



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
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**Healing Relationships: Improving Chronic Pain patient Outcomes through Enhanced Bidirectional patient-Physician Understanding (G1501JG)**

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**Abstract**

Poorly controlled pain contributes to significant morbidity and poor quality of life among patients with chronic pain.<sup>1-3</sup> Family Medicine physicians often feel frustrated by the tensions that they experience in their relationships with these patients.<sup>4</sup>

The specific aims of this study are to:

1. Determine the size and direction of associations between patient responses to a novel survey that measures competencies and processes mediating effective healing relationships (Healing Relationship Index or HRI)<sup>5</sup> and measures of patient satisfaction with pain management;<sup>6,7</sup> and
2. Use qualitative structured interviews to explore perspectives of participating practice physicians and nurses regarding the relevance of HRI domains (and, if present, their association with the other measures) to primary care management of chronic pain patients.

During routine visits in each of ten family medicine practices, 30 patients with chronic pain will complete patient reported quantitative measures (AIM1). Multivariable regression will be performed to estimate variation between the HRI subscales and the other measures collected. Subsequently, our research team will conduct structured interviews with one practice physician and one practice nurse in each practice (Aim 2). These interviews will be recorded and transcribed and an inductive content analysis will be performed using the methods described by Hill.<sup>18</sup> Results will be used to inform a subsequent intervention pragmatic trial to improve patient-provider communication between patients with chronic pain and primary care practices. We will include undergraduate and medical students as research assistants to encourage their interest in family medicine and chronic pain care.