual or between-person differences in human pain conditions, focusing on 'Whole Person Health' and enhancing pain treatment and management strategies. The goal of this NOFO is to support studies that focus on the collection of clinical and/or preclinical data to enable evidence-based modeling and understanding of inter-individual differences and/or heterogeneity of pain occurring with use of pain



A Review of Explain Pain

therapy/management, or with conditions such as a second pain condition, a comorbid health condition, a comorbid mental health condition, or conditions of use / misuse of opioids, alcohol or other substances.

Originally published in 2003, this book was a dramatic innovation for educating both physicians and other health providers; as well as the lay public, about the principles of pain as a phenomenon and as a clinical problem. Loaded with the unusual illustrations of Sunyata, it is both a serious treatise and a humorous approach to a serious problem. The book is divided into six sections: an introduction with clinical examples, pain as a danger alarm system, damage to the body and nerves as causes of pain, central nervous system alterations that can lead to pain, contemporary concepts of pain management, and importance of education, especially teaching that hurt and harm are not synonyms. There are frequent references and a bibliography.

For a person steeped in the behavioral approach pioneered by Bill Fordyce, this book is on target. It is a no-nonsense explication of the mechanisms underlying the report of pain and the essentials of a cognitive-behavioral pain management program. It is light on the issues surrounding medications for pain and, of course, precedes much of the furor about the American opioid epidemic. There is nothing about the role of surgery or nerve blocks in chronic pain management, which is not really a shortcoming of this book. Nor is there any warning about the risks of opioids and other medications. In a sense, then, the book is dated, but the truths of its message are stronger today than ever. The authors emphasize the crucial role of patient education in caring for those with chronic pain and that is truly essential in the attempt to reclaim someone's life from the specter of chronic pain. This is a very unique book that conveys important messages about pain.

John D. Loeser, M.D. [Stanford Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pain Psychology](#)

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

[Advanced Fellowship in Health Services Research](#) Center for Care Delivery and Outcomes Research (CCDOR) a VA HSR&D Center of Innovation

Upcoming Events

[Pain Imaging Investigator](#) at the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine at **October 11 (1:00pm ET): Pain Epidemiology SIG Meeting**
October 19 (1:00pm ET): Pain, Movement, and Rehabilitation SIG
November 1: Deadline to submit proposals for symposia and pre-conference workshops for 2024 USASP Annual Meeting
November 20 (3-4 pm ET): USASP Diversity Inclusion and Anti-Racism SIG Meeting
[Senior Scientist \(Chief of Epidemiology\)](#) at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH)

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences - [Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychological Science](#)

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

[Back up to menu](#)

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