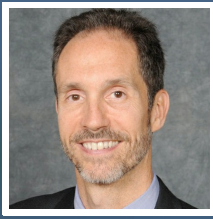


Chronic Pain: The Silent Epidemic



Roger Fillingim

Distinguished Professor, Community Dentistry and Behavioral Science

CURRENT RESEARCH

Understanding the ways in which sex, gender, race, ethnicity, and age affect patients with chronic pain

In the medical world, pain is divided into two categories - acute pain and chronic pain. Acute pain is when there is a sudden onset of pain that resolves with the healing of its underlying cause while chronic pain persists for weeks, months, and sometimes years even after the initial cause of the pain has healed. The effects of chronic pain on the U.S. population alone are startling. Chronic pain represents the most prevalent and costly health condition in the United States. 100 million people experience chronic pain, which produces annual costs exceeding \$600 billion. This cost surpasses the combined costs of cancer, AIDS, and heart disease. For these reasons, understanding the causes of chronic pain, the contributing risk factors, and the populations most at risk has become urgent.

Dr. Roger Fillingim of the University of Florida seeks to better understand chronic pain. More specifically, he is interested in the ways in which sex/gender, racial/ethnic groups, age, and genetic factors influence pain and analgesic responses. In other words, how do groups that are differentiated by specific characteristics develop chronic pain and respond to treatments differently? As Dr. Roger Fillingim comes closer to answering this critical question, he and his team will be able to develop individualized treatments for specific subgroups within the chronic pain patient population thereby extending health and wellness to millions of people.

Dr. Roger Fillingim's research is seeking to understand the multiple factors that contribute to individual differences in the experience and neurobiology of chronic pain thereby allowing him and his team to develop specific treatments involving both the psychosocial and...

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AFFILIATION

 University of Florida

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., in Psychology, 1990 . University of Alabama at Birmingham

AWARDS

- Basic & Behavioral Sciences Teacher of the Year
- Outstanding Alumnus Award
- American Pain Society's Wilbert E. Fordyce, Clinical Investigator Award
- Champion of Diversity Award
- American Pain Society

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Neurological / Cognitive, Cardiovascular

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contributions will cover the cost of investigator and staff salaries, supplies, pain participant compensation, and provide necessary resources for analyzing biomarkers, using the brain imaging scanner, and contribute to raising public awareness for this silent epidemic. Continued research will enable scientists to develop more individualized treatments and combat the epidemic of chronic pain.

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