

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 past twelve-month period (01/04/2020 to 31/03/2021).

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 psychopathology. 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:

Specific progress is detailed below with respect to the grant and the student's continuing development as an independent researcher:

1. Mrs Bateman has completed data collection for the clinician vignette survey. This is particularly impressive given the workload of clinicians in the current pandemic. Mrs Bateman will begin analysing this data soon once the data is cleaned.
2. Screening and analysing of all the included articles for the scoping review is finalised and Mrs Bateman is currently drafting a manuscript with respect to the scoping review findings. This will be the first publication based on PhD findings to be submitted. The article selection process took longer than anticipated given the large amount of research on mental health that needed to be sorted through to ensure all relevant articles were included. Consequently, the write up of the findings is slightly delayed.
3. Recruitment for the largest empirical study has been completed and Mrs Bateman has cleaned this data set. She will begin analysis of this data in the next few weeks after finalising the draft of the scoping review paper.
4. Mrs Bateman attended a virtual international Pain in Child Health (PICH) trainee meeting. PICH events are important trainee and mentorship meetings that facilitate networking with paediatric pain clinicians and trainees in the area. Mrs Bateman continues to be a member of PICH and engage in monthly webinars with fellow paediatric pain trainees and faculty members.

5. Mrs Bateman won a Student Doctoral Award in 2020 for her efforts to the doctoral community at the University of Bath.

Dissemination:

Submitted papers:

Jones, A., Caes, L., Rugg, T., Noel, M., Bateman, S. and Jordan, A., submitted. Challenging issues of integrity and identity of participants in online qualitative methods. *Methods in Psychology*.