

Pain/Opioid CORE

VA HSR&D

Pain/Opioid Consortium of Research

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Highlights from Webinar: *ORD Broad RFAs for Pain and Opioid Actively Managed Portfolio*

On April 18th, the Pain and Opioid Actively Managed Portfolio (POP-AMP) leads, Drs. Audrey Kusiak, Carol Fowler, Cathie Plouzek, and Jayanthi Sankar presented information on the new POP-AMP Request for Applications (RFA).

- ORD POP-AMP funding process is SEPARATE from HSR&D funding process
- Pre-Application Letter of Intent and Waiver Request Deadline is May 1
- Full applications due June 15

[Download the presentation slides](#)

[View a recording of the webinar](#)

[Access the RFA on the ORD Intranet Site](#)

CORE Infographic Initiative: Translating Research into Information for Patients

Veterans and patients should have access to findings from research about their health, especially when that research may affect their healthcare and self-care decisions. To address this need, the Pain/Opioid CORE created the infographic initiative to develop a series of infographics to communicate research results to patients and their caregivers.

Pain/Opioid CORE Staff, Veteran Engagement Panel members, study authors, and experienced health communication and data visualization professions have co-created infographics for dissemination to Veterans and patients. The newest infographic (on the right) was recently completed and can now be found on our [website](#). Additional dissemination efforts are in development and will be shared in the next newsletter.

Nominate a Study

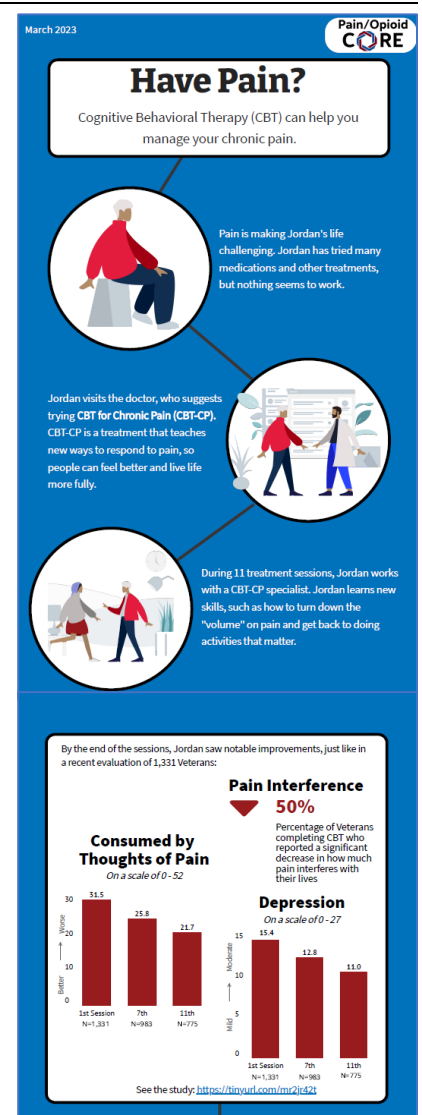
Help us identify studies that would make meaningful patient-facing infographics.

Study eligibility criteria:

- Must be a published study, preferably within the past 5 years
- Should be relevant to Veteran patients who experience chronic pain, take opioid medications, or are being treated for opioid use disorder

How to nominate a study:

- Send the title of a published study and why the results matter to patients' healthcare or self-care decisions to Tracy.Sides@va.gov





VA Pain/Opioid CORE Veteran Engagement Forum presenters at the 2023 HSR&D QUERI National Meeting; (from left to right): Whitney Butcher (Veteran caregiver), Kathryn Washington (VEP Member), Agnes Jensen (Staff & Veteran), Erin Amundson (Staff), Kyle Miedema (VEP member), & Tracy Sides (Staff)

Pain/Opioid CORE Veteran Engagement Panel Updates

The Pain/Opioid CORE Veteran Engagement Panel (VEP) consists of thirteen Veterans with personal experience with chronic pain, opioid use, or opioid use disorder. This panel was established to connect Veterans with the VA pain/opioid research community, facilitate Veteran-engaged research, and promote two-way learning.

Recently, CORE staff and two VEP members co-presented a Veteran Engagement Forum at the 2023 HSR&D/QUERI National Meeting. During the interactive presentation, titled *Engagement is at our CORE: Sharing the Successful Model of the Pain/Opioid CORE Veteran Engagement Initiative*, they highlighted recent VEP work and discussed:

- How this national, standing VEP is contributing to pain/opioid research and how its operational model can be applied in other settings;
- How trained engagement staff, Veteran panel members, and guest researchers come together in a successful engagement triad; and
- Best practices for preparing Veterans and researchers for fruitful meetings and evaluation methods to ensure continuous improvement of the engagement experience to deliver constructive outcomes.

The HSR&D meeting and various Veteran Engagement forums and posters provided a positive opportunity for Veteran Engagement groups to share with and learn from one another.

If you are interested in learning about or consulting with the CORE VEP, we invite you to review a newly added resource ([Facilitating Veteran Engagement at the VA Pain/Opioid Consortium of Research](#)) on our website. Here we have addressed frequently asked questions about Veteran engagement in research and included a process overview of what a researcher consulting with the CORE VEP can expect.

Please contact Tracy Sides (Tracy.Sides@va.gov) with questions or to schedule a research consultation with the VEP.



HSR&D Director, David Atkins (left), Kathryn Washington (middle), and Erin Amundson (right) at the 2023 HSR&D QUERI National Meeting
Photo Credit: [HSR&D Twitter Account](#)



Whitney Butcher (left) and Kyle Miedema (right) at the 2023 HSR&D QUERI National Meeting
Photo Credit: [HSR&D Twitter Account](#)

Pain/Opioid CORE Career Development Researcher Spotlight



Ashley Griffin



Sarah Javier

Spotlighting a researcher or research team who actively participate in Pain/Opioid CORE Career Development activities is a new feature of the CORE newsletter. This issue spotlights researchers, Drs. Ashely Griffin and Sarah Javier, from the VA Palo Alto Center for Innovation to Implementation (Ci2i) and Stanford University School of Medicine.

Ashley Griffin, a Medical Informatics fellow the VA, is currently developing an HSR&D Career Development Award that focuses on leveraging patient-generated health data to improve shared decision-making for Veterans with chronic pain. Her research centers around informatics, interoperability, and pain.

Sarah Javier is a Research Health Science Specialist at her VA and a recent recipient of the HSR&D Career Development Award. Her research focuses on developing a tailored implementation blueprint to enhance Veterans of color and women Veterans' engagement with non-pharmacological pain treatments; and lies at the intersection of health equity, implementation science, and chronic pain.

Ashley and Sarah are 2022 Pain/Opioid CORE Rapid Start Funding awardees and are together investigating *Proactive Messaging to Facilitate Veteran Engagement in Non-Pharmacological Pain Treatments*. To best serve the Veteran population with this research, they have met with three different Veteran Engagement panels – including the CORE's panel – to create Veteran-centered materials for their study.

Watch their recent presentation, titled *Empathetic Change: Applications of Human-Centered Design in VHA Research*, on the [HSR&D website](#), hosted by the VA HSR&D Qualitative Methods Learning Collaborative. Presenters: Katie Tirtanadi, MSIS, MHA, MA, Meg Moldestad, MS, Sarah Javier, PhD, and Ashley Griffin, PhD.

New Website Resource for Researchers: Mapping Review

Last year, Pain/Opioid CORE leaders and VA program partners convened for initial discussions about updating the CORE's research priorities. To assist in this process, CORE staff conducted a mapping review to summarize and categorize the existing literature across 16 condition categories and 19 treatment strategy categories. Results from searches for relevant systematic reviews in PubMed and Cochrane Review databases were triaged, categorized, and documented in the *Evidence Landscape Tables*. You can also access the companion *Article List* document which lists the citation and hyperlink to each numbered publication in the *Evidence Landscape Tables*.

[Access the 2022 Evidence Mapping Review resources on our website.](#)

Pain/Opioid Related Events & Funding

SAVE-THE-DATE: May 2, 2023, 11-12 ET: HSR&D Spotlight on Pain Management (SoPM) Cyberseminar

The HSR&D Spotlight on Pain Management Cyberseminar series is held on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss pain-relevant health services research and support evidence-based improvements in pain management for Veterans. The next SoPM meeting will feature, Dr. Travis Lovejoy, who will discuss the *Tele-Collaborative Outreach to Rural Patients with Chronic Pain: The CORPs Trial*, a forthcoming multisite pragmatic effectiveness trial that will test a telehealth collaborative care intervention for rural patients with chronic musculoskeletal pain. [Register for the cyberseminar on the HSR&D website.](#)

Summer 2023 QUERI Request for Applications (RFA) Informational Cyberseminar

On April 10th, Amy Kilbourne, Kara Beck, and Stefanie Gidmark presented an overview of QUERI and QUERI's Summer 2023 RFAs. This included the Global Merit RFA, Implementation and Evaluation Coordinating Center RFA, and Advancing Diversity in Leadership Announcement. [Download the slides or view a recording of the webinar on the HSR&D website.](#)

New ORD Funding Mechanism: Broad RFAs for Pain and Opioid Actively Managed Portfolio

On April 18th, the Pain and Opioid Actively Managed Portfolio (POp-AMP) leads, Drs. Audrey Kusiak, Carol Fowler, Cathie Plouzek, and Jayanthi Sankar presented information on the new POp-AMP Request for Applications (RFA). [Download the slides or view a recording of the webinar at the HSR&D Website.](#)



[More information and updates on the Pain/Opioid CORE >>](#)

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VA HSR&D COREs

Access CORE

Pain/Opioid CORE

Suicide Prevention CORE

Virtual Care CORE

[Click here](#) for more information about VA HSR&D Consortia of Research (COREs).

Contact us: PainOpioidCORE@va.gov