



Innovative approaches for the treatment of chronic pain in children

Laura E. Simons, PhD

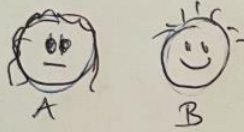
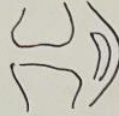
Professor

Department of Anesthesiology,
Perioperative, and Pain Medicine
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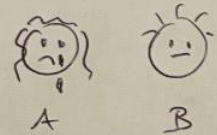
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"I think the emotional component is very undertreated. So everybody focuses on the aspect of the pain that you can treat."

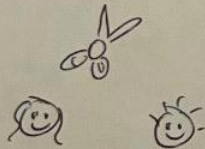
2016 -



2018



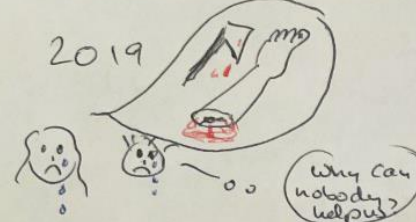
2018 June



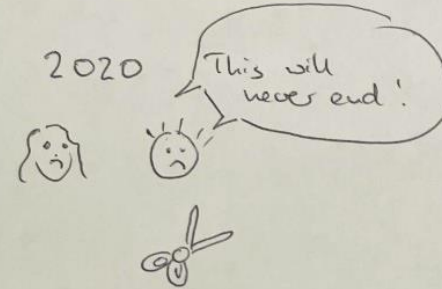
3-6 mo later



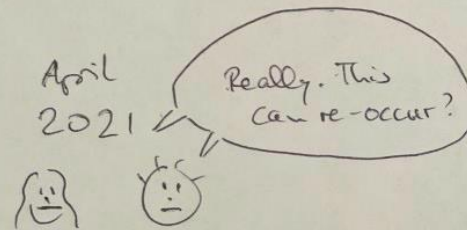
2019



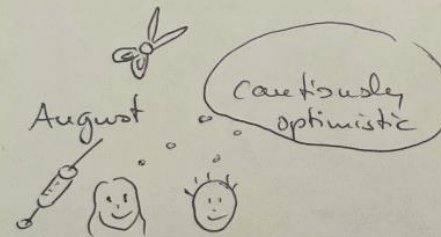
2020



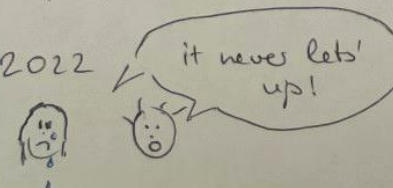
April 2021



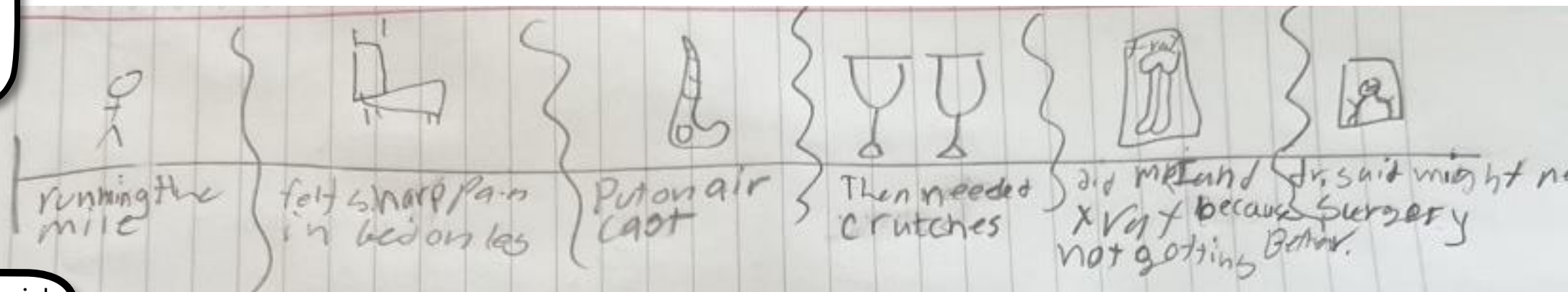
August



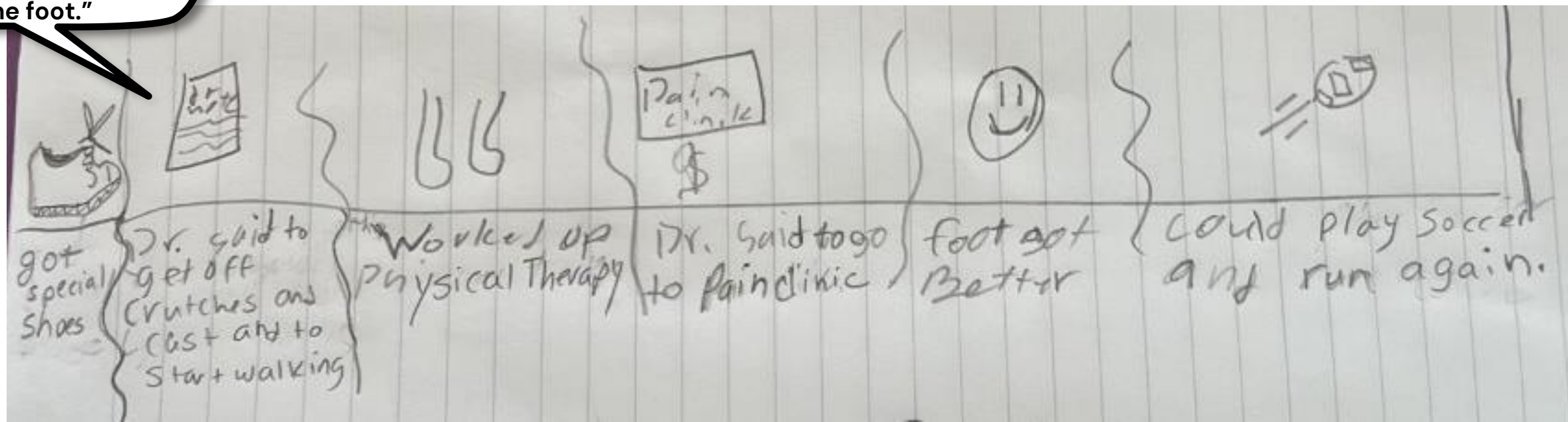
2022



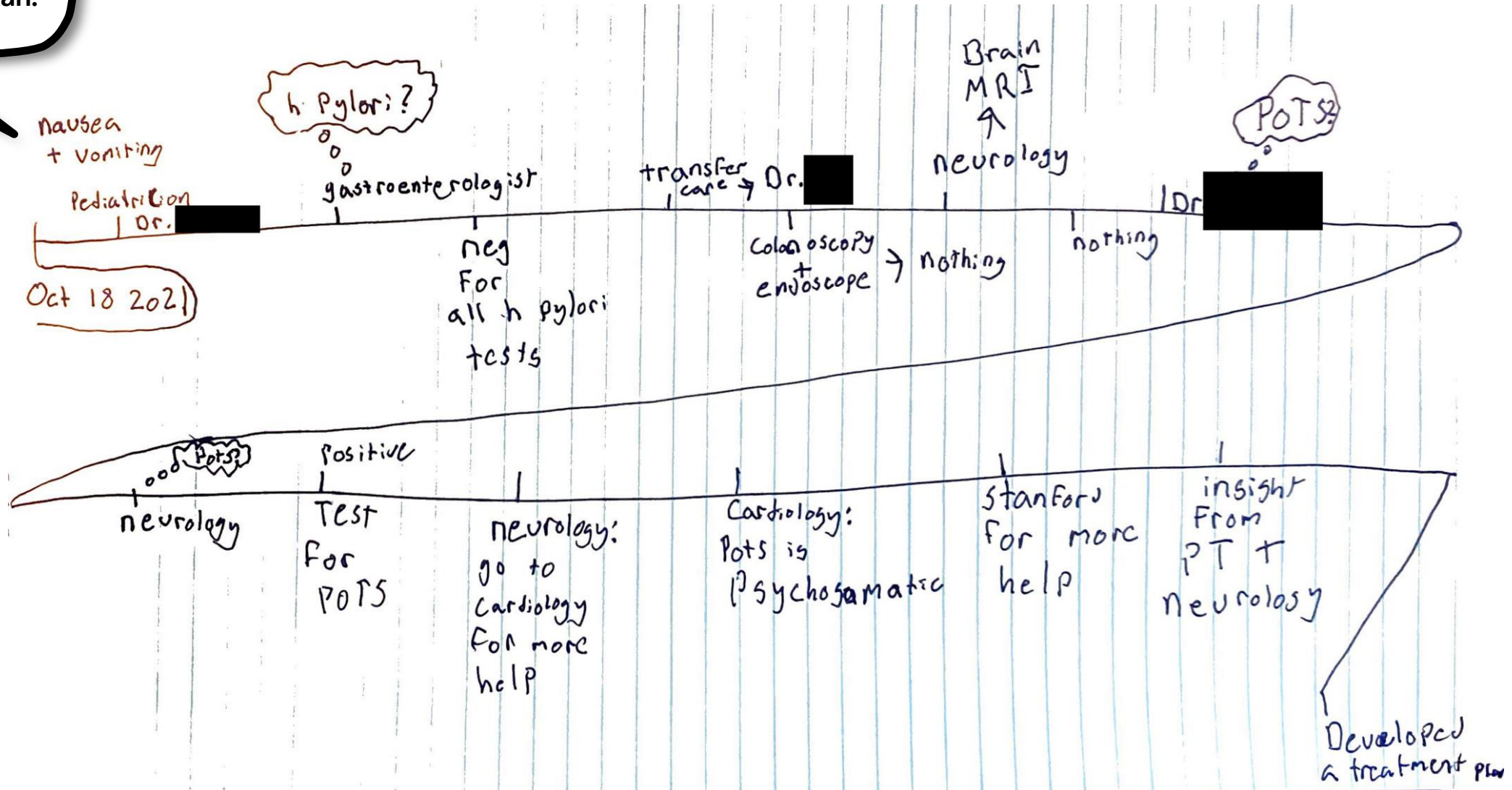
I would see all the kids playing, and I would feel **super jealous and sad.**



I got new shoes, special orthotics to help, and ...physical therapy...And **my foot got better**, and then I **could play sports again** without any hurting from the foot."



We're making some **steady progress**; might have to increase the intensity a little bit to get solid changes...
We're slowly coming up with the treatment plan."



Limited Chronic Pain Clinics



Currently there are 60 Pediatric Chronic Pain programs in the United States.

Brief Screening of Pain Risk

Research Paper

PAIN

Pediatric Pain Screening Tool: rapid identification of risk in youth with pain complaints

Laura E. Simons^{a,b,c,*}, Allison Smith^{a,b}, Camila Ibagon^a, Rachael Coakley^{a,b}, Deirdre E. Logan^{a,b}, Neil Schechter^a, David Borsook^{a,c}, Jonathan C. Hill^{c,d}

Journal of Pediatric Psychology, 2017, 1–9
doi: 10.1093/jpepsy/jsx123
Original Research Article



Rapid Screening of Risk in Pediatric Headache: Application of the Pediatric Pain Screening Tool

Lauren C. Heathcote,¹ PhD, Jonathan Rabner,² BA, Alyssa Lebel,² MD, Jessica M. Hernandez,¹ BA, and Laura E. Simons,¹ PhD

¹Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative, and Pain Medicine, Stanford University and, ²Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative, and Pain Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital

All correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Laura E. Simons, PhD, Suite 300, 1070 Arastradero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304, USA. E-mail: lesimons@stanford.edu



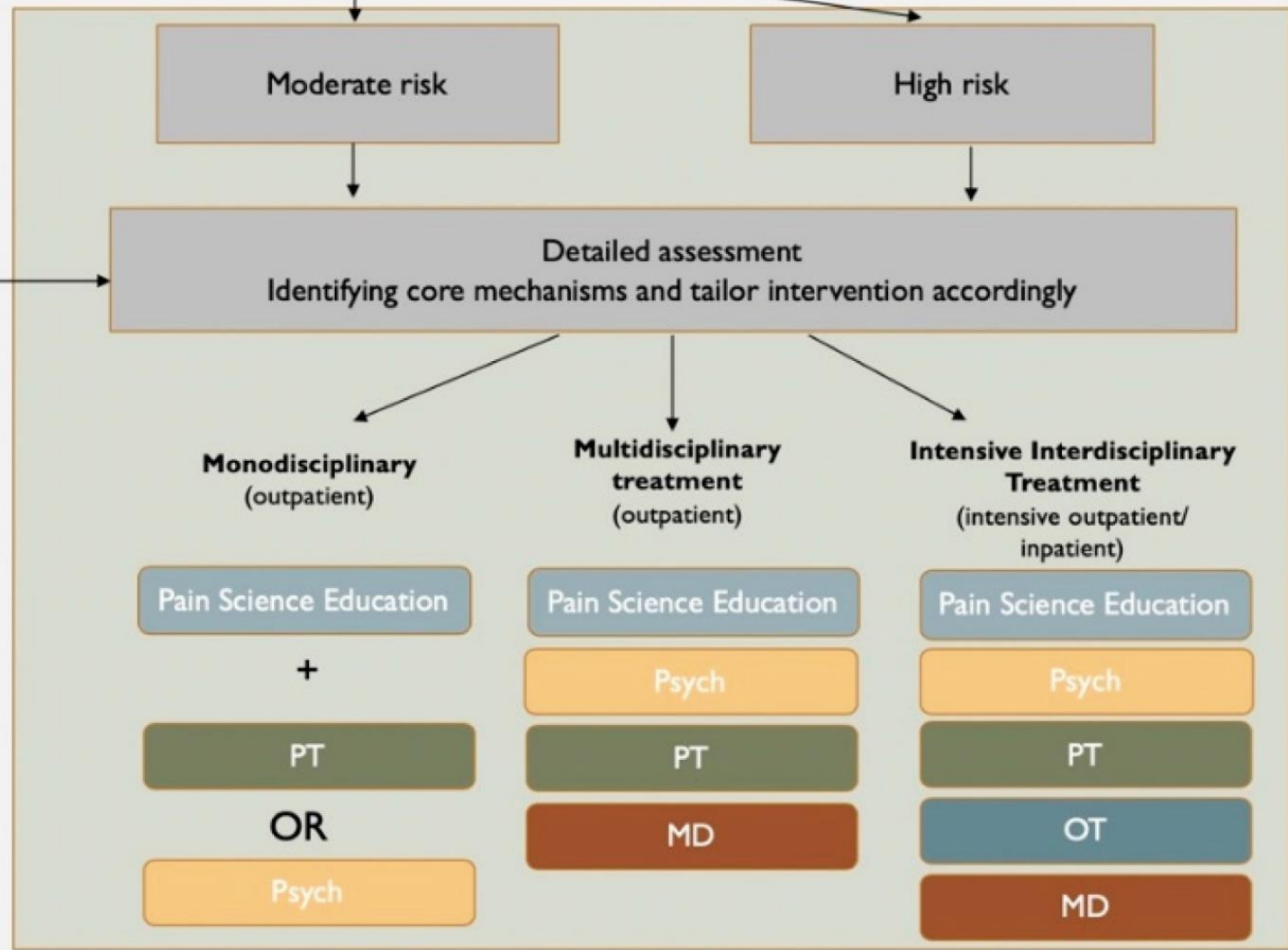
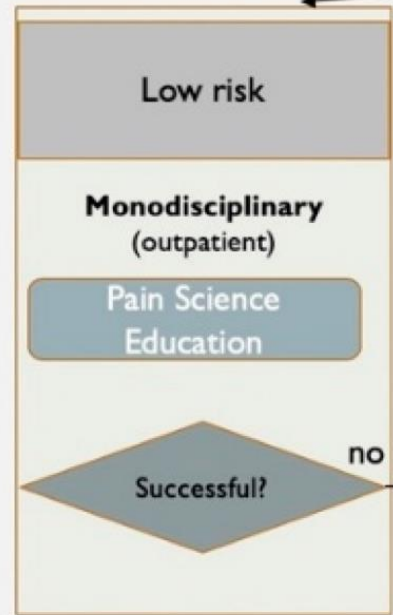
Thinking about the **last 2 weeks** check your response to the following statements:

	Disagree	Agree
1 My pain is in more than one body part.	☐	☐
2 I can only walk a short distance because of my pain.	☐	☐
3 It is difficult for me to be at school all day.	☐	☐
4 It is difficult for me to fall asleep and stay asleep at night.	☐	☐
5 It's not really safe for me to be physically active.	☐	☐
6 I worry about my pain a lot.	☐	☐
7 I feel that my pain is terrible and it's never going to get any better.	☐	☐
8 In general, I don't have as much fun as I used to.	☐	☐
9. Overall, how much has pain been a problem in the last 2 weeks?		

Not at all A little Some A lot A whole lot

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

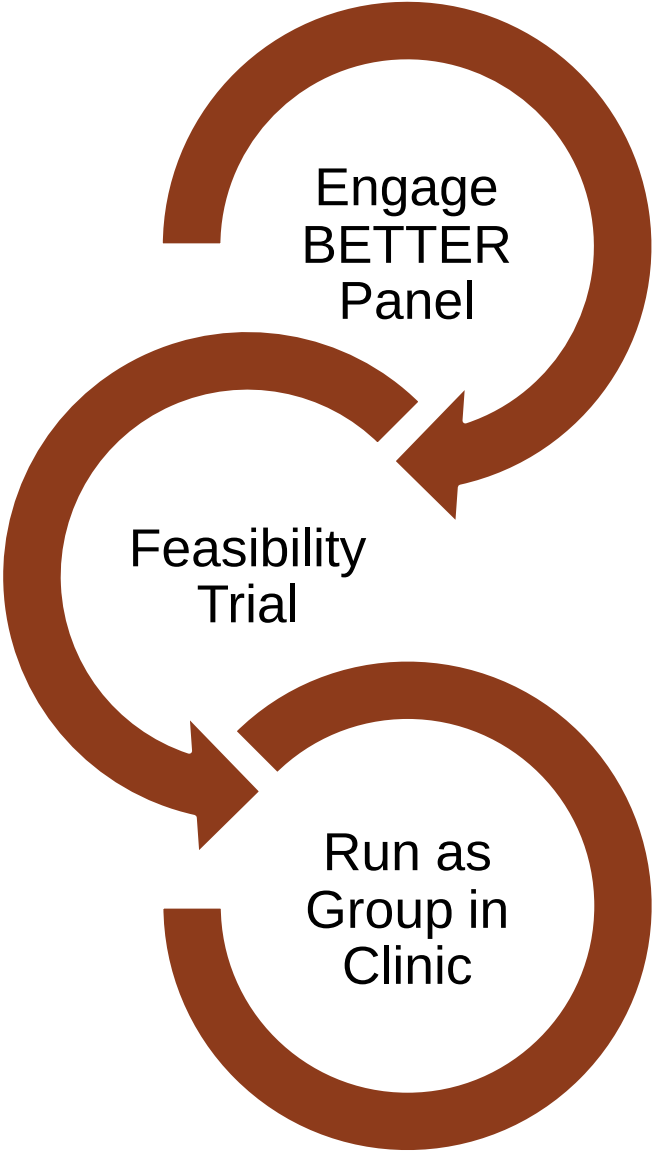
Use of screening tool (e.g. PPST) to triage child to appropriate level of care



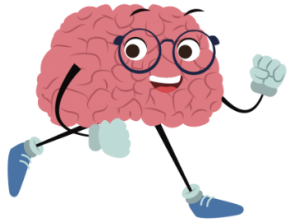
- Tailor intervention based on treatment targets:
- Exposure-based treatments for patients with high fear and avoidance
 - Cognitive skills training for high catastrophizing patients



Empowered Relief for Youth



EMPOWERED RELIEF FOR YOUTH



Train your brain away from pain

YOU LEARN BEST WHEN
RELAXED



YOU ARE NOT ALONE



SMALL POSITIVE ACTIONS



LISTEN TO MUSIC



TEXT A FRIEND



STRETCH



JOURNAL FOR A
MOMENT



USE A MANTRA



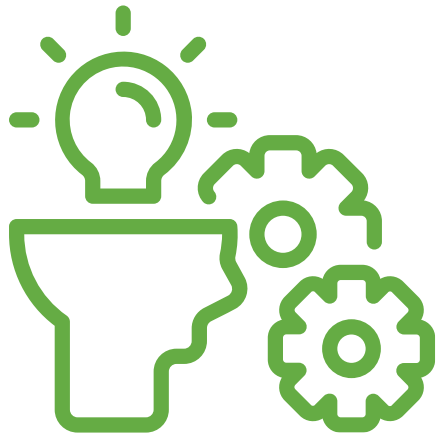
SIT IN NATURE



GOALS

In this class you will...

Learn how pain is processed in the brain and how to best manage it

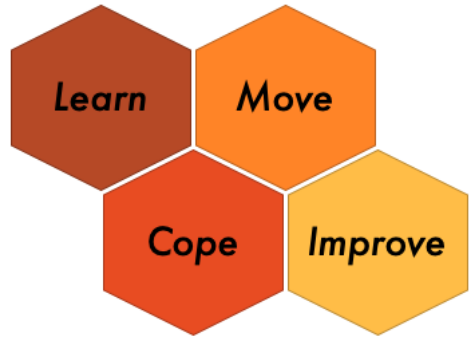


Learn simple skills that you can use everyday to manage your pain



Create your personalized plan for long-term relief





GET Living



Psychoeducation



Hierarchy Development



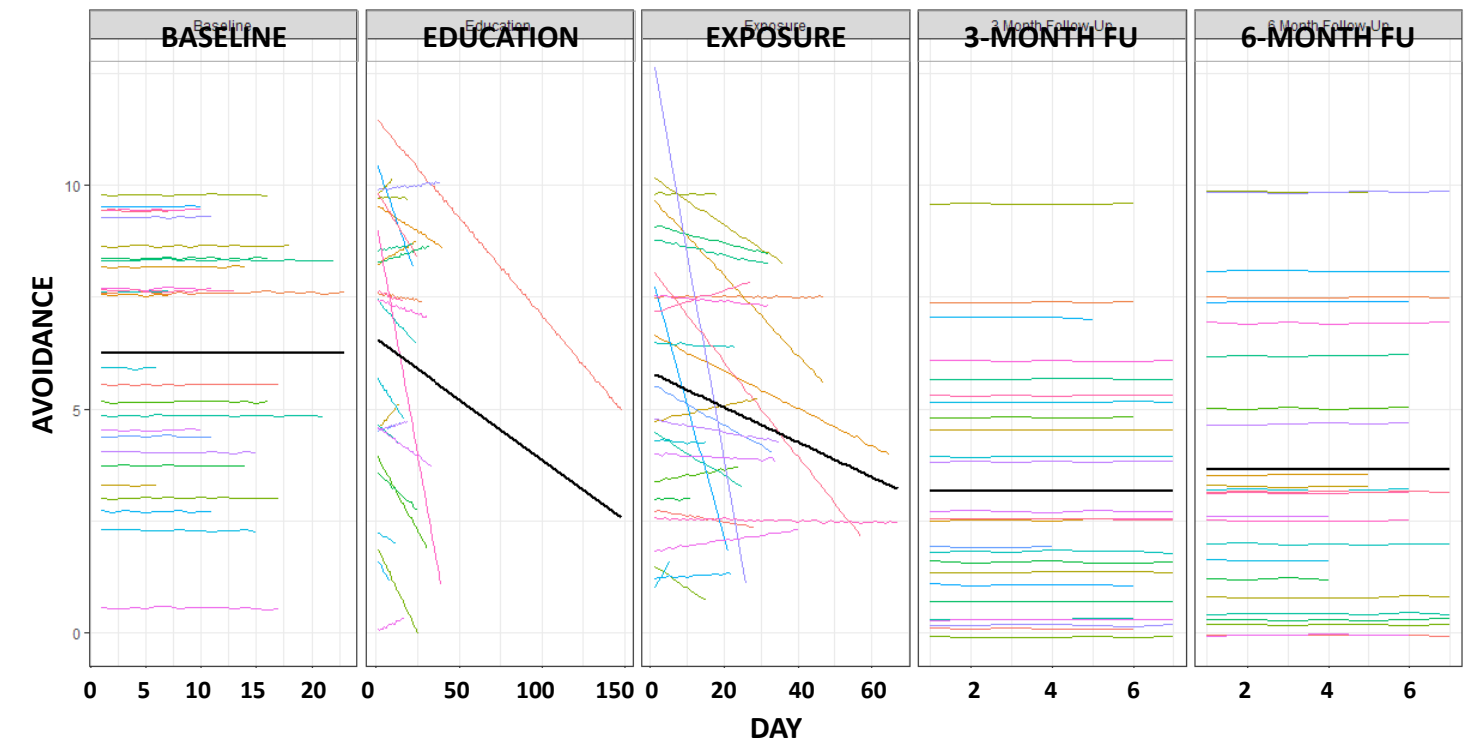
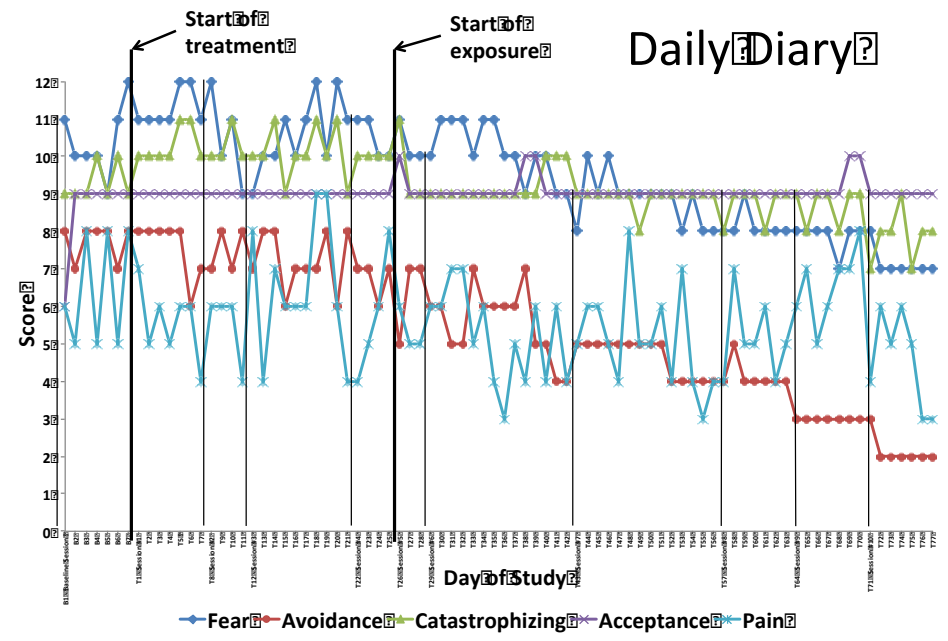
Behavioral Exposure





Avoid or engage? Outcomes of graded exposure in youth with chronic pain using a sequential replicated single-case randomized design

Laura E. Simons^{a,*}, Johan W.S. Vlaeyen^b, Lies Declercq^c, Allison M. Smith^d, Justin Beebe^e, Melinda Hogan^f, Eileen Li^f, Corey A. Kronman^a, Farah Mahmud^d, Jenelle R. Corey^d, Christine B. Sieberg^{d,g}, Christine Ploski^f



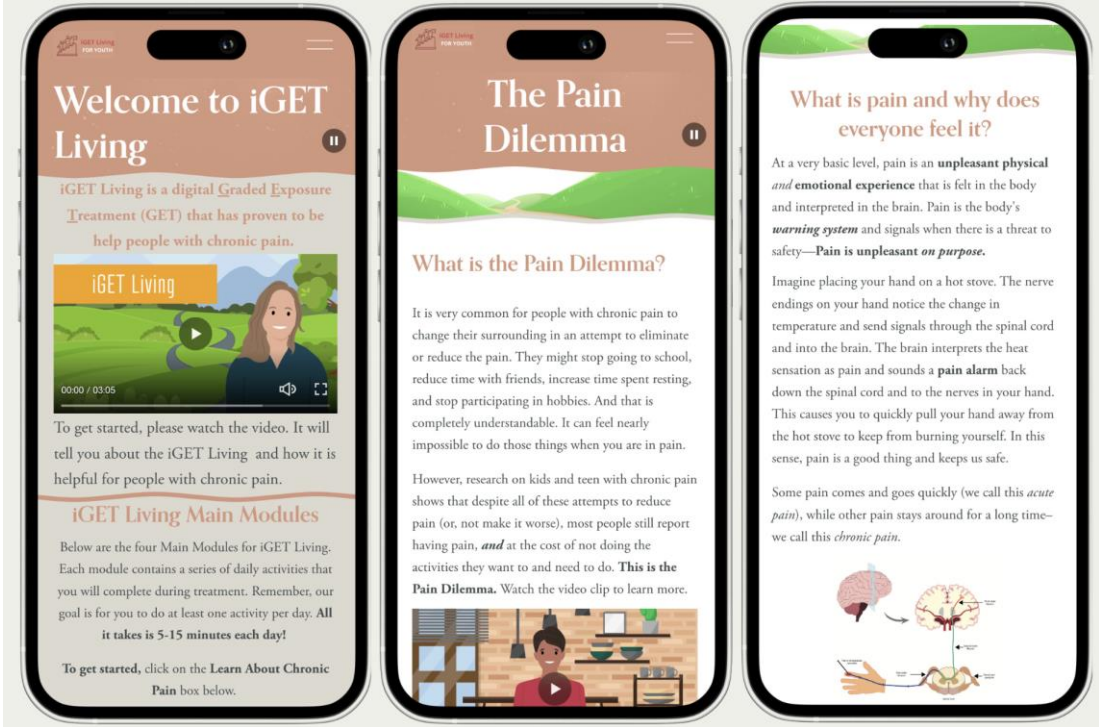
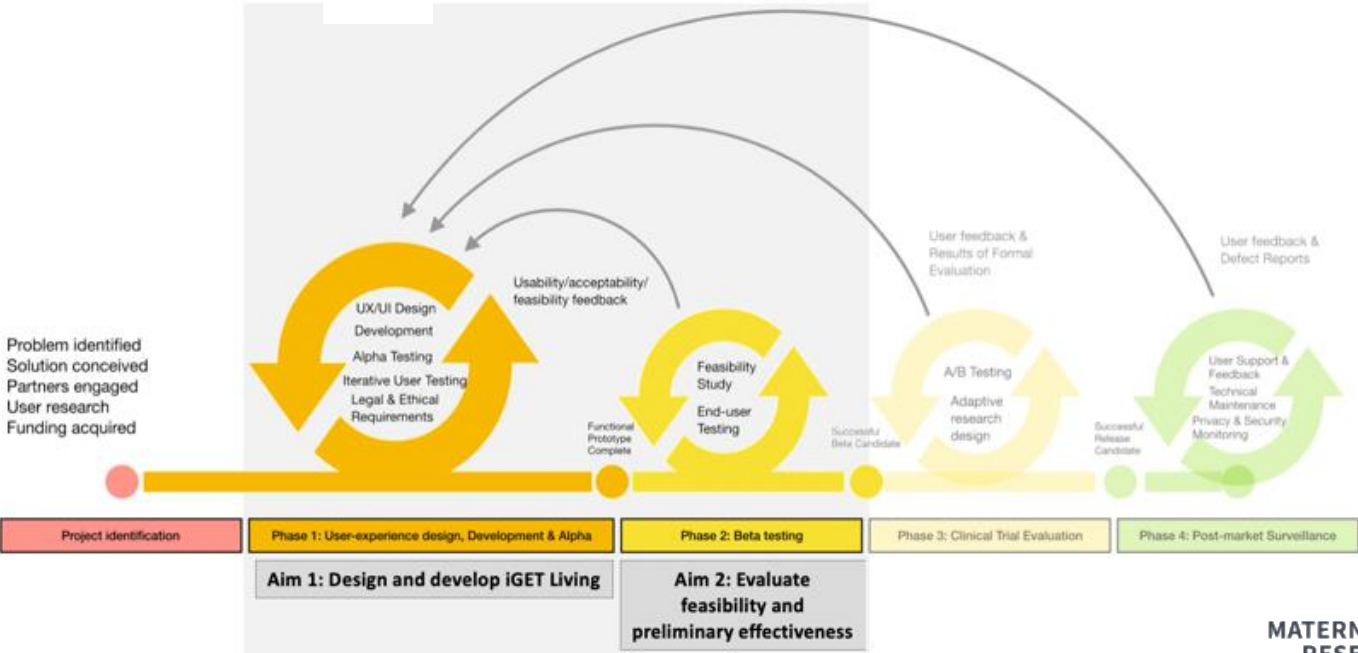
Patient-Centered Development of a Digital Exposure Intervention



“I would like to have some traditional PT exercises included in exposure activities.”



“I liked being able to choose my activities for exposures. It made me feel empowered and in charge”



Original Paper

Virtual Reality in Pain Rehabilitation for Youth With Chronic Pain: Pilot Feasibility Study

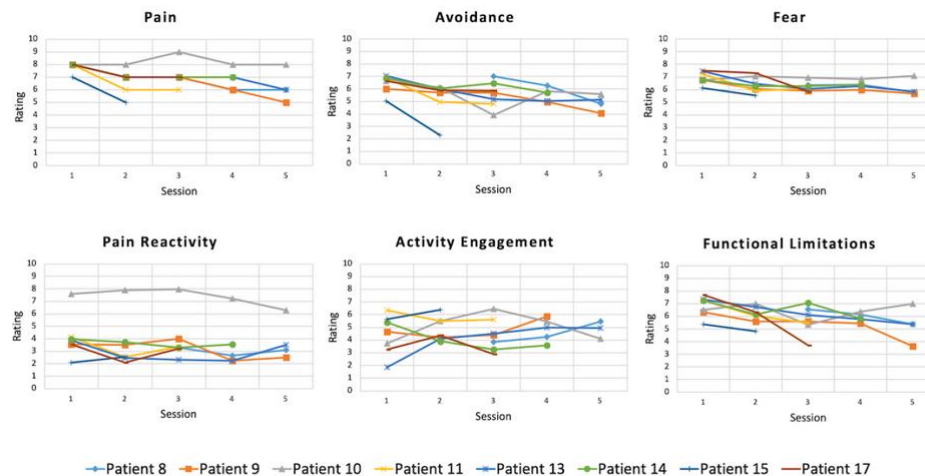
Anya Griffin¹, PhD; Luke Wilson², BSc; Amanda B Feinstein¹, PhD; Adeline Bortz³, MSc; Marissa S Heirich¹, BSc; Rachel Gilkerson⁴, PT, DPT; Jenny FM Wagner⁴, MS, OTR/L; Maria Menendez⁴, MD; Thomas J Caruso¹, MD, MEd; Samuel Rodriguez¹, MD; Srinivas Naidu¹, MD; Brenda Golianu¹, MD; Laura E Simons¹, PhD

¹Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative, and Pain Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, United States

²Mighty Immersion, Inc., New York, NY, United States

³PGSP-Stanford University Psy.D. Consortium, Stanford, CA, United States

⁴Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Stanford, CA, United States



STANFORD CHARIOT PROGRAM



POSITIVE FEEDBACK

"[PRVR] was a fun way of doing physical therapy."

"[VR] incentivizes my exercises"

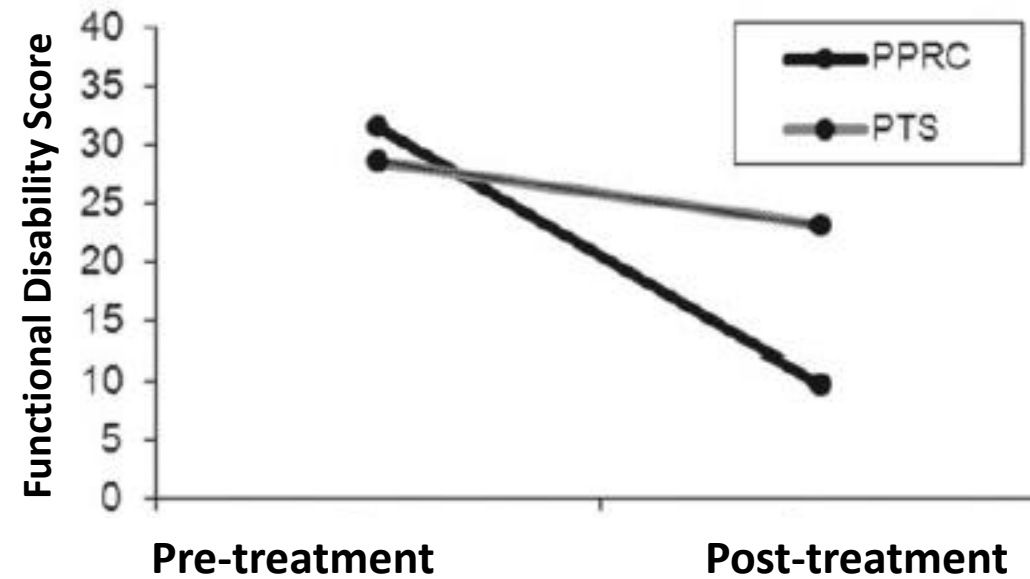
"[VR] is a great distraction to exercise"



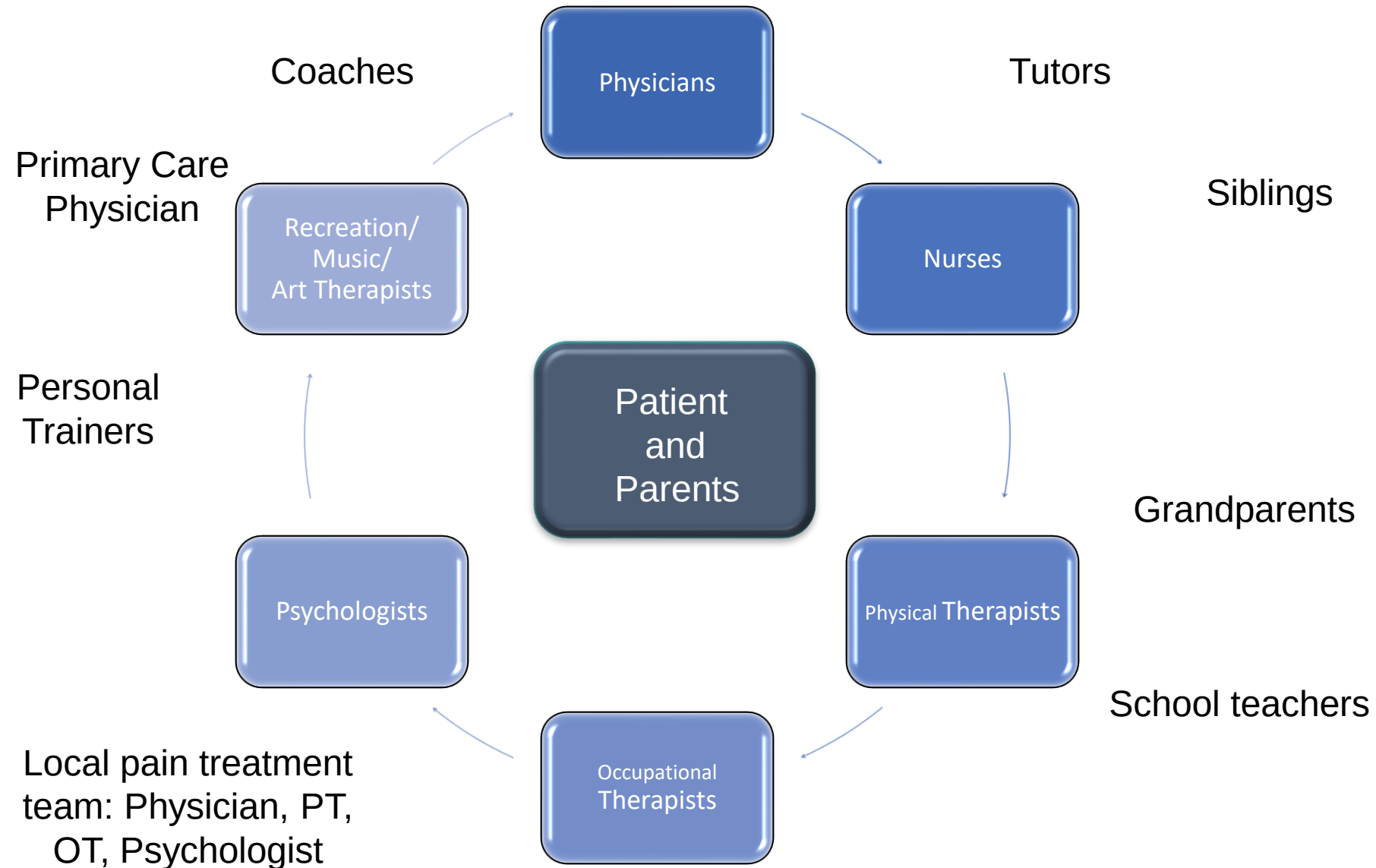
What Does It Take? Comparing Intensive Rehabilitation to Outpatient Treatment for Children With Significant Pain-Related Disability

Laura E. Simons,^{1,2} PhD, Christine B. Sieberg,^{1,2} PhD, Melissa Pielech,^{1,2} MA, Caitlin Conroy,^{1,2} PsyD, and Deirdre E. Logan,^{1,2} PhD

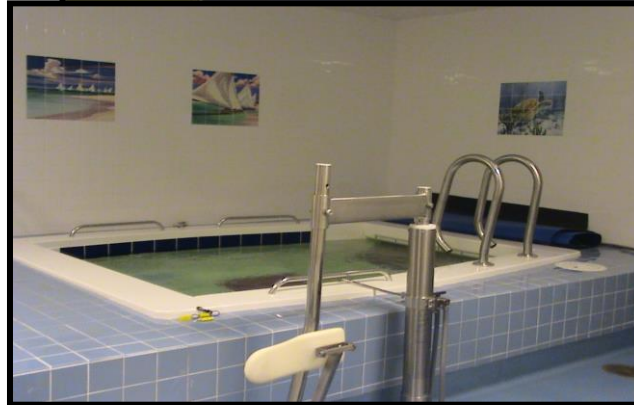
¹Division of Pain Medicine, Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine, Boston Children's Hospital and ²Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School



The intensive interdisciplinary pain treatment team



DAILY SCHEDULE	
Time	Session
8 – 9A	Indiv OT
9 – 10A	Indiv PT
10 – 11A	Indiv Psych
11 – 12P	Group OT/PT
12 – 2P	Lunch Quiet Time MD visit
2 – 3P	Group Psych
3 – 4P	Family OT/PT/Psych



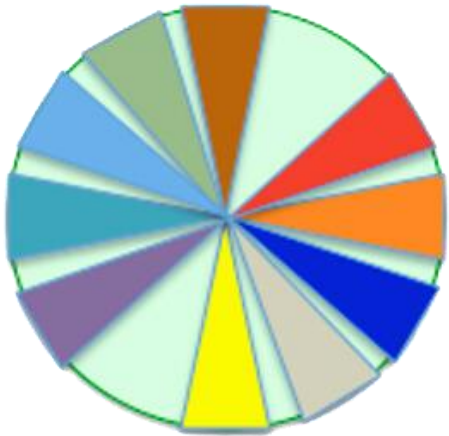
**Even fewer (30)
interdisciplinary
treatment programs**

**Where do we go
from here?**

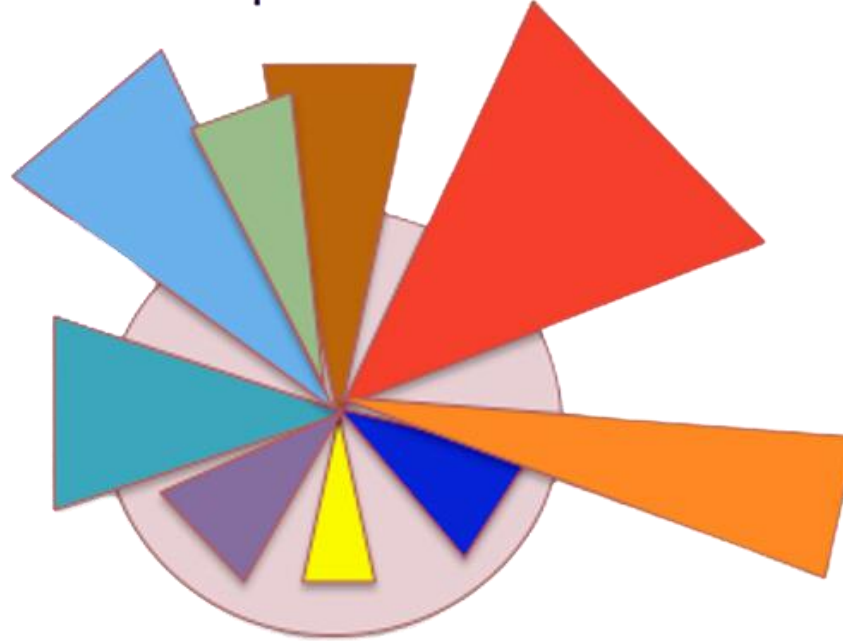


Applying an Individual Lens for Patient-Centered Pain Care

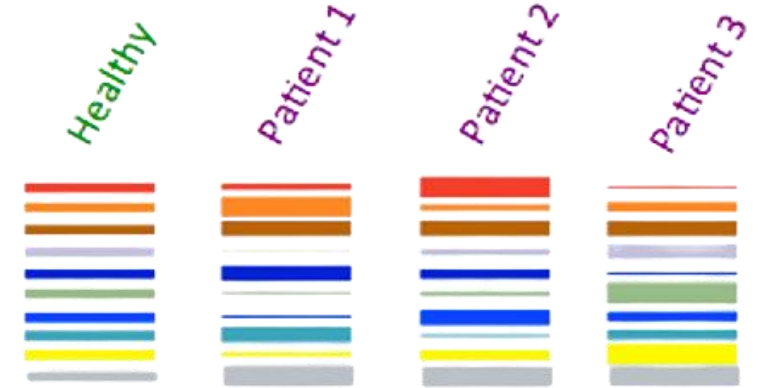
Healthy
Adaptive Processes



Chronic Pain
Maladaptive Processes



Chronic Pain
Individual Responses



- | | |
|---|---|
|  Pain intensity |  Sleep Disturbance |
|  Pain Unpleasantness |  Depression |
|  Autonomic Disturbance |  Anxiety |
|  Fatigue |  Motor Activity |
|  Appetite |  Cognitive Dysfunction |



**Leveraging Predictive Analytics for Patient-Centered,
Precision Pain Care**

Take home points:

- A young person's journey with chronic pain is long and complex.
- Innovative approaches to screening and comprehensive assessment can inform individualized treatment approaches.
- Access to low burden, scalable behavioral health interventions for pain is critical.
- A meaningful subgroup of patients will require intensive interdisciplinary pain treatment and access right now is incredibly limited.
- Current innovative approaches to assessment can enable patient-centered, precision pain care

Biobehavioral Pediatric Pain Lab





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You can reach me at:
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