

# Exploring the Treatment and Management of Chronic Pain and Implications for Disability Determinations: A Workshop

**Thursday, April 17, 2025: 9:00am – 5:00pm ET**

**Friday, April 18, 2025: 9:00am – 1:30pm ET**

**Keck Center | 500 5th Street NW, Washington, D.C., 20001**

## DAY 1: THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025

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### Purpose

- Discuss how the wide variety of experiences and challenges related to chronic pain and its management impact an individual's health status, functional limitations, and medical records for children and adults.
- Consider best practices and methods of categorization for chronic pain and advancements in the treatment, management, and measurement of individuals' chronic pain levels for children and adults.
- Highlight special considerations in how medical providers approach treatment of different severities in chronic pain for children and adults.
- Explore alternative and complementary pain treatments pursued by individuals experiencing chronic pain, the efficacy of those treatments, how they may be reflected in the medical record, and implications for, or interactions with, traditional treatment paradigms.
- Consider the lived experiences of people with chronic pain as they seek medical care and navigate the SSA disability system.
- Receive an overview of recent or emerging research on new or improved methods for the measurement and management on chronic pain.

### 09:00am **Welcome and Overview of Workshop**

Allen Heinemann, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine & Shirley Ryan AbilityLab,  
*Planning Committee Chair*

### 09:05am **Sponsor Remarks & Overview of SSA Disability Evaluation Policy**

Robert Weathers, Social Security Administration  
Vince Nibali, Social Security Administration

### 09:30am **General Overview, Concepts and Framing of Chronic Pain and Disability**

#### **Clinical and Patient Experiences of Chronic Pain**

Kim Dupree Jones, Emory University, *Planning Committee Member*

#### **Legal and Regulatory Conceptions of Chronic Pain**

Jerome Bickenbach, University of Lucerne (virtual)

**9:50am Audience Q&A**

Allen Heinemann, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine & Shirley Ryan AbilityLab,  
Planning Committee Chair

**10:00am Session I: Factors Affecting Access to Effective Chronic Pain Care**

Moderator: Tamara Baker, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *Planning Committee Member*

Objectives:

- Consider the lived experiences of people with chronic pain as they seek medical care and navigate the SSA disability system.
- Discuss how the wide variety of experiences and challenges related to chronic pain and its management impact an individual's health status, functional limitations, and medical records for children and adults.
- Explore how variations in access to chronic pain interventions can impact the care that individuals receive and the health outcomes they experience.

**10:00am Speaker Presentations**

Jaime Sanders, individual with migraine lived experience

Edwin Aroke (*AROKEE*), University of Alabama

Staja Booker, University of Florida (virtual)

**10:35am Moderated Panel and Audience Q&A**

Tamara Baker, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, *Planning Committee Member*

**11:00am BREAK**

**11:15am Session II: Methods and Metrics for Chronic Pain Assessment in Adults and Children**

Moderator: Reuben Escorpizo, University of Vermont, *Planning Committee Member*

Objectives:

- Consider the lived experiences of people with chronic pain as they seek medical care and navigate the SSA disability system.
- Consider best practices and methods of categorization for chronic pain and advancements in the treatment, management, and measurement of individuals' chronic pain levels for children and adults.
- Discuss how the assessment of chronic pain connects to assessments of function, performance, behavior, and disability.

**11:15am Speaker Presentations**

Deb Constien, individual with chronic pain lived experience

Steven George, Duke University

Carole A. Tucker, University of Texas Medical Branch

Anna Wilson, Oregon Health and Sciences University

**12:05pm**      **Moderated Panel and Audience Q&A**

Reuben Escorpizo, University of Vermont, *Planning Committee Member*

**12:30pm**      **LUNCH**

**1:30pm**      **Session III: Best Practices and Clinician Perspectives on Chronic Pain Treatment and Management in Children**

Moderator: Henry Xiang, The Ohio State University School of Medicine & Nationwide Children's Hospital, *Planning Committee Member*

Objectives:

- Consider the lived experiences of people with chronic pain as they seek medical care and navigate the SSA disability system.
- Consider best practices and methods of categorization for chronic pain and advancements in the treatment, management, and measurement of individuals' chronic pain levels for children.
- Highlight special considerations in how medical providers approach treatment of different severities in chronic pain for children.

**1:30pm**      **Speaker Presentations**

Casey Cashman, US Pain Foundation

Tonya Palermo, Seattle Children's Hospital (virtual)

Stefan Friedrichsdorf, University of California, San Francisco (virtual)

Laura Simons, Stanford University

**2:15pm**      **Moderated Panel and Audience Q&A**

Henry Xiang, The Ohio State University School of Medicine & Nationwide Children's Hospital, *Planning Committee Member*

**2:40pm**      **BREAK**

**2:50pm**      **Session IV: Best Practices on Chronic Pain Treatment and Management in Adults**

Moderator: Christopher Standaert, University of Pittsburgh, *Planning Committee Member*

Objectives:

- Describe best practices and methods of categorization for chronic pain and advancements in the treatment, management, and measurement of individuals' chronic pain levels for adults.

- Discuss the degree to which various types of chronic pain treatments alleviate functional limitations.

**2:50pm**

**Speaker Presentations**

Kemly Philip, University of Texas Medical Center  
Carol Greco, University of Pittsburgh  
Julie Fritz, University of Utah

**3:20pm**

**Moderated Panel and Audience Q&A**

Christopher Standaert, University of Pittsburgh, *Planning Committee Member*

**3:45pm**

**BREAK**

**3:55pm**

**Session V: Patient Journeys and Clinician Perspectives in Treatment and Management of Chronic Pain**

Moderator: Juan Hincapie-Castillo, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, *Planning Committee Member*

Objectives:

- Discuss the lived experiences of people with chronic pain as they seek medical care and navigate the SSA disability system.
- Highlight special considerations in how medical providers approach treatment of different severities in chronic pain for adults.
- Describe challenges in continuity of care for people living with chronic pain.

**3:55pm**

**Speaker Presentations**

Anna Williams, Clusterbusters, *Planning Committee Member*  
Joseph Cammilleri, University of Florida, Jacksonville  
Shravani Durbhakula, Vanderbilt School of Medicine

**4:25pm**

**Moderated Panel and Audience Q&A**

Juan Hincapie-Castillo, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, *Planning Committee Member*

**4:50pm**

**Closing Remarks**

Allen Heinemann, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine & Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, *Planning Committee Chair*

**5:00pm**

**END OF DAY 1**

## DAY 2: FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025

### 9:00am **Recap of Day 1 & Plans for Day 2**

Allen Heinemann, Northwestern University School of Medicine & Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, *Planning Committee Chair*

### 9:05am **Session VI: Health Care System Challenges in Comprehensive Chronic Pain Management**

Moderator: Kim Dupree Jones, Emory University, *Planning Committee Member*

Objectives:

- Consider the lived experiences of people with chronic pain as they seek medical care and navigate the SSA disability system.
- Discuss how the wide variety of experiences and challenges related to chronic pain and its management impact an individual's health status, functional limitations, and medical records for children and adults.
- Explore systemic barriers to delivering comprehensive, evidence-based pain care across various healthcare settings, including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), primary care practices, and academic health centers.

### 9:05am **Speaker Presentations**

Andrea Anderson, individual with chronic pain lived experience (virtual)

Beth Darnall, Stanford University

Julie Fritz, University of Utah

V.G. Vinod Vydiswaran, University of Michigan

### 9:50am **Moderated Panel and Audience Q&A**

Kim Dupree Jones, Emory University, *Planning Committee Member*

### 10:15am **Session VII: Complementary and Alternative Therapies in Comprehensive Chronic Pain Management**

Moderator: Kim Dupree Jones, Emory University, *Planning Committee Member*

Objectives:

- Consider the lived experiences of people with chronic pain as they seek medical care and navigate the SSA disability system.
- Explore alternative and complementary pain treatments pursued by individuals experiencing chronic pain, the efficacy of those treatments, how they may be reflected in the medical record, and implications for, or interactions with, traditional treatment paradigms.
- Explore the integration of complementary and alternative medicine into conventional pain care to enhance physical, social, and psychological outcomes.

**10:05am Speaker Presentations**

Tom Norris, American Chronic Pain Association (virtual)  
 Peter Wayne, Harvard Medical School  
 Richard Harris, University of California, Irvine (virtual)  
 Anna Woodbury, Emory University

**10:50am Moderated Panel and Audience Q&A**

Kim Dupree Jones, Emory University, *Planning Committee Member*

**11:15am BREAK**

**11:30am Session VIII: Emerging Research on New or Improved Methods for the Measurement and Management of Chronic Pain**

Moderator: Sean Mackey, Stanford University, *Planning Committee Member*

Objective: Receive an overview of recent or emerging research on new or improved methods for the measurement and management on chronic pain.

**11:30am Speaker Presentations**

Nat Schuster, University of California San Diego (virtual)  
 Konstantin Slavin, University of Illinois  
 John Chae, Case Western Reserve University  
 Sean Mackey, Stanford University, *Planning Committee Member*  
 Ming Jeffrey Kao, Stanford University (virtual)  
 Christin Veasley, Chronic Pain Research Alliance (virtual)

**12:30pm Moderated Panel and Audience Q&A**

Sean Mackey, Stanford University, *Planning Committee Member*

**1:00pm Session IX: Key Challenges and Opportunities in Chronic Pain and Disability**

Moderator: Allen Heinemann, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine & Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, *Planning Committee Chair*

Objective: Highlight key themes discussed throughout the workshop.

**Planning Committee Members**

Tamara Baker, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
 Reuben Escorpizo, University of Vermont  
 Henry Xiang, The Ohio State University & Nationwide Children's Hospital  
 Christopher Standaert, University of Pittsburgh  
 Anna Williams, Clusterbusters

Juan Hincapie-Castillo, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Kim Dupree Jones, Emory University

Sean Mackey, Stanford University

Anirban Basu, University of Washington (virtual)

**1:25pm**

**Closing Remarks**

Allen Heinemann, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine & Shirley Ryan AbilityLab,  
*Planning Committee Chair*

**1:30pm**

**MEETING ADJOURNS**