

USASP Members Newsletter

United States Association for the Study of Pain



WELCOME! DR BRITTANY KNIGHT USASP'S NEW PROGRAM COORDINATOR!

By Jennifer Haythornthwaite PhD

Dr. Brittany Knight joined us on September 7, 2021 as the new USASP Program Coordinator. She earned a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology from Lock Haven University followed by a PhD in Biomedical Science from the University of Connecticut under the supervision of Dr. Kyle Baumbauer. Her thesis research focused on identifying the role of wound healing proteins called tissue inhibitors of matrix metalloproteinases (TIMPs) in the generation of acute inflammatory pain. Following completion of her PhD, she completed postdoctoral training in Lakshmi Nair's lab at the Connecticut Convergence Institute studying injectable biomaterials and local anesthetics for managing musculoskeletal pain.

While working from home during the pandemic shut-down in 2020 Dr. Knight volunteered for a newly formed global non-profit called Dimensions Sciences as a Business Development Intern. She created educational programs to support STEM education and the professional development of students from underrepresented groups in science. She organized and moderated seminars, mentored Brazilian scientists during a Science Communications internship, and created social media content.

These experiences inspired Britt to pursue a career that combines her passions for science, mentorship, and career development. The USASP, as a young organization, is the perfect place for her to synthesize these passions to help organize and support programs that advance pain research and professional development across the USASP community.

**2022 Symposia
Deadline 12/3/21**

Newsletter Highlights

**Welcome to USASP's
New Program
Coordinator**

**2022 Meeting and
other upcoming
events**

**Advocacy: Amicus
Brief**

**SIG Social Media Art
Contest**

**Book Corner: Edited
by John Loeser and
David Tauben**

USASP

US Association for
the Study of Pain

2022 Annual USASP Meeting

Join us in Cincinnati, OH
May 18-21, 2022

Keynote Speakers
 Symposia
 Poster Sessions
 Early Career Forum
 Workshops

Symposia submission deadline:

December 3, 2021

Abstracts submissions deadline:

January 14, 2022

For more information [click here!](#)



Amicus Brief

Coalition Building and Advocacy Committee

On July 26th 2021, USASP was approached by The Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) to assess our interest in signing on to an amicus brief directed to the United States Supreme Court in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. The USASP was approached about this issue because the Mississippi law and consequently the brief are focused on the science around the experience of pain. To learn more [click here!](#)

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has been hard at work reviewing the composition of the over 700 multi-disciplinary members of USASP, and brainstorming ways to diversify and expand our current membership base. We are currently reviewing the Needs Assessment survey and partnering with existing USASP committees to develop initiatives to best serve the organization and its members.

Let's stay connected: Renew your membership

Remember to keep your member profile up to date as well as to renew your membership conveniently using your USASP website login. Members in their grace period (30-60 days following one-year membership without renewal) will receive contact from the USASP Membership Committee. Not a member? Join [here!](#)

Here is a brief outline of the resources you will gain while a member of the USASP:

- Members' directory
- Networking and Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- Professional Development Seminars and workshops
- The Journal of Pain
- Leadership Opportunities
- Discounts on meeting fees

Upcoming Events

Nov 17

Acute (to Chronic) Research Seminar

Nov 19

Pediatric Pain Seminar

Nov 30

The Career Corner: Finding Your Perfect Postdoc Match

Dec 3

Annual Scientific Meeting
Symposia Submissions
Deadline

Dec 9

USASP Holiday Social Hour
To register click [here](#)

*SIG and Committee meetings
are posted on the USASP
Calendar*

Links

[Sign-up for a SIG](#)

[Jobs and Training](#)

[Journal of Pain](#)

  @US_ASP

Acute (to Chronic) Pain SIG Research Seminar

Starting this November, the Acute (to Chronic) Pain SIG will be starting a series of seminars that will be open to all USASP members to attend. The first presentation will be led by Vidya Chidambaran, MD, MS, FASA (Cincinnati Children's Hospital) on November 17th from 2-3pm ET. The title of the talk is The quest to predict CPSP in children – psychosocial factors and genomics. Information for attending the seminar is posted on the USASP member calendar. Click [here](#) to learn how you can attend this event.

Pediatric Pain SIG Monthly Meeting and Discussion

The first meeting will be on November 19th, 11am-noon, Pacific Time. Tonya Palermo will join to discuss “Building collaborations within the pediatric pain research community”. Second meeting will be held on December 10th, 11am-noon, Pacific Time. Gary Walco, chair of the Advocacy SIG, will join to discuss “Advocacy in Pediatric Pain”. The format will also be Q&A. Click here to [sign-up for this SIG](#) and receive information about future meetings.

The Career Corner: Finding Your Perfect Postdoc Match

On Nov. 30th 2021 (4-6pm EST) the Educational and Professional Development Committee is hosting a seminar to provide a platform that allows PI's and trainees to network and discuss potential postdoctoral training opportunities in pain research. We are looking for Principal Investigators at all career levels that are planning on hiring a postdoctoral trainee to participate in the networking event. To sign-up click [here](#) or email admin@usasp.org with any questions.

[Please consider USASP on Giving Tuesday
Nov. 30th](#)



SIG Social Media Art Contest

Communications Committee

Call to Action: All USASP SIGs/circles/ and committees are invited to participate in an art contest. Groups may submit short videos, a logo, or other art. Deadline is January 12, 2022. Submissions will be collected under My Membership on USASP website or clicking the following [link](#). Art will be posted on USASP website and social media. All submissions will be entered in a contest with prizes given to the top 2 winners! More information to come!

Newsletter Submissions Accepted!

If you have content you would like to see published in the next newsletter such as special interest group or committee updates, seminars, shout outs to colleagues or other news you want your colleagues know please send submissions by the first of the month to admin@usasp.org

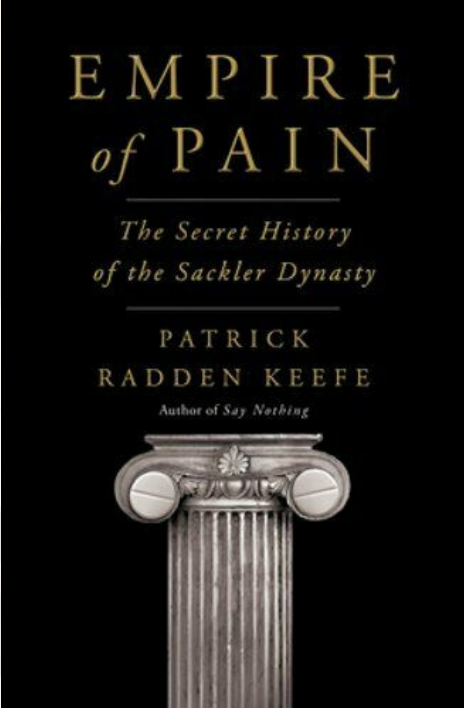
BOOK CORNER
EDITED BY JOHN LOESER AND DAVID
TAUBEN

Empire of Pain
by **Patrick Radden Keefe**

New York, Doubleday, 2021. 435 pages.
ISBN 978-0-385-54568-6. List price \$32.50; Amazon
price \$19.50

An insider's look at the Sackler family and the multidistrict litigation about OxyContin and the opioid overdose epidemic in the United States.

A review can be found on page 5.



A review of **Empire of Pain**

by Patrick Radden Keefe

This book should be of interest to anyone who is involved in the treatment of patients with opioids or in the saga of massive plaintiff's state and federal opioid litigation. It has been written by a skilled investigative reporter who feels strongly that a least two things went wrong with the litigation: first, the Sacklers were not punished adequately for their criminal marketing strategies for OxyContin, and, second, the benefits of the proposed compromise solution to the litigation will not go to those who became addicted to OxyContin. This is an important issue, as the state and federal litigation was mostly bought by city, county and state governments seeking to fund services and programs that were necessary to "abate" the national opioid epidemic, a public health nuisance, as opposed to compensating individual patients who had been damaged by OxyContin. In addition to the multidistrict federal case, that represented thousands of local governments throughout the country, there were also numerous state cases brought by State attorney generals, and also brought by local governments aimed at collecting money from Purdue and the Sacklers, some of which were successful. And, the federal government had already fined Purdue twice for violation of the rules governing opioids and their marketing. Furthermore, the state and federal cases also sought relief from the major distributors and national pharmacies whom the plaintiffs alleged failed to follow the federal rules for their businesses. So, this narrative by Keefe looks at only a segment of the opioid epidemic problem.

Keefe has little liking for the entire Sackler family, even those who have passed away. He alleges that the family has been directly responsible for the policies and programs of Purdue and should be held personally responsible for what their privately held company did to create the start of the opioid epidemic. Many would agree; however, it is exceedingly rare that corporate owners are held responsible for the behavior of their corporation. Perhaps it is time to change this strategy, but that is a larger issue than this litigation. On the other hand, the behavior of the Sackler family and its attorneys as described by Keefe does suggest that corporate greed seems to be their dominant trait.

Keefe has based his narrative upon an amazing array of documents: federal, state and litigation records. He engaged in extensive fact-checking and I can see no basis for challenging the facts as he reports them. There is little question of his dislike of the Sacklers and their attorneys; this is justified by the evidence he has adduced. That the litigators in the multidistrict (MDL) case chose to apply any funds achieved to the institutional costs of providing health care for those damaged by this corporate malfeasance clearly offends Keefe, who believes that money should have been earmarked for those who suffered from opioids due to Purdue's illegal actions.

This is a good book, easy to read, and a valuable contribution to informing the public about the American opioid epidemic.

John D. Loeser, M.D.

