The Neurocognitive Pain Research Group (NCPRG)

With our “Newsletter Neurocog” we want to inform about new research projects, new members of our department, coming symposiums and events of the Neurocognitive Pain Research Group. The NCPRG is a working group within the department of Medical Psychology and Medical Sociology of the Medical faculty of Ruhr University Bochum under direction of Jun.-Prof. Dr. Adina C. Rusu-Klapheck. This research group is concerend with neurocognitive mechanisms and changes in musculoskeletal disorders, cognitive processing, negative affectivity and distress in chronic pain, treatment and measurement in depressed pain patients and psychosocial subgroups in patients with chronic pain.

Enjoy reading our newsletter!

Recent publications & awards

Adina Rusu-Klapheck received the Peter-Jacobi Award 2014 from the German Society of Medical Psychology (DGMP).

New publications:


Ongoing Projects I

**Mindfulness and acceptance in chronic pain**

*Understanding the relationship to pain-related anxiety and depression*

Our current study aims to investigate the role of pain-related anxiety and depression on pain processing. In our experimental study we use a cold pressor task (CPT), a pressure algometer, cognitive biases tasks and a battery of questionnaires to investigate the impact of different aspects of pain-related cognitions, e.g. catastrophizing, rumination/depressed mood, and thought suppression on the one hand, and pain acceptance as a possible positive coping strategy for dealing the experimentally induced pain in healthy controls. Furthermore we would like to investigate the role of cognitive biases on the relationship between pain and depression.

Recent Publications


Ongoing Projects II

Pain and Empathy

*Influence of pain on empathy and the capacity of remembering*

The development of a pain memory causes amongst others the chronification of acute pain. The peripheral and the nociceptive neurons as well as the central pain perception and processing in the Cortex (e.g. somatosensory cortex, anterior cingulate cortex (ACC), anterior insula (AI) play a role in pain perception and processing). In the current study we explore the effect of pain on empathy and cognitive biases. Furthermore there will be an EEG measurement to identify relevant EKP’s.

Our Research Group

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