



Ayesha Sujan

Postdoctoral Scholar, Anesthesiology, Perioperative and Pain Medicine

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

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 T32 training grant (T32GM089626) focused on developing leaders in academic anesthesiology and pain medicine 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.

INSTITUTE AFFILIATIONS

- 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

- BS, Tulane University , Psychology and Studio Art (double major) (2012)
- MA, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY , Human Development (2014)
- PhD, Indiana University - Bloomington, Bloomington, IN , Clinical Psychology (2021)

STANFORD ADVISORS

- Ana Goya Arce, Postdoctoral Faculty Sponsor

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **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
- **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

● **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 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