



Michelle Roche

PAINDIFF

Sex differences in chronic pain

Project Coordinator:

Michelle Roche, University of Galway, Ireland

Project Partners:

Brian McGuire, University of Galway, Ireland
David Finn, University of Galway, Ireland
Catherine Healy, University of Galway, Ireland
Siobhain O'Mahony, University College Cork, Ireland
George Shorten, University College Cork, Ireland
Kieran O'Sullivan, University of Limerick, Ireland
Brona Fullen, University College Dublin, Ireland
Ipek Yalcin, CNRS, Strasbourg, France
Herta Flor, Mannheim, Germany
Francesco Scarlatti, Mannheim, Germany
Rohini Kuner, University of Heidelberg, Germany
Miriam Kunz, Augsburg University, Germany
Stefan Lautenbacher, University of Bamberg, Germany
Edmund Keogh, University of Bath, UK
Kevin Vowles, Queens College Belfast, UK

Suellen Walker, University College London, UK
Simon Beggs, University College London, UK
Michael Salter, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada
Jennifer Stinson, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada
Karen Davis, Krembil Brain Institute, Toronto, Canada
Jeffery Mogil, McGill University, Canada
Yves De Koninck, Laval University, Canada
Katelynn Boerner, Canada
Ruth Defin, Tel-Aviv University, Israel
Kathleen Sluka, University of Iowa, USA
Emeran Mayer, USA
Hemakumar Devan, University of Otago, New Zealand
Louise Riordan, Chronic Pain Ireland, Ireland
John Kenny, Chronic Pain Ireland, Ireland

Recent funding policies mandate the incorporation of sex as a biological variable into preclinical and clinical research. This has been welcomed across the chronic pain field and resulted in increasing evidence for sex differences in the pathophysiology and experience of chronic pain. However, inconsistencies and a lack of reproducibility between and across laboratories and clinical settings have been noted. This may be due to the lack of consensus on the most appropriate methodological and experimental approaches for conducting such studies.

PAINDIFF brings together an interdisciplinary Networking Group of 30 international leading research experts, early career researchers and patient advocates from 22 institutions across 8 countries, to discuss experimental design and methodological approaches to studying sex and gender differences in chronic pain research. The findings of the Networking Group will be widely disseminated to ensure chronic pain researchers are fully aware of the methodological framework and recommendations for studying sex and gender differences, and their relative application, in preclinical and clinical settings. Adoption and implementation of these recommendations will reduce variability and lack of reproducibility between laboratories and clinical settings, improve the translatability of research findings, leading to better outcomes for people living with chronic pain.

