



Pain Research Institute

This is the Pain Research Institute newsletter, the purpose of which is to keep researchers and clinicians informed of the current research going on in the institute. We hope this will enable clinicians to identify areas of research that they may be interested in whilst keeping informed about studies opening to recruitment as they may have pain patients they wish to refer.

New Publication for
PubMed.gov
Dr Andy Marshall

Dr Andy Marshall has recently had a paper published in Brain journal called “Nav1.7 is required for normal C-low threshold mechanoreceptor function in humans and mice”
The full publication can be read here
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34957475/>

Dr. Andreas Goebel, Reader in Pain Medicine & Director of the PRI



Francis McGlone, Professor in Neuroscience, School of Natural Sciences & Psychology, Liverpool John Moores University



Dr. Bernhard Frank, Consultant in Pain Medicine and Anaesthesia
Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust



Selina Johnson, Clinical Research Fellow



Manohar Lal Sharma, Consultant in Pain Medicine, Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust



Andy Marshall, Senior Lecturer UOL & Consultant in Pain Medicine, Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust



Uazman Alam, senior Clinical Lecturer in Diabetes & Endocrinology



Francis O'Neill, Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant in Oral Surgery



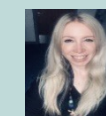
Helen Poole, Reader in Applied Health Psychology, Liverpool John Moores University



Serena Sensi, Research Technician at the Rheumatology Laboratory, University Hospital Aintree



Katie Herron Specialist Clinical Psychologist & research lead for pain management programmes



Hayley McCullough, PRI Administrator





We have been fortunate enough to have one of our publications chosen by scientists for an article in The Guardian. The Kings College led study which was conceived and initiated in Liverpool, shows that many of the symptoms in Fibromyalgia syndrome are caused by antibodies increasing the activity of pain-sensing nerves.

This was a top 10 science story for the year 2021

The article reads;

Fibromyalgia – characterised by widespread pain, crippling fatigue and emotional distress – affects 1 in 40 people, predominantly women, but has no known cause or cure. Like many other chronic pain conditions, it is considered a “functional neurological disorder”, best explained by differences in how the brain processes and attends to pain signals. The current treatments therefore include CBT and stepped exercise, but have limited efficacy.

The authors conclude that fibromyalgia is an autoimmune disorder. If replicated, this finding would revolutionise the diagnosis and treatment of this, and possibly other, chronic pain conditions. The mice in the study recovered when the antibodies had cleared from their systems, raising the hope that treatments that reduce antibodies, such as plasma exchange, may end the misery of fibromyalgia for millions of people across the globe.

You can read the article [here](#)



WORLD FEDERATION
OF NEUROLOGY

WCN 2021
XXV WORLD CONGRESS
OF NEUROLOGY
VIRTUAL, OCTOBER 3-7, 2021

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

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SOCIETÀ ITALIANA
DI NEUROLOGIA

• **Gianfranco De Stefano**

Well done to Gianfranco De Stefano for winning
THE ANGELA VINCENT AWARD

For Best Young Neurologist Investigator from the region of the World Congress of
Neurology

A single award of **\$1000.00** will be provided.

To be considered for this award:

Applicants must have submitted an abstract to WCN 2021.

Applicants should be neurologists in training or early in their career, have an M.D. or equivalent medical degree, hold a post not above that of Associate Professor, and be no older than 45 years of age at the time of the 2021 WCN.

Applicants must both reside and work in a country whose Neurology association or society is from the region of this World Congress (i.e. a member of the European Academy of Neurology); the applicant should also be a member (trainee or neurologist) of their country's Neurology association or society.

During abstract submission, applicants should upload their PDF CV with a supporting letter from their department chair (or equivalent).

PRI Spotlight



Our most recent spotlight on the PRI webpage is Dr David Pang. David is a consultant in pain management at the Guys & St Thomas Hospital London whilst also collaborating with Dr Andreas Goebel in a multicentre randomized controlled trial for CRPS. You can read David's full biography in the news section of the PRI website

If anybody has anything to add to the PRI newsletter then please contact Hayley.McCullough@Liverpool.ac.uk

Research Studies... a few to mention

- Investigating Diabetic Neuropathy During Initiation of Intensive Glycaemic Control
- The Utility of Non-Invasive Ocular Imaging in Diabetic Foot Disease
- A Multicentre, double-blind, centre-stratified multi-period crossover trial to evaluate the efficiency of the Optimal Pathway for Treating neuropathic pain in Diabetes Mellitus (OPTIONDM)
- Pain Relief Foundation Studentship-A study looking into validity of confocal corneal microscopy in patients with painful chemotherapy induced and idiopathic small fibre neuropathy.

For more information on all of the above studies please contact the Principal Investigator on Ualam@Liverpool.ac.uk

- Serum IgG autoantibodies in patients with Fibromyalgia-We require 100 patients with a diagnoses of FMS (>1year), without other conditions, we will be collecting blood to be used in laboratory experiments. Principal investigator at andreasgoebel@rocketmail.com

- Define-FMS- 77 patients – 28 of these for Microneurography and 1 year follow up. Main aim is to understand how nerve damage occurs in the nerves in the front of the eye and compare this to the nerves in the skin to determine if the eye examination is as good as skin biopsy. Contact **anne.marshall@liverpool.ac.uk** for more information

- A qualitative study into the experience and outcomes of those attending a specialist facial pain management programme-Three focus groups have been carried out exploring the experiences of services users attending a specialist facial pain management programme.

- Doctorate Clinical Psychology trainee project- How do people with fibromyalgia relate to their romantic partners? A qualitative study' Principal Investigator

Sean.Harris@thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk

- A study for long term benefit of Spinal Cord Stimulator –Principal Investigator **Bernhard.frank@thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk**



Volunteers Needed for APIF Study

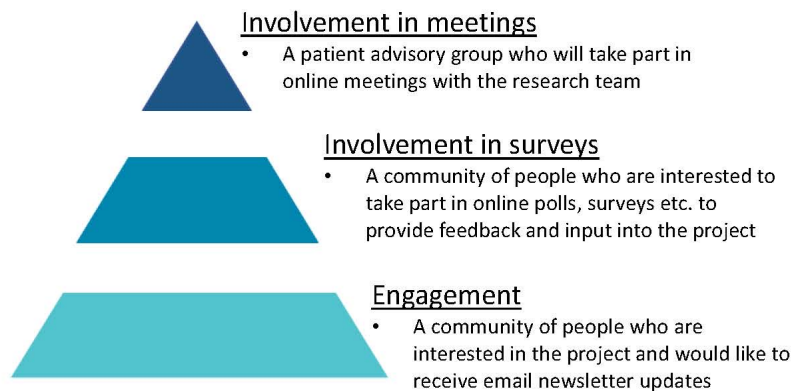
Can you help? We need 30 healthy volunteers between the ages of 30-65 to participate in our Fibromyalgia study (APIF).

Volunteers can be reimbursed £30 for their travel & time

Full information can be given on request please contact Hayley McCullough for an information pack

- Alleviate is a new data hub for pain research
- We are looking to create a community of people living with chronic pain, or who care for people with chronic pain, who are interested in research and data
- The Alleviate data hub is aiming to improve how pain research data is stored, linked and used to improve future treatments and care
- The project will run involvement and engagement activities throughout the project with patients and members of the public
- Please click [here](#) if you would like to join the Alleviate Pain Community
- If you sign up for email updates we will send details on how to become involved in the project

We have different options for patient and public involvement:



More information about the ALLEVIATE project can be found here:

<https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/helping-with-health-data/health-data-research-hubs/alleviate/>

Alleviate is The Advanced Pain Discovery Platform (APDP) Data Hub which is transforming UK pain datasets to be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR) and is providing expert data engineering, to enhance responsible, timely and trustworthy analysis by researchers and innovators, with the aim to improve lives. You can visit <https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/helping-with-health-data/health-data-research-hubs/alleviate/> for more information.