

COPE II NEWSLETTER

December 15, 2021

COPE II Team: Fiona Webster (Principal Investigator), Laura Connoy (Research Associate), Kathleen Rice, Craig Dale, Joel Katz, Abhimanyu Sud, Ross Upshur, Andrew Pinto, Heather McDowell (Administrative Assistant).

Students/trainees: Riana Longo, Michelle Solomon



Brian Fray, CartoonStock

CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS: We had a good year for conference presentations, with the COPE II team linked to **7** presentations in 2021! We rounded out the year with the following:

1. Webster, F., Connoy, L., Rice, K., Katz, J., Sud, A., Dale, C. Chronic struggle: A new framework for understanding chronic pain and marginalization. North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG).
2. Connoy, L., Rice, K., Katz, J., Sud, A., Dale, C., Webster, F. Chronic pain and marginalization in a time of pandemic: Towards understandings resilience and recovery. North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG).

For 2022, we have submitted a symposia abstract to *Canadian Pain Society* titled “Critical Social Science Approaches to Chronic Pain and Marginalization”, and two posters “What does the term pain catastrophizing mean to patients? Results from an international survey” and “A critical sociology of chronic pain: An addendum”. We also submitted a topical workshop proposal to *IASP* titled “Democratizing participant engagement of marginalized communities in chronic pain research: Crafting a way forward”. The workshop will feature Abhi, Laura and Fiona.

The COPE II team has been invited to virtually present our findings again next year at the University of Toronto’s Interfaculty Pain Curriculum (co-chaired by Abhi). We are hoping to feature our first podcast episode tentatively titled “Voices from the Margins” for the 2022 curriculum. Approximately 1,000 students from health disciplines across UofT including medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy,

physiotherapy, occupational therapy and physician assistants take part in this series. We look forward to being a part of this again!

WRITING AND PUBLICATIONS: Our team is continuing to work on the five papers we highlighted in the last newsletter but hope to pick up speed into January when Fiona starts a 6-month sabbatical. As a reminder, the papers focus on the following: (1) Chronic struggle, the 1st main paper based on COPE II data (all); (2) a critical sociology of chronic pain (Laura and Fiona); (3) a critical reflection on dominant models of pain; (4) a scoping review of literature on patient engagement among people who are marginalized and living with chronic pain (Fiona, Laura, Riana and Michelle); and (5) patient responses to Stanford's online survey to the concept "pain catastrophizing" (Fiona, Laura, Riana, Beth Darnall). We have a few others in the works too, including transforming our SSHRC PG Stage 2 proposal into a paper. It looks like 2022 will be a busy publication year!

Fiona has been in conversation with Joel about co-editing (with Laura) a Special Issue on Pain and Health Equity for the *Canadian Journal of Pain*. This could help create the space for some significant conceptual and theoretical contributions to the field of chronic pain research.

As always, please let us know if you would like to be involved as a co-author on any papers.

GRANTS: As many of you may know, much of the latter half of 2021 was dedicated to writing the SSHRC Partnership Grant application for our 5-year multi-disciplinary, multi-sector, multi-province project "Toward democratization of health: a sociological exploration of patient engagement in pain". The aim of this project is to provide new insights regarding meaningful engagement that better reflect the needs and knowledges of people with lived experience of chronic pain and marginalization through principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI). The total project cost is just under \$3.3M and consists of 2 Co-Directors (Fiona Webster and Maria Hudspith of Pain BC), 10 Co-Applicants, 11 Collaborators, and 8 partner organizations. We successfully submitted this 88-page application on October 29 and look forward to hearing the results in April 2022. Thank you all again for the time and insights you shared with us during the development of this application. Be sure to keep your fingers crossed for this!

OTHER NEWS: The COPE II Patient and Community Advisory Committee (PCAC), chaired by Laura, has grown to include six people, with representation from people with lived experience, and policy and advocacy. The first meeting was held with PCAC in September. They discussed the COPE II research study, provided an overview of research outputs to come, and presented the paper: "Chronic struggle: the situated experience of marginalization and chronic pain". This proved to be an interesting discussion and we look forward to the many insights this Committee will share on this paper and our other future research outputs.

NEXT TEAM MEETING: We continue to recruit participants for our CIHR funded study "Chronic pain, poverty, addiction and mental health in a time of pandemic". We have interviewed eight people to date and are continuing to recruit. Recruitment has been slowed by the pandemic. We plan to hold a transcript review meeting in the new year, so please be on the lookout for an email from Heather McDowell with possible dates.

We hope you have a pleasant and restful winter break. Looking forward to reconnecting in 2022!

