

**Grant title:** Keeping on track: Exploring socio-developmental challenges faced by young people with ongoing pain and their families

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

**Grant duration:** 01/10/2017 – 30/09/2020

**Report:**

This report describes the progress of the above studentship grant over a six-month period (01/10/2017 to 31/03/2018). This period refers specifically to the first six months of the grant.

**Project aims:**

We know that young people who experience ongoing pain report difficulties with engaging in everyday teenage activities, such as visiting friends and becoming more independent from parents. We also know that young people report a sense of being developmentally 'behind' their friends, yet we know nothing about what this sense of being 'behind' looks like. This PhD studentship will involve conducting a series of studies to provide a detailed account of the challenges young people and their families face when young people with pain engage in everyday teenage activities. Specifically, the studies will provide a comprehensive review of existing evidence; momentary recordings over one year on young people's thoughts and experiences of engaging with social activities despite having pain; interviews with family members to gain a familial perspective and will also include obtaining the perspective of both young people with and without pain on having to cancel or alter plans with friends due to pain.

**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 have finalised and tested the search strategy for the comprehensive scoping review of the developmental academic literature to identify the specific developmental challenges that adolescents and young people who experience chronic pain face and how these challenges impact on functioning of young people and their families.
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 study (submission March 2018). This study includes the longitudinal study to examine developmental functioning of adolescents and young people over a 12-month period. This process involved the PhD student discussing the study with young people with pain and gaining their feedback on relevant documentation ahead of submitting for ethical approval.
3. We have facilitated the successful application of Miss Jones to the Pain in Child Health group. This international group is focused on developing future leaders in the field of paediatric pain. Miss Jones has engaged in Pain in Child Health group dissemination events (webinars) and attended a funded face to face research meeting (PICH2GO, Copenhagen).

**Data dissemination:**

A conference poster relating to the longitudinal was presented at the Pain in Child Health PICH2GO event (Copenhagen, March 2018) by Miss Abbie Jones, the PhD student working on the studentship project. We will submit symposia applications this summer to present data at the International Symposium for Pediatric Pain to be held in Basel in June 2019 in addition to British Pain Society in May 2019.

**Conference poster:**

Jones, A., Caes, L. & Jordan, A. (2017). Keeping on Track: Exploring Socio-Developmental Challenges Faced by Youth with Chronic Pain and Their Families. PICH2Go Copenhagen, 25th-27th March 2018.