

United States Association for the Study of Pain

Monthly Newsletter

November 8, 2023

Volume 24

Newsletter Highlights

[Trainee Spotlight](#)

[Rita Allen
Foundation
Scholars Award in
Pain](#)

[2024 USASP
Meeting: Call for
Poster Abstracts](#)

[Journal of Pain:
November 2023
Volume 24 Issue
11](#)

[Negotiating for
the Early- to Mid-
Career Pain
Scientist](#)

[Jobs and Training
Opportunities](#)

[Special Interest
Group Updates](#)

[Book Corner:
Awe: The New
Science
of Everyday
Wonder and How
it Can Transform
Your Life](#)

November Trainee Spotlight



Wacław (Waci) Adamczyk, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow

Dr. Adamczyk is a physical therapist who earned his Ph.D. from the Academy of Physical Education in Katowice, Poland, where he worked under the supervision of Prof. Kerstin Luedtke and Edward Saulicz. He collaborated with the University of Luebeck, where he served as a postdoc by 2021. Currently, he is continuing his postdoctoral training under the mentorship of Dr. Robert C. Coghill at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where he investigates brain mechanisms of spatial aspects of pain by using brain imaging and psychophysics.

Dr. Adamczyk is the recipient of two grants funded by the National Science Center in Poland. He was also awarded the START award by the Polish Foundation for Science (START) to further his work on the spatial aspects of pain. His research focuses on characterizing the nociceptive system, examining

Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Medical Center

phenomena such as spatial summation of pain and pain "size". He recently co-authored a paper on spatial tuning and its attentional dependencies, published in [The Journal of Pain](#). He also presented his work as part of a topical workshop on the spatial and temporal aspects of pain modulation at the 13th Congress of the European Pain Federation EFIC® in Budapest. Dr. Adamczyk is well known for his strong love of coffee and peculiar humor.

[Back up to menu](#)

Call for Rita Allen Foundation Scholars Award in Pain Apply by December 14




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. Completed applications must be **submitted by 11:59 PM EASTERN TIME on December 14, 2023**. Applications are reviewed by a Selection Committee that includes past Award in Pain recipients and other leading pain researchers. Grant awards will be announced in the summer of 2024. Please click the link below to get more information about eligibility, application requirements, and past award recipients.

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

[Back up to menu](#)

2024 USASP Meeting Updates



2024 USASP Annual Scientific Meeting
April 14-17, 2024 | The Westin Seattle

Call for Poster Abstracts

Deadline December 1, 2023

Poster sessions will be in person only

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](#).

Call for Poster Abstracts

We are excited to announce the Call for Abstracts for poster presentations is open. This is your opportunity to share your groundbreaking research and insights with the pain research community!

Deadline: December 1, 2023.

Presentation Formats: We welcome abstracts for poster presentations.

Topics: Submissions related to pain research and management are encouraged.

Selection: Abstracts will be reviewed, and accepted presenters will be notified by January 1, 2024.

How to Submit:

- Visit the [2024 USASP Poster Abstracts](#) dedicated webpage
- Click on the "Submit Your Abstract Here" button.
- Follow the instructions and complete your submission.

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the USASP 2024 Meeting, where we will explore cutting-edge developments in pain research and management. Your research could make a significant difference in advancing our understanding of pain and improving patient care.

Join us in Seattle for an unforgettable experience of learning, sharing, and networking.

[Click here to review the submission guidelines.](#)

[Back up to menu](#)

2024 USASP-MAYDAY

Clinical/Translational Research Award

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 on February 1, 2024
- The deadline for completed applications is 11:59 PM (eastern) on March 18, 2024
- Grant awards will begin July 1, 2024

Eligibility

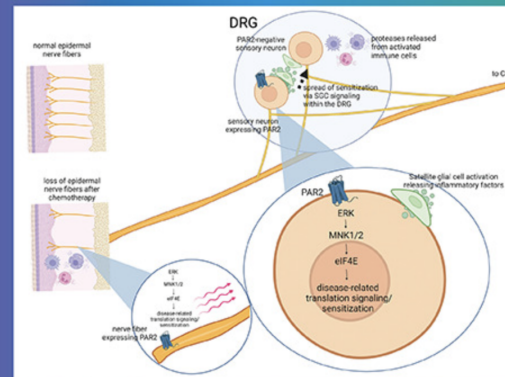
To be eligible for the USASP-MAYDAY Clinical/Translational Research Award, the applicant:

- 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 to learn more](#)

[Back up to menu](#)

November 2023 Volume 24 Issue 11



Editor-in-Chief:
Tonya M. Palermo, PhD

USASP
US Association for
the Study of Pain
pain.org

Featured Article

Validation of the PEG Scale in Spanish (PEG-S) Among Adults Receiving Care for Pain in US Primary Care

Flavia P. Kapos,^{*,†} Christine Hancock,^{‡,§} Viviana Guerrero Torres,[¶] Maria I. Gonzalez Antonio,[¶] An Do,^{||} and Mark P. Jensen^{**}

^{*}Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development, Seattle Children's Research Institute, Seattle, Washington, [†]Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, [‡]Sea Mar Community Health Centers, Bellingham, Washington, [§]Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, Washington State University, Spokane, Washington, [¶]Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington, ^{||}School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, ^{**}Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Abstract

This study sought to evaluate the psychometric properties of a Spanish version of the PEG scale (PEG-S, whose items assess Pain intensity and pain interference with Enjoyment of life and General activity) in a sample of Spanish-speaking adults receiving care for pain at primary care clinics in the Northwestern United States. We evaluated the PEG-S's 1) internal consistency, 2) convergent validity, and 3) discriminant validity. All participants ($n = 200$, mean age = 52 years [SD = 15], 76% women, mean PEG-S score = 5.7 [SD = 2.5]) identified as having Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed ethnic origin was predominantly Mexican or Chicano (70%). The PEG-S's internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha, .82) was good. Correlations between the PEG-S scale scores and established measures of pain intensity and interference ranged from .68 to .79, supporting the measure's convergent validity. The correlation between the PEG-S scale score and the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 ($r = .53$) was weaker than those between the PEG-S scale and measures of pain intensity and interference, supporting the measure's discriminant validity. The findings support

reliability and validity of the PEG-S for assessing a composite score of pain intensity and interference among Spanish-speaking adults. *Perspective: We present evidence supporting the reliability and validity of the PEG scale in Spanish (PEG-S) in a sample of adults receiving pain care at primary care clinics in the Northwestern United States. This 3-item composite measure of pain intensity and interference can help clinicians and researchers assess pain among Spanish-speaking adults.*

Perspective

We present evidence supporting the reliability and validity of the PEG scale in Spanish (PEG-S) in a sample of adults receiving pain care at primary care clinics in the Northwestern United States. This 3-item composite measure of pain intensity and interference can help clinicians and researchers assess pain among Spanish-speaking adults.

[Click to read more](#)

[Back up to menu](#)



LIVE SEMINAR



Negotiating for the Early- to Mid-Career Pain Scientist



Jessica Merlin, MD
University of Pittsburgh

Burel Goodin, PhD
Washington University
in St. Louis



This webinar will focus on skills and tips for negotiating academic job offers in the early- through mid-career stages: the speakers, Drs. Burel Goodin and Jessica Merlin have substantial experience in this area. Registrants can submit questions for panelists before the webinar to ensure they are answered during the discussion.



WEDNESDAY
11.29.2023



START AT
11:00 AM ET

REGISTER



www.usasp.org

[Click Here to Register](#)

[Back up to menu](#)



Fundamentals of Pain is a basic workshop for nurses and other health care professionals who want to learn more about assessing and managing pain. It was developed by nurses with significant experience in the area of pain management including four past presidents of ASPMN. If you want to improve caring for patients by improving your ability to manage pain, this is the course for you.

When/Where

Thursday, November 16
9:30 AM - 5:30 PM ET
Virtual

Featured Speakers

Linda M. Vanni MSN, PMGT-BC, ACNS-BC, NP AP-PMN
Professional Pain Education & Consulting LLC

Dr Maureen F. Cooney DNP, FNP, RN-BC
Westchester Medical Ctr.

Deb Bruene RN, MA
University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital

Ann N. Quinlan-Colwell PhD, RN, PMGT-BC, AHNBC
New Hanover Reg'l. Medical Ctr.

Carol P. Curtiss
Curtiss Consulting

Sharon Wrona DNP, PMGT-BC, CPNP-PC, PMHS, AP-PMN, FAAN
Nationwide Children's Hosp.

Pricing

Members: \$200
Non-members: \$250

[REGISTER HERE](#)



invites



to our first attend

GRAND ROUNDS

Exploring Cutting-Edge
Pain Research through the
NIH HEAL Initiative®

November 29, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM ET

REGISTER NOW

<https://bit.ly/3FrPNGA>



Linda Porter, PhD

Designated Federal Official for the Interagency
Pain Research Coordinating Committee

Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Society for Pain Management Nursing is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. This course offering is approved for 2.1 contact hours applicable for RN, LPN, or LMHT relicensure. Kansas State Board of Nursing Provider Number: LT LT0279-0412GKCC526*

ASPMN Grand Rounds will explore cutting-edge pain research that has been funded through the NIH HEAL Initiative®. Participation in this Grand Rounds is free to ASPMN Members and their Partner Organizations.

Together, we will hear about the current portfolio of HEAL research activities, with an emphasis on pain research. We will be able to identify research results and major accomplishments of HEAL research activities. We are excited to see how the HEAL Initiative's research and findings are potentially practice-changing and meaningful to clinical nursing practice and education every day! And we will participate in discussions of future goals of the NIH HEAL Initiative®!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[Back up to menu](#)

NIH Loan Repayment Programs (LRP) Award

The NIH is accepting applications for the Extramural LRP until **November 16, 2023**. By applying for this two-year LRP award, you have the opportunity to get up to \$100,000 of your qualified educational loan debt repaid by the NIH.

Visit the [LRP website](#) and watch their informative [overview video](#).

The deadline to submit an Extramural LRP application is **November 16, 2023**.

Featured Jobs and Training Opportunities

[Recently Added](#)

Postdoctoral Research Associate in Mindfulness and Psychedelic-Assisted Therapy for Chronic Pain and Addiction (PRN36850B). [Read more here](#).

Postdoctoral Associate being recruited to study neuropathic pain in clinical populations using quantitative sensory testing, questionnaire-based inquiry, and other methodologies. Position will be under the direction of Elizabeth Felix, PhD in the department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The full position announcement and application portal [can be found here](#).

Basic Pain Scientist Faculty Position at the University of Minnesota

Special Interest Group Updates The University of Minnesota, in collaboration with the University of Minnesota Pain Consortium, is seeking an accomplished scientist specializing in the field of pain to join a large, multidisciplinary community focused on pain and analgesia research. [Read more here](#).

- Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism SIG Meeting will be held November 20th at 3pm ET

The Department of Aging, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine offers a **Pain Psychology Fellowship** for a postdoctoral fellow to be held November 1st - 30th. [Read more here](#). PsyFi SIG meeting will be held on November 16 at 3 pm ET

- Sex Differences in Pain and Analgesia SIG will meet on November 27th at 1 pm CT/2 pm ET.

- **USASP Basic Science Preclinical SIG Meeting** Datablitz Presentations will be held on December 14th at 12 pm ET (rescheduled from 11/9).

- **USASP Abdominal and Pelvic Pain Special Interest Group (SIG) Work in Progress Meeting** will be held on December 15th at 1 pm ET

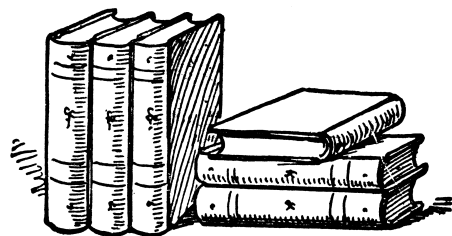
[Research Faculty](#)

[Stanford Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Pain Psychology Treatment and Research](#)

[Click here to Join a Special Interest Group](#)

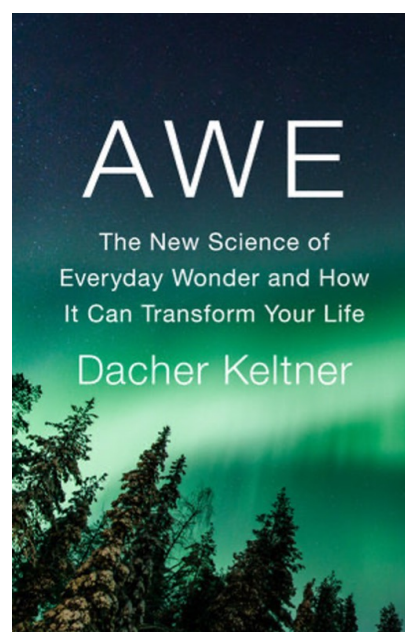
Members can sign into the USASP website to view additional job postings.

[Back up to menu](#)



BOOK CORNER

EDITED BY JOHN LOESER &
DAVID TAUBEN



Penguin Press 2023

ISBN: 9781984879684

336 pp. \$18-\$28 print; \$16 Kindle

A Review of Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How it Can Transform Your Life

“Awe is the feeling of being in the presence of something vast that transcends your current understanding of the world”

The innate and remarkably human experience of *awe*, according to Dacher Keltner, PhD, Professor of Social Psychology at UC Berkeley, has evolved as a complex emotion that alleviates many dimensions of human suffering. He contends that the experience of awe improves the human capacity to manage perceived threats, unimaginable losses, distress, fears, and debilitation from illness and injury. Keltner understands “awe” as a complex biopsychosocial phenomenon analogous to how we understand chronic pain. Since *awe* has demonstrated the capability to ease a range of human suffering, might *awe* also ease the suffering related to pain?

In his recently published popular science book, ***Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How it Can Transform Your Life***, Keltner contends that the experience of awe provides significant survival and adaptive advantages, enabling humans to survive and flourish amidst the vast mysteriousness of living in the world. *“Emotions are central to our individual survival and our evolution as a species.”* He is an expansive and exuberant view, seen through multiple perspectives, including literature, art, music, philosophy, ceremony, religion and science.

Keltner’s published work is focused on expanding and clarifying the “taxonomy of emotions,” those “brief feeling states accompanied by distinct thoughts, expressions, and physiology.” His analysis embraces the humanities, especially those targeting human feelings and emotions: “moral beauty, nature, collective effervescence, music, visual design, spirituality, big ideas, and ‘really thinking about the beginning and end of life.’” Keltner shares his own experience of his beloved younger brother’s untimely death. He also documents personal stories of others, who after losing all hope have recovered, at least in part by recapturing awe. Scientists may well challenge much of Keltner’s “data” as anecdotal storytelling, and indeed much is. He does bolster his scientific case with 45-pages of relevant notes and references, incorporating a broad range of academic disciplines, both

contemporary and historical. Quoting Albert Einstein, for instance, Keltner proposes that both artistic and scientific curiosity arise from awe: “*The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and science.*”

Might we do well to incorporate the experience of awe within pain medicine’s research scope and clinical armamentarium? I suggest this affirmative and exuberant book be considered a potential inspirational guide for some of our patients. Perhaps by lessening the intensity of threatening perceptions and negative cognitions, awe may become a means to help ease their pain and suffering. Awe is an enjoyable read highlighting the experience and value of ‘being outside of ourselves’.

Dr. Tauben is a Clinical Professor Emeritus in the Depts of Medicine and Anesthesia & Pain Medicine at the University of Washington

[Back up to menu](#)

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

Follow us!

Facebook

Twitter

LinkedIn

USASP is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, tax ID 84-4008678. All donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.