

Co-Chair:

Jennifer E. Nyland, PhD

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Dr. Nyland is an assistant professor of neural and behavioral sciences at the Penn State College of Medicine. Dr. Nyland's research focuses on the intersection of pain and addiction, with research interests spanning animal models of pain and addictive behaviors as well as clinical research focused on pain management and the chronification of pain. Her early research focused on preclinical animal models of reward and addiction, combining behavioral, neurochemical, and neuroanatomical techniques to understand underlying substrates of withdrawal and relapse. She later established an applied pain management laboratory to develop and assess novel analgesics. Her more recent work as a member of the Penn State Addiction Center for Translation (PS ACT) has focused on translational efforts utilizing a GLP-1R agonist to reduce craving and prevent relapse both in animal models and a human pilot study in patients seeking treatment for opioid use disorder. Her work has been supported by the NIH, DoD, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the National Academy of Sciences. She is interested in collaborative efforts that span preclinical and clinical approaches in the fields of pain, addiction, and behavioral health.

Co-Chair:

Antoinette Spector, PT, DPT, PhD

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Dr. Spector is an Assistant Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences and Technology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Director of the Laboratory for Social Justice, Health, and Well-Being. Her work is informed by her scientific training in public and community health and clinical training in orthopedic physical therapy. Dr. Spector's program of research focuses on health disparities affecting women, racial and ethnic minority groups, and older adults, primarily in the areas of musculoskeletal pain and opioid misuse. She has specific expertise in elucidating the social and structural determinants of disparate health and well-being outcomes using qualitative methods and community engaged approaches.

Secretary & Social Media Liaison:

Karlyn Edwards, PhD

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Dr. Edwards is a NIDA T32 post-doctoral fellow in the Division of Pain Medicine at Stanford University under the mentorship of Dr. Beth Darnall. Her research focuses on developing and adapting brief digital interventions for chronic pain and opioid misuse. She is also interested in characterizing patient factors that facilitate treatment response to opioid use disorder medications (buprenorphine, methadone) and psychological interventions. Clinically, she has expertise in delivering acceptance-based interventions for chronic pain. Dr. Edwards received her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of New Mexico under the mentorship of Drs. Katie Witkiewitz and Kevin Vowles.