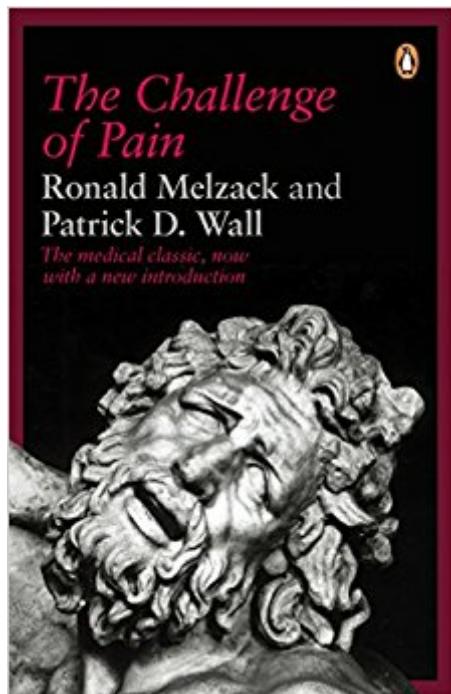


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# The Challenge Of Pain (Penguin Science)



## **Synopsis**

NOTE: The publication date of this book is 1996 however the edition dates get revised year over year. Pain has many valuable functions. It can be a warning or force us to rest our bodies. Yet most ongoing chronic pain, such as unrelenting backache or headache, has no discernable cause and diminishes countless lives. Over the years a scientific revolution has taken place in chronic pain research and therapy. A major catalyst for this was the introduction of the "gate theory" by Professor Ronald Melzack and Professor Patrick D. Wall, which argued that pain is a unified stream of experience generated by the brain, incorporating a whole host of psychological functions. Their now-classic book, with a new introduction taking in all the latest medical developments, examines every facet of pain: the psychological and clinical aspects, the physiological evidence, the major theories of pain, and the developments in its control. The challenge in the 21st century is to look at how memories, personal and social expectations, genetics, gender, aging, and stress patterns all play a role in pain, and how understanding this could lead to the relief of the suffering endured by millions.

## **Book Information**

Series: Penguin Science

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Penguin UK; 2 Updated edition (July 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780140256703

ISBN-13: 978-0140256703

ASIN: 0140256709

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #475,707 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #165 in Books > Medical Books > Pharmacology > Pain Medicine #487 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Pain Management #1527 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Anatomy

## **Customer Reviews**

Ronald Melzack is Professor Emeritus of psychology at McGill University. After receiving his Ph.D. from McGill, he carried out research at the University of Oregon Medical School, the University of

Pisa, and University College London. Patrick D. Wall (1925-2001) was Professor Emeritus at the University of London. After receiving his medical degree from Oxford, he worked at the Universities of Yale, Chicago, and Harvard, and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Here you'll find the real story of pain and all its manifestations. Not for the faint hearted or for those without some learning in medicine or ancillary services like psychology because of all the medical terms mentioned but if you're determined you could read it with a dictionary in the other hand. So! if you want to learn about how pain works, look no further.

This is a follow up to the book "Puzzle of Pain". It updates our understanding of pain, in particular M & Ws "gate control theory", also goes on to talk about long term pain (i.e., neuropathic pain) and its underlying mechanisms. Also acknowledges the importance of pain clinics.

This is a concise and well documented history of the scientific study of pain through the late 1990's. Though somewhat dated, this work remains a valuable resource for the student of pain to learn the paths leading to our current understanding of the subject.

looks very interesting to me. read already a part of it. very clear the way everything is told in this book

I'm a grad student currently doing a thesis which will probably be on diabetic pain. I bought the challenge of pain in the hopes that it would be an in depth introduction to the topic of pain (which is one I did not originally know much about). I have found it to be very informative, with multiple citations and diagrams illustrating key principles. As many of the studies cited are from the 70s and 80s, it is also a very useful summary about the history of pain research. Overall I would recommend this book to anyone who is starting out in the field of pain, and probably anyone in the field already who would like to know more about it.

This is an extremely informative book. It is well written even for the lay reader.

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