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## The lived experience of chronic pain in nurse educators

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Pain is associated with a wide range of disease and injury, and is sometimes the disease itself. Millions suffer from chronic pain every year and the effects of pain lead to tremendous costs for health care, rehabilitation, and lost worker productivity, as well as the emotional, psychological, and financial burden it places on patients and their families. The nurse has a key role in effective pain management with the need for accurate assessment, prompt intervention, and evaluation of pain relief measures for positive patient outcomes. An interpretive phenomenological approach was used to frame this research study. The study employed a purposive sample of two Associate Degree Nurse (ADN) educators and one Baccalaureate (BSN) educator having personally experienced chronic pain. Semi-structured three-part interviews were conducted using an interview guide. The participants of study offered a depiction of the lived experience and the interpreter sought commonalities in meanings, situations, practices, and bodily experiences. Themes emerged, which aligned with and assisted in answering the research questions. Five essential themes from the study emerged: Vulnerability, physician/provider trust, fear of disability, coping, and need for pedagogical discourse. Two subthemes: Stoic and alien also emerged. Understanding the live experience of nurse educators with chronic pain is important and valuable to health care. Nurse educators are responsible and face challenge in their daily work with the need to teach about chronic pain in the best way possible assuring the best care possible. The researcher explored the lived experience of nurse educators who have personally experienced chronic pain in order to develop a better understanding for discovery in nursing curriculum. Implications for nursing curriculum and practice relate to training nurse educators and students, addressing psychosocial issues, and incorporating how to do better chronic pain assessments and better manage chronic pain.

## **Biography**

Moniaree Parker Jones, RN, EdD, MSN, COHN-S CCM, is an Assistant Professor at Auburn University at Montgomery and part-time Legal Nurse Consultant in Birmingham, Alabama. Prior to assuming her current positions, she worked as a legal nurse consultant with the law firms of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings and Haskell, Slaughter, Young, and Rediker. She received her Associate Degree in Nursing from Troy University, a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and Masters Degree in Nursing from the University of Alabama Capstone, College of Nursing. She is currently a Doctorate candidate in the EdD (Doctorate of Instructional Leadership) program at the University of Alabama. She is the 2008 recipient of the Robert M. Barksdale Memorial Endowed Scholarship, three Alabama State Nurses Association Scholarships, and the 2008 recipient of the Sigma Theta Tau Most Outstanding Masters in Nursing Student award at the University of Alabama and the Masters in Nursing Writers Award 2008 at the Capstone College of Nursing. She currently serves on the National Board as a Director At Large for the American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants in Chicago, IL. She is the local founder of the Central Alabama Association of Occupational Health Nurses and is current President of the Greater Birmingham Association of Legal Nurse Consultants. She has served on the University of Alabama at Birmingham Deep South Center for Occupational Health and Safety planning committee and is secretary of the Alabama Coalition of Nursing Organizations.

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