

# USASP

US Association for  
the Study of Pain

## Monthly Newsletter

October 11th, 2022

Volume 12

**Save the Date!**



**This meeting will include:**

Symposia presentations  
Early Career Forum  
Professional Development Activities and  
Workshops  
Poster presentations  
Special Interest Group Meetings  
Committee Meetings  
And more!

**Symposia Deadline:**

November 10, 2022

**Research Abstracts Deadline:**

January 13, 2023

[Call for Symposia](#)

**October USASP Trainee Spotlight**



**Jon Dean, PhD**  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow  
University of California San  
Diego

**Jon Dean PhD** holds a B.A. in Chemistry from Youngstown State University and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Molecular and Integrative Physiology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Jon's graduate work in preclinical rodent models characterized the biosynthesis of the serotonin analog and endogenous psychedelic N,N-dimethyltyrptamine in the mammalian brain as well as the role of the prefrontal cortex in arousal via neurochemical, mRNA, and electroencephalogram studies.

Eager to translate his work to human clinical populations, Jon accepted a postdoctoral position in 2020 with Dr. Fadel Zeidan in the Brain Mechanisms of Pain & Health laboratory at the University of California, San Diego. Currently, Jon is conducting functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) studies on mindfulness meditation for chronic low back pain and psilocybin for phantom limb pain. Jon's long-term career goal is to run his own clinical neuroimaging program that couples fMRI to molecular approaches to gain a holistic understanding of chronic pain, depression, and psychedelic therapy.

Featured Podcasts

[Jon Dean - DMT Research | Neural Imaging | Psychedelic Neuroscience](#)

[GROUNDBREAKING DMT research that could change EVERYTHING w/ Dr. Jon Dean and John Chavez | AMP](#)

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## Call for Rita Allen Foundation's Award in Pain opens October 15



Rita Allen Foundation

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 due to terminal illness. **Completed applications must be submitted by 11:59 PM EASTERN TIME on December 15, 2022.** 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 2023. Please click the link below for more information about eligibility, application requirements, and past award recipients.

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

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# Upcoming Event!!



The United States Association for the Study of Pain is inviting you to participate in a webinar titled **Social Media for Professionals: Getting Started Now!** This event will be held on **October, 26th (3-4pm EST/12-1pm PST)** with a networking event immediately following the presentation (4-5pm EST/1-2pm PST) on Gather.Town.

This event will consist of a short introductory presentation by the USASP Communications Committee on how to get started using social media platforms for professionals followed by a panel discussion that will share some tips and tricks. This is intended as an introductory seminar that will prepare attendees for a more in-depth workshop that will be offered during the upcoming Annual Scientific Meeting in April 2023.

**Panelists:** Andrea Nackley, PhD (Duke University), Nathanel Hernandez, PhD (Duke University), Peter Grace, PhD (UT MD Anderson Cancer Center), Rachel Zoffness, PhD (UCSF, Stanford) and Tyler Bell, PhD (UCSD).

**Moderator:** Jennifer Haythornthwaite, PhD (Johns Hopkins University)

[Register here!](#)

## Jobs and Training

Virginia Commonwealth University  
[Biopsychosocial Research Scientist](#)

Mercer University  
[Post-doctoral Fellow in the Department of Clinical Psychology](#)

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# HEAL Pain Therapeutics Development Program Webinar

## *Non-Addictive Analgesic Therapeutics Development (Small Molecules and Biologics) to Treat Pain*

**Friday, November 18, 2022 3:30 pm EDT**

HEAL Pain Therapeutics Development Program (PTDP) Webinar: Focus on “Non-Addictive Analgesic Therapeutics Development (Small Molecules and Biologics) to Treat Pain”

This webinar aims to inform and answer participants questions on the HEAL Pain Therapeutics Development Program (PTDP) and the funding announcement RFA-NS-21-010. The goal of this announcement is to accelerate the optimization and development of promising small molecule and biologic hits/leads to Phase I clinical trials and readiness for the Early Phase Pain Investigation Clinical Network (EPPIC-Net) or other Phase II clinical studies.

### **EVENT INFORMATION**

HEAL Pain Therapeutics Development Program (PTDP) Webinar: Focus on “Non-Addictive Analgesic Therapeutics Development (Small Molecules and Biologics) to Treat Pain”  
November 18, 2022 3:30 pm Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Moderated by HEAL (PTDP) Program Director Dr. MaryAnn Pelleymounter

**Register in advance for this webinar:**

<https://nih.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltceqsrDkrHshoSMKMEwi2vwN3hlbnxHA>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

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## **Two NIH Funding Opportunities and Webinar on Sickle Cell Disease Pain Management**

[RFA-AT-23-001](#) Funding Opportunity  
Announcement—HEAL Initiative:

**Pragmatic and Implementation Studies  
for the Management of  
Sickle Cell Disease Pain**  
(UG3/UH3, Clinical Trials Optional)

**Purpose:** To support multisite embedded pragmatic or implementation trials to inform the uptake of pharmacologic, nonpharmacologic, and/or multicomponent approaches for acute and/or chronic SCD pain management in health care systems that serve the SCD population.

[RFA-AT-23-002](#) Funding Opportunity  
Announcement—HEAL Initiative:

**Sickle Cell Disease Pain Management Trials  
Utilizing the Pain Management Effectiveness  
Research Network Cooperative Agreement**  
(UG3/UH3, Clinical Trial Required)

**Purpose:** To support multisite effectiveness clinical trials of pharmacologic, nonpharmacologic, and/or multicomponent approaches for acute and/or chronic SCD pain management, allowing continued opioid pain management as needed.

Interested applicants can register for a [technical assistance webinar](#) on October 4, 2022 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET.

A [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) shares tips for applying and outlines research interests of each participating NIH organization. The application deadline for both FOAs is November 21, 2022.

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

**Applications due: 11/1/22**

In partnership with the United States Association for the Study of Pain (USASP), the Journal of Pain announces an opening for 5 early career editorial fellow positions to begin on January 1, 2023. The Editorial Fellowship program is specifically geared to provide opportunities to early career scientists to expand diversity, inclusion, and scientific excellence in editorial leadership.

The Editorial Fellowship will give participants the opportunity to obtain insight into the peer review process by shadowing experienced journal editors, thereby obtaining a direct and immersive experience in how a manuscript is handled, from submission to final decision. This will include the opportunity to critically review papers with the supervision of assigned editors who will serve as their mentors. Fellows will enhance skills in recognizing the characteristics of well-conducted research and to detect flaws in design, statistical analysis, and biases in data interpretation that compromise the quality of research. Through interaction with current editors and editorial board members, fellows learn the roles of editor, reviewer, and publisher to gain a broad understanding of the overall scientific publishing process.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

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## **Two new HEAL initiative FOAs**

**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 (FOA) invites 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 FOA is expected to provide well-validated models and measures that facilitate the development of non-opioid analgesic therapeutic interventions with little or no addiction liability.

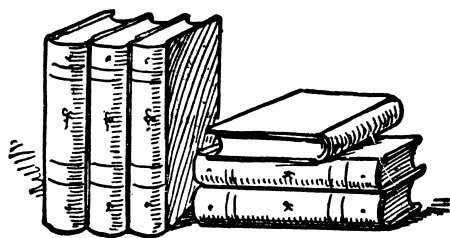
First receipt date: November 4th 2022  
Contact: HEALanimalmodels@nih.gov

**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. This NOSI uses PAR21-123, "Innovation Grants to Nurture Initial Translational Efforts (IGNITE): Development and Validation of Model Systems to Facilitate Neurotherapeutic Discovery (R61/R33 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)"

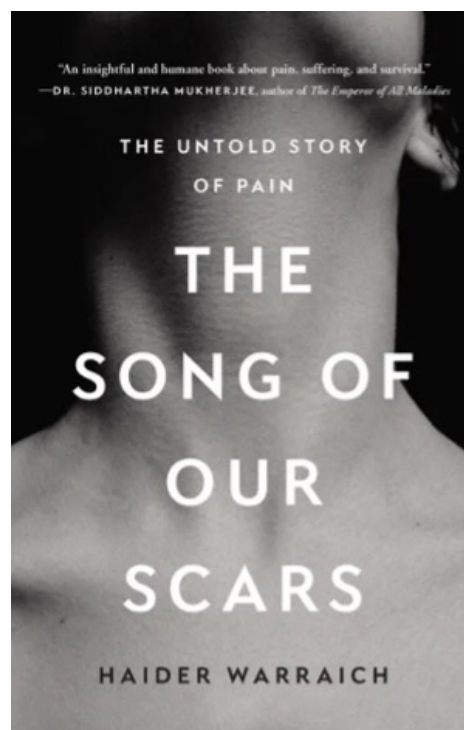
First receipt date: October 18th 2022

Contact: [rebecca.roof@nih.gov](mailto:rebecca.roof@nih.gov)



## BOOK CORNER

EDITED BY JOHN LOESER &  
DAVID TAUBEN



Basic Books 4/19/2022

320 pages

Hardcover & Audible \$30, eBook \$18

ISBN 9781541675308

## A review of The Song of our Scars

*"Pain is the interpretation of nociception,  
translating its wordless language in a vocabulary that we can understand"*

Haider Warraich's "The Song of Our Scars: The Untold Story of Pain" is a well-written book intended for a general audience, and especially so for those who, like himself, have personally struggled with chronic pain. Dr. Warraich is a cardiologist and palliative care physician at the Brigham and Women's and the Boston VA, with many peer reviewed top tier journal publications, author of two prior books and medical opinion pieces for prominent national newspapers.

Haider Warraich seeks a paradigm shift in understanding and caring for patients in pain. He rightly characterizes chronic pain as the "interpretation" of an otherwise "dispassionate nociception," a lived experience weaving together the "full smorgasbord of emotions, memories, and expectations" across historical and individual socio-political and economic settings. "To understand pain is to recognize how race, gender, ethnicity, and power come to indelibly mark what it means to inhabit the human frame."

"The Song of Our Scars" intends not to retell the "story" of pain, instead to present its "song." Songs animate written narratives, even poetry (think, Bob Dylan's Nobel Prize in Literature), by communicating deeply felt emotive content, empowering cultural connections among people while invoking quite palpable feelings, like dancing and singing along. And songs can be readily recalled and remastered. The musicality of song conveys, as Warraich seems to imply, a similar "wordless language" of pain. Does Warraich's analogy succeed? Not fully, but still a worthwhile book to read and share with our students and patients. Like songs, our patients' words can be heard but their meaning often remains unspecified.

I recommend this as interesting and provocative, a nicely curated and expansively referenced historical review of how and why we hurt, and what it means. Warraich leads us, at times, through Hippocrates, Socrates, the Bible, Descartes, the Renaissance and onto the modern scientific era. He even incorporates some of my favorite cross-specialty knowledge "synthesizers", like Ernst Becker (Denial of Death) and EO Wilson (Consilience). Warraich does well to cite the contributions of our past and modern era pain luminaries, including among others: John Bonica, Ron Melzack, John Loeser, Pat Wall, Cicely Saunders, Howard Field, Cliff Wolff, Roger Fillingim, Tonya Palermo plus many more of our current USASP members' recent publications, some as up to date as 2022. Skim the references and you may very well find your own name and research colleagues listed!

Among my favorite of his nine chapters were: 'The Pain and the Powerless' (disparities, biases, torture and horrific injustices), 'Rage Inside the Machine' (phantom limb, top-down sensitization, and acute vs chronic pain), and 'The Interpretation of Agony' (history of the meaning of pain from pre-Greco to current times). Warraich delivers a gloves-off takedown of corporate profit-driven medicine, pharmaceutical "apex predators", and the institutional failures to deliver multidisciplinary pain care.

Many years ago, two colleagues separately remarked to me that patient-clinician communication is a dance, one following the moves of your partner (classical) and the other, improvisational (jazz). Either way, songs do too, and this time we glimpse the music.

Written by David Tauben, MD

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# Upcoming SIG Meetings and Events

- October 15: Rita Allen Foundation Award in Pain Submission Portal Opens
- October 19 (2-3pm ET): Acute (to Chronic) Pain SIG Meeting
- October 19 (2-3pm ET): Pain Epidemiology SIG Meeting
- October 21 (1pm CT): Gulf Coast Consortia October #Pain2022 series focusing on Drosophila Models of Pain. Register [here](#)
- October 24 (12-1pm ET) : Complementary and Integrative Pain Management SIG
- October 27 (4-3pm ET): Clinical and Translational Research SIG Meeting
- November 18 (11am PT/2pm ET): Pediatric Pain SIG

# 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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