

United States Association for the Study of Pain Monthly Newsletter

September 12, 2023
Volume 22

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September Spotlight



Paramita Basu, PhD
Research Assistant Professor
Department of Anesthesiology

Dr. Paramita Basu is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh Center for Pain Research). She obtained her doctoral degree from Texas Woman's University under the mentorship of Drs. Dayna L. Averitt and Camelia Maier and completed postdoctoral training at the University of Pittsburgh with Dr. Bradley K. Taylor. Her research area involves understanding how peripheral neuropeptide Y2 receptor modulates nociception and itch under uninjured as well as neuropathic and postsurgical pain conditions in a rodent model. She also studies diabetic painful neuropathy and latent pain sensitization, a critical component of chronic pain mechanisms, which is focused on understanding how the facilitation of endogenous opioid analgesia would restrict latent sensitization at the remission state or inhibit latent sensitization altogether, ultimately promoting progress toward the long-term goal of alleviating chronic pain.

Pittsburgh Center for Pain
Research
University of Pittsburgh School of
Medicine

Paramita has several first-author peer-reviewed publications, including original research articles, reviews, and book chapters in journals like the Journal of Neuroscience, JCI Insight (co-author), European Journal of Pharmacology, Frontiers in Pharmacology, etc. She has received many accolades, including SfN's Trainee Professional Development Award, IASP's Sex, Gender, Race, and Pain SIG's Best Paper Award, and USASP's Best Poster Presentation in Basic Science Award at its Annual Scientific Meeting. In addition, Paramita has received other trainee awards from The Federation of North Texas Area Universities Symposium in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB), Phi Kappa Phi, etc. She is involved in several committees, including USASP's Advocacy Committee. Paramita is an Ad hoc reviewer for many biomedical science journals and a review editor for the Frontiers in Pain Research.

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Call for Nominations for the USASP Board of Directors

The USASP is looking to fill three Director seats 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

[Click here to learn more!](#)

Why the Native American Pain Disparity is a Social Problem



Did you know that Native Americans experience chronic pain at a higher rate than any other ethnic group in the U.S.? Pain researcher Jamie Rhudy discusses how historical and contemporary trauma shape this pain disparity and how we can start to solve this pain puzzle. Dr. Rhudy is a Professor, licensed clinical psychologist, and Director of the Psychophysiology Laboratory for Affective Neuroscience. Dr. Rhudy completed his Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 2002 at Texas A&M University and post-doctoral training at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Jackson, MS. The overarching goals of Dr. Rhudy's work are to identify mechanisms that contribute to and/or maintain chronic pain conditions, to develop non-invasive methods for assessing individuals at risk for developing chronic pain, and to improve the methods for studying pain. Since 2010, his work has focused on understanding the mechanisms of the Native American pain inequity. This talk was given at a TEDx event using the TED conference format but independently organized by a local community. Learn more at <https://www.ted.com/tedx>

[Click here to watch the recording!](#)

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2024 USASP Meeting Updates

2024 USASP Annual Scientific Meeting

April 14-17 | The Westin Seattle

Understanding the Complexity of Pain from Diverse Perspectives



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

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ST. LOUIS TRANSLATIONAL PAIN RESEARCH FORUM

September 22 & 23, 2023

Friday, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MISSION:

This event is designed to highlight the growing collaborative pain research community in St. Louis, the STL-TPRF event will bring together an outstanding group of scientists from the Midwest and NIH working across the pain translational research spectrum.

EVENT INFO:

Location: University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy Campus
2 Pharmacy Place, St. Louis, MO 63110

Registration Fees:

PIs: \$100

Trainees: \$25

HOSTED BY:

The Institute of Translational Neuroscience at Saint Louis University

Washington University Pain Center

The Center for Clinical Pharmacology - A Joint venture between the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis and the Department of Anesthesiology at Washington University School of Medicine

MORE INFO

stl-tprf2023.my.canva.site/

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Walter Koroshetz, MD

Director, NIH - NINDS



PLENARY SPEAKER



Vivianne Tawfik, MD, PhD

Associate Professor,
Stanford University

FEATURED TALKS

Matthew R. Sapio, PhD

NIH -NINDS

Apkar Vania Apkarian, PhD

Northwestern University

Andrea G. Hohmann, PhD

Indiana University - Bloomington

Laura Stone, PhD

University of Minnesota

Christopher Arnatt, PhD

Saint Louis University

Aubin Moutal, PhD

Saint Louis University

Simon Haroutounian, PhD, MSc

Washington University School of Medicine

Ream Al-Hasani, PhD

University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy

Yu-Qing Cao, PhD

Washington University School of Medicine



Institute for Translational
NEUROSCIENCE
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
**HEALTH SCIENCES
& PHARMACY**
in St. Louis



Washington University in St. Louis
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



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

Peter Grace, MD Anderson Cancer Center
HDAC6 Inhibitors as Novel Drug Candidates to Reverse Chemotherapy-Induced Neuropathy


Stephanie Shiers, Univ. of Texas, Dallas
Pathological Abnormalities of Diabetic Neuropathy in Human Dorsal Root Ganglia



Mariacristina Mazzitelli, Texas Tech Health Science Center
The Modulation of Astrocytes on Amygdala Neuronal Functions in Pain

Gulf Coast Consortia #Pain2023 Workshop

New Approaches in Understanding Neuropathic Pain

September 22, 2023

Registration 

Gulf Coast Consortia invites you to [register](#) (registration closes at midnight September 21) for the September #Pain2023 series focusing on *New Approaches in Understanding Pain*. The event will take place online, on September 22, 2023, from 1-2 pm (CDT).

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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

[Click here to view the September issue](#)

Featured Article

Facilitated Central Pain Mechanisms Across the Menstrual Cycle in Dysmenorrhea and Enlarged Pain Distribution in Women With Longer Pain History

Rocío Fortún-Rabadán,^{*} Shellie A. Boudreau,[†] Pablo Bellosta-López,^{*} Pablo Herrero,[‡] Thomas Graven-Nielsen,[†] and Víctor Doménech-García^{*}

^{*}Universidad San Jorge. Campus Universitario, Autov. A23 km 299, 50830. Villanueva de Gállego, Zaragoza, Spain, [†]Center for Neuroplasticity and Pain, Department of Health Science and Technology, Faculty of Medicine, Aalborg University, Aalborg, Denmark, [‡]Department of Physiatry and Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, IIS Aragon, University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain

Dysmenorrhea (DYS), or recurrent menstrual pain, is a highly prevalent pain condition among otherwise healthy women. However, the progression of DYS over time and the influence of the menstrual cycle phases need to be better understood. While the location and distribution of pain have been used to assess pain mechanisms in other conditions, they are unexplored in DYS. Thirty otherwise healthy women with severe DYS and 30 healthy control women were recruited into 3 subgroups ($n = 10$) according to the length of their menstrual history (<5, 5–15, or >15 years since menarche). The intensity and distribution of menstrual pain were recorded. Pressure pain thresholds at abdominal, hip, and arm sites, pressure-induced pain distribution, temporal summation of pain, and pain intensity after pressure cessation over the gluteus medius were assessed at 3 menstrual cycle phases. Compared with the healthy control women, those with DYS showed lower pressure pain thresholds in every site and menstrual cycle phase ($P < .05$), enlarged pressure-induced pain areas during menstruations ($P < .01$), and increased temporal summation and pain intensity after pressure cessation in the overall menstrual cycle ($P < .05$). Additionally, these manifestations were enhanced during the menstrual and premenstrual phases compared to ovulation in women with DYS ($P < .01$). Women with long-term DYS demonstrated enlarged pressure-induced pain distribution, enlarged menstrual pain areas, and more days with severe menstrual pain compared to the short-term DYS subgroup ($P < .01$). Pressure-induced and menstrual pain distributions were strongly correlated ($P < .001$). These findings suggest that severe DYS is a progressive condition underscored by facilitated central pain mechanisms associated with pain recurrence and exacerbation.

[Click to read more](#)

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Funding Opportunities & Webinars

The NIH HEAL Initiative is excited to announce a new notice of funding opportunity for **Understanding Individual Differences in Human Pain Conditions**

HEAL Initiative: Understanding Individual Differences in Human Pain Conditions (R01 -

Clinical Trial Optional) [RFA-NS-24-021](#)

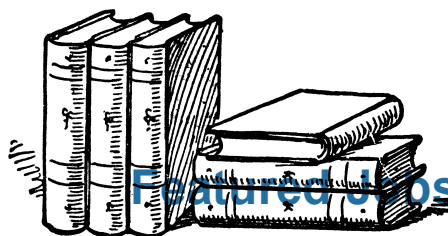
This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) from the [NIH's Helping to End Addiction Long-term® \(HEAL\) Initiative](#) aims to support research aimed at holistic understanding of inter-individual or between-person differences in human pain conditions, focusing on 'Whole Person Health' and enhancing pain 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 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.

Program staff will be hosting an Applicant Webinar for those interested in learning more about [RFA-NS-24-021](#) on Tuesday, 8/29/23 from 2:00-3:00pm ET. NIH staff will provide an overview of [RFA-NS-24-021](#) and answer general questions from prospective applicants. Registration is required.

Registration: [Click Here to Register](#)

Upcoming Receipt Dates: November 7, 2023 and February 6, 2024

Questions can also be submitted prior to the event to: rachel.weinberg@nih.gov



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BOOK CORNER

**EDITED BY JOHN LOESER &
DAVID TAUBEN**

Featured Jobs and Training Opportunities

[Postdoctoral Associate Research Position in Sickle Cell Disease](#)

[Stanford F](#)

[Assistant Professor/Associate F](#)

[Advanced Fellowship in Health Se](#)
(CCD)

[Pain Imaging Investigator](#) at the

[Postd](#)

[psychology](#)

[edicine at Texas Tech University](#)

[Delivery and Outcomes Research](#)
[ation](#)

[rioperative and Pain Medicine at](#)

[lorida](#)

[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
Montreal & Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2023, 138 pages
(NCCIH)

ISBN 978-0-2280-1674-8 (paper). \$28.01

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

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS, Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences - [Full](#)
The author is a Professor of Visual Culture at the University of Windsor and this affiliation
[Professor and Director of Clinical Training](#)
is a key to the beauty of this narrative of what it means to be a chronic pain patient.

Members can sign into the USASP website to view additional job postings

I enjoyed reading this brief book that tells the autobiographic tale of an artistic chronic pain sufferer who survives to write about her life and its hurdles and victories. Women are more afflicted by chronic pain than men and Ms. Engle has fibromyalgia, temporomandibular joint pain syndrome, irritable bowel syndrome and several other highly symptomatic pain problems; all of which prove refractory to the treatments offered by her many providers. She does learn strategies to minimize and partially control her multiple pains, almost in spite of her treating providers. She does gain some insights into her multiple diagnoses for diseases that have no known pathological basis.

Pain is always localized to a part or region of the body and the implication to most people is that there must be something wrong in the part that hurts. This leads to the relentless search for an explanation in the painful part of the body. I believe that these pain syndromes are manifestation of brain and spinal cord malfunction: there is nothing wrong where the pain is perceived. The failure to recognize that such pain syndromes have nothing wrong where it hurts leads to the life problems described by Ms.Engle and to myriads of unsuccessful treatments at considerable cost and sometimes medical hazard to the patient.

Ms. Engle has selected a fascinating array of illustrations for her book; they are an integral part of her narrative and provide an unusual insight into many of the features of being a chronic pain sufferer. Each chapter (there are 6) is extensively foot-noted and there is an excellent bibliography that offers many interesting sources for further in depth pursuit of her topics. She particularly quotes women authors who have addressed the problems of pain in their writings. A preponderance of the references could be classified as “alternative medicine” some are just unrelated to any aspect of health care. As is so often the case, the author’s failure to find an explanation for her myriad of symptoms has led to considerable anger and hostility towards health care providers; some of which is well-deserved. She has managed to convey the meaning of many visual images related to chronic pain in a very personal and revealing style. This book is a good read for someone who wants insights into the havoc caused by mysterious chronic pain syndromes.

John D. Loeser, M.D.

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Upcoming Events

September 12-14: [For Patients, By Patients \(PxP\) Conference](#)

September 20-23: ASPMN®’s 33rd National Conference [Learn more and register.](#)

September 25 (3-4 pm ET): USASP Diversity Inclusion and Anti-Racism SIG Meeting

September 28 (12-1 pm ET): Pain and Aging SIG Meeting

October 4 (2:30-3:30 pm ET): Sleep and Pain SIG Meeting

More information about these events and others can be found on the USASP Event [Calendar.](#)

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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