

United States Association for the Study of Pain Monthly Newsletter

March 14, 2023
Volume 17

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2023 Annual Scientific Meeting
April 11-14
Washington Duke Inn and Golf Club

REGISTER TODAY!

REGULAR REGISTRATION ENDS
FRIDAY MARCH 17, 2023

*Deadline to apply for Diversity, Equity, and
Inclusion Scholarship extended to March 17*



[Plenary Speakers](#)

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March USASP Trainee Spotlight



Barbara Benowitz

My name is **Barbara Benowitz**. I was a postbaccalaureate research fellow at NCCIH (NIH) in Dr. Yarimar Carrasquillo's lab. My research involved studying the neural mechanisms and circuitry underlying pain modulation and the crucial role of the central amygdala and zona incerta. My research won the Outstanding Poster Award at the 2022 NIH Postbac Poster Day. I presented my work at the 2022 USASP Annual Scientific Meeting that was held in Cincinnati, Ohio from May 18-21. In addition, I recently received the "Intramural Scientific Achievement Merit Award: For exceptional contributions toward the identification of a novel pain pathway from the central amygdala to the zona incerta." Lastly, I also received the 2022 NCCIH Annual Director's Mentoring Award: To recognize my work as a mentor through the Summer Internship Program.

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Education and Professional Development Event!

ENGAGING COMMUNITY PARTNERS ACROSS THE RESEARCH SPECTRUM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
AT 3PM EST (ZOOM)

This webinar has information for pain researchers at all stages across the translational spectrum as well as people with lived experience of pain and/or community representatives interested in becoming community research partners.



MARY R. JANEVIC, MPH, PHD
Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, University of Michigan School of Public Health



HENRY SWIFT
Community Advisory Board (CAB) member of the University of Michigan's RESET study, and CAB member of Wayne State University's Healthier Black Elder Center (HBEC).



JAMIE L. RHUDY, PHD,
Professor at the University of Tulsa
Director, Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience



USASP
US Association for the Study of Pain

Moderator

STAJA "STAR" BOOKER, PH.D., RN
Assistant Professor, College of Nursing | University of Florida



SOHAIL KHAN MBBS, MPH, CIP
Director of Health Research/Chair Cherokee Nation IRB



MANOJ LALU, MD, PHD, FRCPC
Scientist, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, University of Ottawa



LAURIE PROULX
Volunteer Vice-President, Canadian Arthritis Patient Alliance
Consultant on community & patient engagement

REGISTER AT [USASP.ORG/CALENDAR](https://usasp.org/calendar)

Join us on March 22 at 3pm (eastern) for Engaging Community Partners Across the Research

Spectrum.

Who is this webinar relevant for? Pain researchers at all career stages across the translational spectrum; people with lived experience of pain and/or community representatives interested in learning more about community research partners' roles

Event Description: The goal of this 1.5-hour webinar is to provide background information, practical examples, and tips for community-engaged research in the field of pain. Brief presentations will be followed by a Q & A session, moderated by Staja "Star" Booker. Submission of questions for panelists during registration is encouraged. Panelists are researcher and community research partner pairs who use engagement methods in the areas of preclinical (Manoj Lalu & Laurie Proulx), basic human (Jamie Rhudy & Sohail Khan), and clinical (Mary Janevic & Henry Swift) pain research. Registration fees are waived for people who are interested in attending the webinar to learn more about becoming a community research partner.

[Register here to attend this event](#)

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2023 USASP-MAYDAY Clinical/Translational Research Award

Application Portal will Open March 1st

Overview

Since 1993, The MAYDAY Fund has supported innovative projects to close the gap between knowledge and practice in the treatment of pain, as well projects to build on the current knowledge base. Understanding that creating meaningful change with modest funding is a challenge, MAYDAY tends to provide significant support to a handful of projects annually.

Starting in 2023, The MAYDAY Fund has awarded the United States Association for the Study of Pain funding for 3 years to support two meritorious early career investigators who propose innovative clinical/translational research in the field of pain.

Research Topics

Competitive research proposals address clinical/ translational research related to the management of pain. Applicants should describe the proposed research in pain and describe how it is innovative and cutting edge. In addition, the applicant should describe their vision for a career in pain research and provide information or any examples of leadership in pain-related activities.

Key Dates and Deadlines

[The application portal will open March 1, 2023](#)

Deadline for completed applications is 11:59 PM (eastern) on March 30, 2023

Grant awards will begin July 1, 2023

Eligibility

To be eligible for the USASP-MAYDAY Clinical/Translational Research Award, the applicant:

Must be a USASP member

Early career Assistant Professors within four years of the appointment are eligible to apply,

except those who have received tenure at the time of the application.
Must conduct their research and be appointed at an institution in the United States or Canada.
Should demonstrate a commitment to the field of pain research.

[Click here for more information](#)

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International Symposium on Pediatric Pain 2023

1 - 4 October 2023

Halifax Convention Center, Canada

Deadline to submit poster abstracts: 15 April 2023

[Learn More Here!](#)

Seeking Contributors to a Review Paper

Drs. Tamara Baker, Staja Booker, and Mary Janevic are seeking contributors to a review paper on racial disparities and pain. We are looking for experts or emerging experts on the following topics:

- Long-COVID/COVID
- Mental health/serious mental illness
- LGBTQIA+
- Alz Dz and cognitive function

We anticipate the writing to be minimal as each section will be approximately 700-800 words (2 double-spaced pages). If you would like to contribute or recommend a colleague, please email Dr. Tamara Baker at: Tamara_baker@med.unc.edu. Thank you.

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SAVE THE DATE!

**2024 USASP Annual
Scientific Meeting
The Westin Seattle**

April 14 - 17, 2024

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Featured Jobs and Training Opportunities

[Department of Health and Human Services](#)
[National Institutes of Health](#)
[Clinical Director](#)

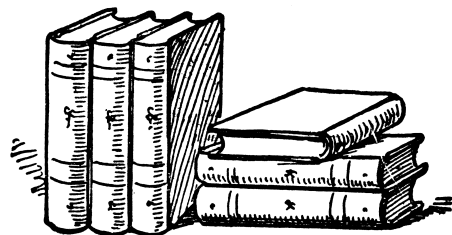
[Postdoctoral research positions in the Grace lab at MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)

[Division of Intramural Research, Office of the Scientific Director](#)

[Research Assistant in Pain Phenotyping to Enhance Relief by Studying Optimized
Nonpharmacologic Analgesia \(PPERSONA\) Lab](#)

[BWH Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Pain Psychology](#)

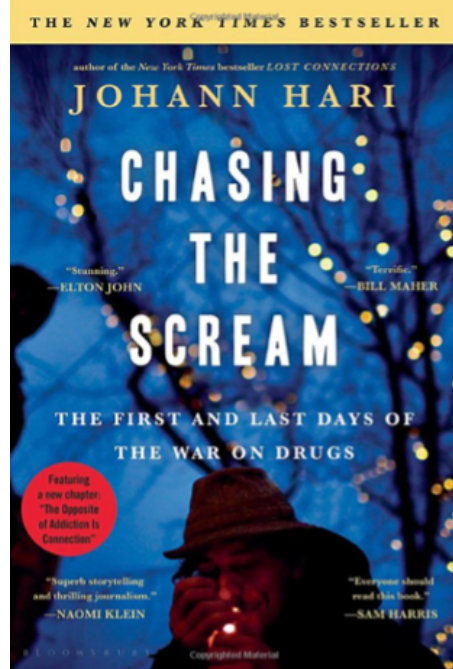
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BOOK CORNER

EDITED BY JOHN LOESER &
DAVID TAUBEN

A Review of
**Chasing The Scream: The first
and last days of the war on drugs**



by Johann Hari

“The opposite of addiction is connection.”
This is the thesis of this superb book on
addiction and its criminalization in the
United States.

New York, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015. 411 pages.

ISBN 978-1-62040-890-2. Paperback. \$18.38, also in hard cover

and Kindle

Hari writes beautifully and draws the reader into the plight of the opioid users whom he describes in the first half of this book. The vignettes of those who suffer from this plague reduced me to tears. So many were started on this disastrous path by appropriately prescribed opioids for pain relief, but never could stop their drug consumption. Then, the American criminalization of opioid consumption locked them into illegal drugs and their distribution, frequently sending them to jail for a crime that hurts only themselves.

What a sad story!

Hari pursues the dealers and their supply chains. The brutal cruelty of the drug business is described; neighborhoods are turned into battle zones. Like any war, the uninvolved locals are the real victims of the battles. We then learn about Harry Anslinger, who marshalled the forces of the United States government to criminalize drug possession, sales and use as a cover for his prejudices against Chinese and Blacks. He carried this campaign beyond the United States to the rest of the world, with far too many success stories for the banning of opioids and criminalization of their possession and sales. All that was missing was any evidence that turning drug possession into a crime reduced the use of drugs. It certainly filled the prisons in our country with people who were now unemployable and had to turn to drug dealing to make a living.

Next Hari gives us a glimpse of some of the heroes who have attempted to serve the needs of the addicted. From these portraits he develops the theme that addiction is characterized and promulgated by the loss of interpersonal connections. This being the starting point, it is not hard to realize that locking people up in jail cells further constrains their connections to other people and therefore increases the likelihood

of remaining addicted and outside of one's culture. The last section of the book advocates for the abolition of penalties for drug use of possession and accepting those who are addicted as being ill and needing both health care and interpersonal connections; hereby reversing one hundred years of a bad decision. Criminalization perpetuates addiction and creates the illegal drug business.

Pain physicians need to be aware of the bases for addiction and should take action to mitigate this risk. It is time for us to reverse our policies about opioid drugs and provide useful care to those who have fallen into this abyss. This book will start the reader on such a course.

John Loeser MD

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Upcoming SIG Meetings and Events

- **March 15 (2pm):** Acute (to Chronic) Pain SIG Meeting
- **March 17:** Deadline to apply for the 2023 DEI Scholarship
- **March 30:** Applications due for the USASP-MAYDAY Clinical/Translational Research Award
- **April 11-14:** USASP Annual Scientific Meeting

The logo for the USASP (US Association for the Study of Pain) features the letters 'USASP' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The 'U' is dark blue, the 'S' is a lighter blue, and the 'A', 'S', and 'P' are in a teal color.

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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