

**SLEEP &
PAIN SIG**
USASP
US Association for
the Study of Pain

News & Updates

SEPTEMBER 2026



2026 USASP Conference Recap

- It was wonderful seeing many of you in Philadelphia at this year's USASP conference.. A HUGE thank you to all presenters for presenting their research at our SIG meeting.
- We are also excited to recognize this year's presentation award recipients:
 - Best Slides: Raquel Adaia Sandoval Ortega
 - Outstanding Presenter: Darrius Bushe
 - Most Mind-Blowing Presentation: Ruby Kim
 - Most Timely Presentation: Darrius Bushe
- CONGRATULATIONS to all of our award winners, and thank you again to every presenter for making the session such a success!

February SIG Speaker

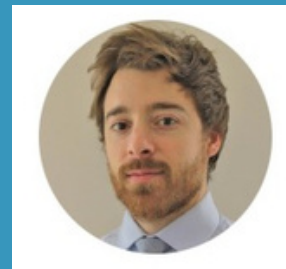
In February, we were delighted to welcome Chung Jung Mun, PhD, who presented "The Role of Sleep and Circadian Rhythms in Pain."

Missed the presentation or would like to watch it again?

The recorded session is now available to stream via YouTube: [HERE](#)

Upcoming Featured Presenter

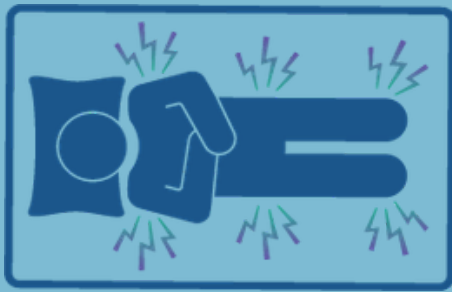
We are excited to welcome Alberto Herrero Babiloni, DDS, PhD, as our next featured speaker!



Join us on 9/29 at 2 PM EST (11 AM PST) for a virtual presentation: "The Influence of Chronotype on Pain"

Dr. Babiloni will discuss how our preference for earlier or later sleep-wake timing may influence pain vulnerability and chronic pain outcomes, and what this could mean for personalized pain management.

Please join us via Zoom: [HERE](#)



**SLEEP &
PAIN SIG**
USASP
US Association for
the Study of Pain

News & Updates

SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome to our New Co-Chair, Christopher D King, PhD



I am a Research Professor of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children's, where I study how sleep and other biobehavioral processes influence pain, vulnerability, and resilience across adolescence and young adulthood.

Outside of work, I am a husband and father of three who spends a lot of time shuttling kids between activities, making me a frequent unpaid rideshare driver. I am an avid fan of college football and soccer. In my spare time, my family and I raise dwarf Hotot rabbits (pronounced HOE toe, rhymes with "photo").

Contact: Christopher.King@cchmc.org

What is exciting about your work right now?

As part of our funded work in pediatric pain, we are collaborating with teams across Cincinnati Children's with expertise in machine learning, circadian biology, and immunology. Together, we aim to better understand why some adolescents develop persistent pain and related symptoms. This work may reveal how sleep and biological rhythms influence health and inform more personalized interventions.

Why did you choose a career in sleep/pain?

I was drawn to sleep and pain for research, clinical, and personal reasons. These interconnected experiences affect nearly every aspect of daily life, and improving sleep can offer a meaningful way to reduce pain. As someone who experiences recurrent back pain and headaches, I also know firsthand how important good sleep habits are for managing symptoms. Sleep is important.