Stanford



Ayesha Sujan

- Clinical Scholar, Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine
- Postdoctoral Scholar, Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine

Curriculum Vitae available Online

CLINICAL OFFICE (PRIMARY)

- **Pediatric Pain Management Clinic**

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  Menlo Park, CA 94025

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Bio

BIO

Ayesha C. Sujan, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist with specialized clinical training in pediatric pain psychology and extensive research experience in pharmacoepidemiology, particularly in using large administrative datasets to study central nervous system medication and substance use during pregnancy. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow under the primary mentorship of Dr. Jennifer Rabbitts, Chief of Pediatric Pain, in the Department of Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine at Stanford University School of Medicine, and is supported by an NIH T90 training grant focused on developing leaders in maternal and pediatric pain research. In addition to contributing to Dr. Rabbitts' NIH-funded research on mechanisms and treatment of pain in youth undergoing surgery, she leads independent studies on pediatric chronic abdominal pain and disorders of gut–brain interaction, with a growing focus on central nervous system medication treatment for these conditions. Clinically, she conducts psychosocial assessments and provides evidence-based pain psychology treatment one day per week (20% FTE) in the outpatient pediatric pain management clinic at Stanford University School of Medicine, ensuring strong clinical grounding and translational relevance of her research program.

CLINICAL FOCUS

- Clinical Psychology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Clinical Scholar, Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine
- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Presidential Scholar Award, Tulane University (2008 to 2012)
- Dean's List, Tulane University (2008-2012)
- Mortar Board, Tulane University (2012)
- Phi Beta Kappa, Tulane University (2012)
- Anne M. McPherson Undergraduate Research Award, Tulane University (2012)
- Travel award, Marce of North America Perinatal Mental Health Conference (2019)

- J.R. Kantor Graduate Award for distinction in research, Indiana University – Bloomington (2020)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Fellowship: Stanford University Pediatric Anesthesia Fellowship (2024) CA
- Internship: Medical University of South Carolina Registrar (2021) SC
- BS, Tulane University , Psychology and Studio Art (double major) (2012)
- PhD Training: Indiana University Office of the Registrar (2021) IN
- MA, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY , Human Development (2014)
- PhD, Indiana University - Bloomington, Bloomington, IN , Clinical Psychology (2021)

STANFORD ADVISORS

- Jennifer Rabbitts, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Benzodiazepine Use Early in Pregnancy and Risk for Congenital Malformations.** *Annals of internal medicine*
  Fung, K., Sujan, A. C., Bateman, B. T., Straub, L., Hernandez-Diaz, S., Brill, G., Zhu, Y., Cohen, L. S., Gray, K. J., Huybrechts, K. F.
  2026
- **Validation of Claims-Based Algorithms for Identifying Congenital Urinary Tract, Genital, Gastrointestinal, and Musculoskeletal Malformations.** *Pharmacoepidemiology and drug safety*
  Fung, K., Leonard, S. A., Huybrechts, K. F., Hernandez-Diaz, S., Bateman, B. T., Straub, L., Sujan, A., Gray, K. J., Andersen, K., Chen, E. Y., El-Tayeb, K., Jeancharles, M., Mootz, et al
  2026; 35 (9): e70461
- **Pre-surgical quantitative sensory testing and post-surgical pain among adolescents undergoing spinal fusion surgery: A longitudinal cohort study.** *The journal of pain*
  Sujan, A. C., Groenewald, C., Li, R., Schreiber, K. L., Palermo, T. M., Kain, Z., Rabbitts, J. A.
  2026; 45: 106327
- **Associations Between Neighborhood Opportunity Indicators, Postoperative Pain Outcomes, and Mental Health in Adolescents Undergoing Spinal Fusion Surgery**
  Dionicio, P., Palermo, T., Zhou, C., Aalfs, H., Sujan, A., Querdasi, F. R., Parsons, R., Rabbitts, J.
  CHURCHILL LIVINGSTONE.2026
- **National Medical Expenditures Associated With Pediatric Disorders of Gut-Brain Interaction in the United States.** *Neurogastroenterology and motility*
  Sujan, A. C., Major, J., Groenewald, C. B., Rabbitts, J. A.
  2026; 38 (3): e70279
- **Country of Birth, Race, Ethnicity, and Prenatal Depression.** *JAMA network open*
  Kelly-Taylor, K., Aghaee, S., Nugent, J., Oberman, N., Kubo, A., Kurtovich, E., Quesenberry, C. P., Sujan, A. C., Erickson-Ridout, K., Bhalala, M. M., Avalos, L. A.
  2025; 8 (9): e2531844
- **Prescribed opioid analgesic use in pregnancy and risk of neurodevelopmental disorders in children: A retrospective study in Sweden.** *PLoS medicine*
  Cleary, E. N., Sujan, A. C., Rickert, M. E., Fischer, F., Lagerberg, T., Chang, Z., Lichtenstein, P., Quinn, P. D., Öberg, A. S., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2025; 22 (9): e1004721
- **Buprenorphine and Methadone Discontinuation During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period: A Nationwide Cohort Study.** *The American journal of psychiatry*
  Grace Lin, C. W., Bateman, B. T., Straub, L., Hernández-Díaz, S., Vine, S. M., Jones, H. E., Connery, H. S., Davis, J. M., Gray, K. J., Lester, B., Suarez, E. A., Sujan, A. C., Terplan, et al
  2025: appiajp20241127

- **Substance use and mental health characteristics among pregnant individuals with medical and non-medical benzodiazepine use early in pregnancy** *DRUG AND ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE REPORTS*
  Sujan, A. C., Slama, N. E., Bateman, B. T., Ansley, D., Castellanos, C., Young-Wolff, K. C.
  2025; 15
- **Substance use and mental health characteristics among pregnant individuals with medical and non-medical benzodiazepine use early in pregnancy.** *Drug and alcohol dependence reports*
  Sujan, A. C., Slama, N. E., Bateman, B. T., Ansley, D., Castellanos, C., Young-Wolff, K. C.
  2025; 15: 100345
- **Psychosocial mechanisms underlying the transition from acute to chronic postsurgical pain in youth following spinal fusion: a 6-month longitudinal study.** *Pain*
  Li, R., Rogers, A. H., Sujan, A. C., Zhou, C., Thiagarajan, P., Palermo, T. M., Kain, Z. N., Rabbitts, J. A.
  2025
- **The Role of Maternal Depression in Racial Disparities and Birth Weight.** *Journal of racial and ethnic health disparities*
  Eitel, A. E., Witcraft, S. M., Cortese, B., Sujan, A. C., King, C., Guille, C.
  2025
- **Prenatal Depression and Symptom Severity by Maternal Race and Ethnicity.** *JAMA network open*
  Kelly-Taylor, K., Aghaee, S., Nugent, J., Oberman, N., Kubo, A., Kurtovich, E., Quesenberry, C. P., Sujan, A. C., Erickson-Ridout, K., Bhalala, M. M., Avalos, L. A.
  2025; 8 (3): e250743
- **Validation of Claims-Based Algorithms for Identifying Neonatal Urinary Tract, Genital, Gastrointestinal, and Musculoskeletal Malformations in Healthcare Utilization Databases**
  Fung, K., Leonard, S. A., Huybrechts, K. F., Hernandez-Diaz, S., Bateman, B. T., Straub, L., Sujan, A. C., Gray, K. J., Mogun, H., Zhu, Y.
  WILEY.2024: 620
- **Associations between Dose of Prescribed Opioid Analgesic Exposure During Pregnancy and Adverse Birth Outcomes and Early Mortality: A Population-Based Study**
  Cleary, E. N., Sujan, A. C., Quinn, P. D., D'Onofrio, B. M., Rickert, M., Lichtenstein, P., Oberg, A.
  WILEY.2024: 320
- **Z-Drug Use in the First Trimester and Risk of Congenital Malformations in the US**
  Fung, K., Straub, L., Bateman, B. T., Sujan, A. C., Brill, G., Hernandez-Diaz, S., Huybrechts, K. F.
  WILEY.2024: 40-41
- **Retention in Buprenorphine vs. Methadone Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy and Postpartum**
  Lin, C., Bateman, B. T., Straub, L., Vine, S., Sujan, A. C., Suarez, E. A., Hernandez-Diaz, S., Huybrechts, K. F.
  WILEY.2024: 56-57
- **Chronic Hypertension During Pregnancy: Prevalence and Treatment in the United States, 2008-2021.** *Hypertension (Dallas, Tex. : 1979)*
  Leonard, S. A., Siadat, S., Main, E. K., Huybrechts, K. F., El-Sayed, Y. Y., Hlatky, M. A., Atkinson, J., Sujan, A., Bateman, B. T.
  2024
- **Patient vs Parent Proxy Reports: The Asian Experience in Pediatric Chronic Pain**
  Ma, R., Bhandari, R., Kim, Y. K., Sujan, A. C.
  OXFORD UNIV PRESS INC.2024: 149
- **Differences in Parent Protective Behaviors in Pediatric Chronic Pain between Asian and Non-Hispanic White Families**
  Kim, Y. K., Sujan, A. C., Bhandari, R., Ma, R.
  OXFORD UNIV PRESS INC.2024: 145-146
- **Agreement Between Self-reports and Urine Toxicology Measures of Illicit Methamphetamine and Cocaine Use During Early Pregnancy.** *Journal of addiction medicine*
  Sujan, A. C., Alexeeff, S. E., Slama, N. E., Goler, N., Avalos, L. A., Adams, S. R., Conway, A., Ansley, D., Pal, A., Gunn, R. L., Micalizzi, L., Young-Wolff, K. C.
  2023
- **Benzodiazepine use early in pregnancy and risk of congenital malformations**

Sujan, A. C., Bateman, B. T., Straub, L., Hernandez-Diaz, S., Zhu, Y., Brill, G., Huybrechts, K. F.
WILEY.2023: 69

- **Maternal prescribed opioid analgesic use during pregnancy and associations with neurodevelopmental disorders in offspring**
  Cleary, E. N., Sujan, A. C., Quinn, P. D., Rickert, M., Lichtenstein, P., Oberg, A., D'Onofrio, B.
  WILEY.2023: 134
- **A systematic review of in utero cannabis exposure and risk for structural birth defects.** *Frontiers in pediatrics*
  Sujan, A. C., Pal, A., Avalos, L. A., Young-Wolff, K. C.
  2023; 11: 1149401
- **Racial and ethnic differences in perinatal depression and anxiety.** *Journal of affective disorders*
  Sujan, A. C., Nance, N., Quesenberry, C., Ridout, K., Bhalala, M., Avalos, L. A.
  2023
- **Patterns of Substance Use During Early Pregnancy and Associations With Behavioral Health Characteristics.** *Journal of addiction medicine*
  Sujan, A. C., Alexeeff, S. E., Slama, N., Avalos, L. A., Adams, S. R., Conway, A., Ansley, D., Young-Wolff, K. C.
  2022
- **Patterns of Substance Use During Early Pregnancy and Associations With Behavioral Health Characteristics.** *Journal of addiction medicine*
  Sujan, A. C., Alexeeff, S. E., Slama, N., Avalos, L. A., Adams, S. R., Conway, A., Ansley, D., Young-Wolff, K. C.
  2022; 17 (3): e141-e147
- **In-utero cannabis exposure and long-term psychiatric and neurodevelopmental outcomes: The limitations of existing literature and recommendations for future research** *BIRTH DEFECTS RESEARCH*
  Sujan, A. C., Young-Wolff, K. C., Avalos, L. A.
  2022; 114 (13): 689-713
- **Maternal Serotonergic Antidepressant Use in Pregnancy and Risk of Seizures in Children** *NEUROLOGY*
  Wiggs, K., Sujan, A. C., Rickert, M. E., Quinn, P. D., Larsson, H., Lichtenstein, P., D'Onofrio, B. M., Oberg, A.
  2022; 98 (23): E2329-E2336
- **Listening to women and pregnant and postpartum people: Qualitative research to inform opioid use disorder treatment for pregnant and postpartum people.** *Drug and alcohol dependence reports*
  Guille, C., Hall, C., King, C., Sujan, A., Brady, K., Newman, R.
  2022; 3: 100064
- **What do we know about in-utero antidepressant exposure, and are these medications safe to use during pregnancy?** *ACTA PSYCHIATRICA SCANDINAVICA*
  Sujan, A. C.
  2022; 145 (6): 541-543
- **Initiation of Opioid Prescription and Risk of Suicidal Behavior Among Youth and Young Adults** *PEDIATRICS*
  Fine, K. L., Rickert, M. E., O'Reilly, L. M., Sujan, A. C., Boersma, K., Chang, Z., Franck, J., Lichtenstein, P., Larsson, H., D'Onofrio, B. M., Quinn, P. D.
  2022; 149 (3)
- **A Nation-Wide Swedish Cohort Study on Early Maternal Age at First Childbirth and Risk for Offspring Deaths, Accidents, and Suicide Attempts** *BEHAVIOR GENETICS*
  Sujan, A. C., O'Reilly, L. M., Rickert, M. E., Larsson, H., Lichtenstein, P., Oberg, A., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2022; 52 (1): 38-47
- **A retrospective, observational study on medication for opioid use disorder during pregnancy and risk for neonatal abstinence syndrome** *FAMILY PRACTICE*
  Sujan, A., Cleary, E., Douglas, E., Aujla, R., Boyars, L., Smith, C., Guille, C.
  2022; 39 (2): 311-315
- **A Clinical Trial of a Program for Pain Management and Opioid Reduction During Pregnancy** *REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES*
  Shapiro, M., Sujan, A. C., Guille, C.
  2022; 29 (2): 606-613

- **A nation-wide Swedish study of opioid analgesic prescribing patterns during pregnancy and associated preexisting mental health conditions** *JOURNAL OF MATERNAL-FETAL & NEONATAL MEDICINE*
  Sujan, A. C., Quinn, P. D., Rickert, M. E., Wiggs, K. K., Larsson, H., Lichtenstein, P., Oberg, A., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2022; 35 (25): 5161-5167

- **A population-based study of concurrent prescriptions of opioid analgesic and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor medications during pregnancy and risk for adverse birth outcomes** *PAEDIATRIC AND PERINATAL EPIDEMIOLOGY*
  Sujan, A. C., Rickert, M. E., Quinn, P. D., Ludema, C., Wiggs, K. K., Larsson, H., Lichtenstein, P., Almqvist, C., Oberg, A., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2021; 35 (2): 184-193

- **Antiseizure medication use during pregnancy and risk of ASD and ADHD in children** *NEUROLOGY*
  Wiggs, K. K., Rickert, M. E., Sujan, A. C., Quinn, P. D., Larsson, H., Lichtenstein, P., Oberg, A., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2020; 95 (24): E3232-E3240

- **Association of Opioid Prescription Initiation During Adolescence and Young Adulthood With Subsequent Substance-Related Morbidity** *JAMA PEDIATRICS*
  Quinn, P. D., Fine, K. L., Rickert, M. E., Sujan, A. C., Boersma, K., Chang, Z., Franck, J., Lichtenstein, P., Larsson, H., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2020; 174 (11): 1048-1055

- **Associations of Prescribed ADHD Medication in Pregnancy with Pregnancy-Related and Offspring Outcomes: A Systematic Review** *CNS DRUGS*
  Li, L., Sujan, A. C., Butwicka, A., Chang, Z., Cortese, S., Quinn, P., Viktorin, A., Oberg, A., D'Onofrio, B. M., Larsson, H.
  2020; 34 (7): 731-747

- **Risk factors and child outcomes associated with short and long interpregnancy intervals** *EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE*
  Sujan, A. C., Class, Q. A., Rickert, M. E., Van Hulle, C., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2021; 191 (14): 2281-2292

- **Maternal prescribed opioid analgesic use during pregnancy and associations with adverse birth outcomes: A population-based study** *PLOS MEDICINE*
  Sujan, A. C., Quinn, P. D., Rickert, M. E., Wiggs, K. K., Lichtenstein, P., Larsson, H., Almqvist, C., Oberg, A., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2019; 16 (12): e1002980

- **Annual Research Review: Maternal antidepressant use during pregnancy and offspring neurodevelopmental problems - a critical review and recommendations for future research** *JOURNAL OF CHILD PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHIATRY*
  Sujan, A. C., Oberg, A., Quinn, P. D., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2019; 60 (4): 356-376

- **Outcome-dependent associations between short interpregnancy interval and offspring psychological and educational problems: a population-based quasi-experimental study** *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY*
  Class, Q. A., Rickert, M. E., Larsson, H., Oberg, A., Sujan, A. C., Almqvist, C., Lichtenstein, P., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2018; 47 (4): 1159-1168

- **Within-Family Analysis of Interpregnancy Interval and Adverse Birth Outcomes** *OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY*
  Class, Q. A., Rickert, M. E., Oberg, A. S., Sujan, A. C., Almqvist, C., Larsson, H., Lichtenstein, P., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2017; 130 (6): 1304-1311

- **Maternal Antidepressant Use and Pregnancy Outcomes Reply** *JAMA-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION*
  D'Onofrio, B. M., Sujan, A. C.
  2017; 318 (7): 666-667

- **An illustration of how program implementers can use population-specific analyses to facilitate the selection of evidence-based home visiting programs** *PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION*
  Sujan, A. C., Eckenrode, J.
  2017; 26 (2): 117-124

- **Associations of Maternal Antidepressant Use During the First Trimester of Pregnancy With Preterm Birth, Small for Gestational Age, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder in Offspring** *JAMA-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION*
  Sujan, A. C., Rickert, M. E., Oberg, S., Quinn, P. D., Hernandez-Diaz, S., Almqvist, C., Lichtenstein, P., Larsson, H., D'Onofrio, B. M.
  2017; 317 (15): 1553-1562

- **Translational Epidemiologic Approaches to Understanding the Consequences of Early-Life Exposures** *BEHAVIOR GENETICS*
  D'Onofrio, B. M., Class, Q. A., Rickert, M. E., Sujan, A. C., Larsson, H., Kuja-Halkola, R., Sjolander, A., Almqvist, C., Lichtenstein, P., Oberg, A.
  2016; 46 (3): 315-328

- **A Genetically Informed Study of the Associations Between Maternal Age at Childbearing and Adverse Perinatal Outcomes** *BEHAVIOR GENETICS*
  Sujan, A. C., Rickert, M. E., Class, Q. A., Coyne, C. A., Lichtenstein, P., Almqvist, C., Larsson, H., Sjolander, A., Lahey, B. B., van Hulle, C., Waldman, I., Oberg, A., D'Onofrio, et al
  2016; 46 (3): 431-456

- **Differential Association of Child Abuse With Self-Reported Versus Laboratory-Based Impulsivity and Risk-Taking in Young Adulthood** *CHILD MALTREATMENT*
  Sujan, A. C., Humphreys, K. L., Ray, L. A., Lee, S. S.
  2014; 19 (3-4): 145-155

- **Considering the best interests of infants in foster care placed separately from their siblings** *CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES REVIEW*
  Miron, D., Sujan, A., Middleton, M.
  2013; 35 (9): 1385-1392