



2021 LEAD Capstone Poster Session

Coordinating Pain Research in the Dallas Area

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Abstract

Chronic pain affects approximately 100 million Americans each year at an estimated economic burden of \$635 billion, yet treatments for chronic pain are still relatively limited to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin and ibuprofen or opiates such as morphine. Discovering new treatments and advancing current pain therapeutics will require synergy and coordination between basic science researchers and clinicians, each bringing their own expertise to span diverse aspects of the pain axis from the basic mechanisms of sensation to how pain affects the whole patient and their livelihood.

Currently, pain researchers and clinicians on campus at UTSW and between universities in North Texas are disconnected due to their scientific and physical distance. We propose to build a consortium that could bridge all these disparate clinical and basic researchers to build synergistic groups that develop and address specific problems in the area pain. These synergies could lead to the development of novel pain treatments, which are so desperately needed. The idea is to take advantage of already existing structures and connect them together as well as to leverage each group's strengths to build a robust pain research community here at UTSW and in North Texas.



Short Term Objectives

- Build synergistic groups focused on different aspects in the area of pain.
- Connect the various groups that could benefit from each others' expertise.



Long Term Objective

- To create a multi-departmental multi-institutional consortium of pain clinicians and researchers in the Dallas area to foster networking, mentoring, and collaborative opportunities.



Project Plan

Stage 1

UTSW

O'Donnell Brain Institute (OBI)
Pain Interest Group



UTSW

Anesthesiology and Pain Mgt
Physical Therapy
Physical Medicine/Rehab
Surgery
Psychiatry
Neurology

Basic Science

Neuroimmune
Ion channels
Circuits
Pharmacology
Genetics

Translational

Acute
Chronic Pain
Neuropathy
Migraine
Fibromyalgia
Musculoskeletal

UTD

Center for Advanced Pain Studies
(CAPS)

North Texas

Gulf Coast
Consortium



Project Plan and Budget

- Stage 1 – Formation of OBI Pain Interest Group
 - \$600 – food for 12 Works-In-Progress meetings over 1 year
- Stage 2 – Symposium
 - \$2000 – Food, venue, speaker fees for a one-day symposium at UTSW



Outcomes

- Bridge clinical and research opportunities across campus and with other institutions.
- Increase the visibility of UTSW as leaders in pain research and care.
- Build the infrastructure for mentoring students, residents, and faculty in the pain field.
- Increase communication among clinicians and researchers in pain.
- Establish synergy between departments and other institutions that will lead to increased collaborative opportunities and increased funding.
- Attract top talent in the area of pain.
- Build entrepreneurship opportunities.



References

Pain Research Centers across the U.S.

- Combined basic research and clinical
 - UCSF (<https://painaddiction.ucsf.edu>)
 - Wash U (<https://pain.wustl.edu>)
 - Pittsburgh (<https://pcpr.pitt.edu>)
- Clinical
 - University of Alabama (<https://pmt.ua.edu>)
 - University of Florida (<https://anest.ufl.edu/research/>)