

**Grant title:** A double burden? A multi-method investigation into the experience of paediatric chronic pain and mental health symptoms.

**Award holders:** Dr Abbie Jordan (University of Bath; PI), Dr Line Caes (University of Stirling), Professor Christopher Eccleston (University of Bath) & Dr Melanie Noel (University of Calgary)

**Grant duration:** 02/10/2018 – 01/10/2021

**Report:**

This report describes the progress of the above studentship grant over the first six-month period (02/10/2018 to 31/03/2019).

**Project aims:**

This PhD studentship aims to provide a detailed account of the challenges that youth who experience chronic pain and mental health symptoms face and how these challenges form barriers to their treatment. The first study will include a review of the current literature to better understand the evidence concerning the relationship between chronic pain in youth and mental health symptoms. The second study will involve collecting questionnaire and interview data over two-time points from 100 youth aged 11-19 years and their parents/caregivers regarding their pain-related disability, mental health symptoms and social relationships. The final study will use interviews and an online survey to explore how 50 clinicians think about treating youth with chronic pain and mental health symptoms and associated challenges faced in this treatment process.

**Progress so far:**

The grant is on track and has met projected timelines for the initial six-month period. Specific progress is detailed below:

1. We are finalising and testing the search strategy for the comprehensive scoping review of the academic literature to identify the specific issues around the comorbid experience of pain and mental health symptoms in adolescents who experience chronic pain.
2. We have developed and submitted all necessary documents and permissions to enable the submission of a Health Research Authority application (NHS ethical review) for the second and third studies (submission March 2019). This is a large task and has required a substantial amount of time in which to prepare the documents and liaise with clinic leads. Submitting both studies together will save time across the PhD compared with placing two independent NHS ethical applications.
3. We have facilitated the successful application of Mrs Bateman to the Pain in Child Health group. This international group is focused on developing future leaders in the field of paediatric pain. Mrs Bateman has engaged in Pain in Child Health group dissemination events (webinars).
4. Mrs Bateman has submitted three separate funding applications to facilitate her attendance at the International Symposium for Pediatric Pain in June 2019 (Basel, Switzerland). This is an important meeting and will provide Mrs Bateman with key networking and mentorship opportunities.

**Dissemination:**

Nothing to report at this early stage of the project. A Twitter chat is scheduled to happen in April 2019, which is focused on the PhD topic (mental health and paediatric pain). This will take place for Evidence Based Nursing and will provide an important dissemination activity for Mrs Bateman and the wider supervisory team.