

# Third Gynecologic Pain Research Virtual Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2024 | 1-5 p.m. eastern time

Gynecologic Health and Disease Branch (GHDB)

Division of Extramural Research

*Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development  
(NICHD)

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

## Purpose and Scope

This meeting will bring together investigators in the field of gynecology and pain research to spur interest, share ideas, and discuss emerging trends within gynecologic pain research and within the wider field of chronic pain research as it relates to gynecologic pain. Additionally, staff from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will provide an overview of the FDA review of gynecological devices and investigational new drug (IND) processes.

This meeting will cover the following major topics related to gynecologic pain:

- Endometriosis-associated pain
- Menstrual pain
- Vulvar pain
- Gynecologic pain management/treatment
- FDA regulations and guidelines

Speakers will give an overarching view of hot topics within their field of expertise, share their recent research findings, and discuss challenges, gaps, and potential future directions in a discussion session.

## Agenda

1 p.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

***Candace Tingen, Ph.D.***

*Chief, GHDB, NICHD*

***Alison Cernich, Ph.D., ABPP-Cn***

*Deputy Director, NICHD, NIH*

1:10 p.m. **Overview of GHDB and Gynecologic Pain Program**

***Helena Ahn, Ph.D.***

*Program Officer, GHDB, NICHD*

## Session I

Moderator: Candace Tingen, Ph.D.

- 1:15 p.m.     **Insights into Endometriosis: Unraveling the Role of Risk and Resilience in Pelvic Pain**  
*Emily Bartley, Ph.D.*  
*Assistant Professor, Pain Research & Intervention Center of Excellence, University of Florida*
- 1:35 p.m.     **Development of Anti-Inflammatory Nanodrug for Endometriosis Treatment**  
*Jae-wook Jeong, Ph.D.*  
*Professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Women's Health, University of Missouri*
- 1:55 p.m.     **How Does Menstrual Pain Become Chronic Pain?: The Role of Central Sensitization in Primary Dysmenorrhea**  
*Laura Payne, Ph.D.*  
*Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School*
- 2:15 p.m.     **Summary of a Recent Vulvodynia Therapeutics Research Summit**  
*Andrew Goldstein, M.D., FACOG, IF*  
*Director, The Centers for Vulvovaginal Disorders*
- 2:35 p.m.     **Barriers to Care: Vulvovaginal Pain Patient Perspectives**  
*Representatives from Tight Lipped (grassroots movement by and for people with chronic vulvovaginal and pelvic pain)*
- 2:50 p.m.     **The National Vulvodynia Association**  
*Susan Kellogg Spadt, Ph.D.*  
*Director, Female Sexual Medicine*
- 3 p.m.         **Break**

## Session II

Moderator: Helena Ahn, Ph.D.

- 3:15 p.m.     **Helping to End Addiction Long-term® Initiative (NIH HEAL Initiative®) Programs and Funding Opportunities**  
*Eric Hudak, Ph.D.*  
*Program Director, National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, NIH*
- 3:25 p.m.     **Managing Pelvic Pain and Healing via Humancentric, Harmonic and Holistic Techniques**  
*Zachary Lyon*  
*Chief Executive Officer, H3Pelvic Therapy Systems, Inc.*

- 3:40 p.m.     **A Device to Treat High-Tone Pelvic Floor Dysfunction in Women**  
*Jose Bohorquez, Ph.D.*  
*President, Bold Type, LLC*
- 3:55 p.m.     **Mucoadhesive Film for the Treatment of Vestibulodynia**  
*S. Rahima Benhabbour, M.Sc., Ph.D.*  
*Founder and Director, AnelleO, Inc.*  
*Associate Professor, Joint Biomedical Engineering Department, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill-North Carolina State University*
- 4:10 p.m.     **FDA Regulations and Guidelines**  
**FDA Review of Gynecological and Surgical Devices**  
*Reginald Avery, Ph.D.*  
*Team Lead, Gynecological and Surgical Devices Team, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, FDA*
- Understanding the IND Process**  
*Margaret Kober R.Ph., M.P.A.*  
*Chief, Office of Regulatory Operations, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, FDA*
- 4:40 p.m.     **Discussion**  
Moderator: Andrew Goldstein, M.D.
- 5 p.m.         **Adjourn**