Global LGBT Health and Human Rights

DATE: Tuesday, July 15, 2014  TIME: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Jack Morton Auditorium
805 21st Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

LGBT HEALTH GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

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I welcome one and all to the second annual LGBT Health Forum— an important public outreach event of the Graduate Certificate Program in LGBT Health Policy & Practice at the George Washington University. Tonight, we gather to salute the incoming class of 20 aspiring candidates, recognize outstanding leaders from our first cohort, and listen to a range of powerful voices on Global LGBT Health and Human Rights.

Around the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals face worse health outcomes than the general population. Research reveals that disparities are due to social injustice and human rights violations– stigma, discrimination, denial of care, substandard care, a patient’s fear of seeking care, and, in some countries, discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. Access to health care and good health are principles set forth in international human rights law, from the 1948 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (Bogotá) to the 2007 Yogyakarta Principles (Thailand). This Forum shines a spotlight on the inextricable link between essential human rights and the health of LGBT people worldwide.

Stephen L. Forssell, Ph.D.
Founding Director, LGBT Health Policy & Practice Graduate Certificate Program

MISSION

Train current and future leaders to develop and apply best practices and shape policy to eliminate disparities and improve health outcomes for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.

LGBT Health Policy & Practice is a ground-breaking, multidisciplinary collaboration of a core faculty, board of advisors, guest lecturers, and scholars in the arts & sciences, medical, and policy fields.

Each year, 20 students from a wide range of disciplines—physicians, nurses, clinicians, psychologists, hospital administrators, policy analysts, activists, social workers— are trained to deliver excellence in care and shape policy impacting LGBT people. Each student designs and implements a capstone project to achieve equality of care in their community or workplace— in a hospital, private practice, community clinic, university, government or corporate setting. Capstones set in motion progressive change by others— fellow practitioners, care providers, administrators, policymakers, business and community leaders.
Jack Andraka is a Maryland high school student who, at age 15, developed a novel paper sensor for pancreatic, ovarian, and lung cancer that costs 3 cents and takes 5 minutes to run. For this discovery, Jack won the prestigious Gordon E. Moore Award at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair, was honored at the White House, featured on 60 Minutes, and invited to deliver a TED talk with over 3.5 million views. He is a passionate advocate for open-access publishing and received the Champions of Change award by the White House for his efforts. Jack is currently working on various environmental and medical projects.

Nils Daulaire, M.D. is the former Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs at the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), U.S. Representative on the World Health Organization’s Executive Board and on the Board of the Global Fund – appointed by President Obama. During the Clinton Administration, he was Deputy Assistant Administrator for Policy and Senior International Health Advisor at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Previously, Nils devoted nearly two decades to primary health care, public health management, and field research in low-income countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. He speaks seven languages.

Julie Dorf is a leader in the LGBT rights movement for over twenty years. Julie currently works as Senior Advisor for the Council for Global Equality, a coalition of twenty organizations working together for an inclusive U.S. foreign policy, which she co-founded in 2009. As an advocate, she works to promote the human rights of LGBT people through partnerships with the U.S. government, including Congress, the White House, USAID, and the State Department. Julie also founded and, from 1990 to 2000 directed, the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), creating an organization that protects and advances the human rights of all people and communities subjected to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status.

Ntlotleng Mabena, M.D. is the Chief Operations Officer at Centre for HIV and AIDS Prevention Studies (CHAPS) in Johannesburg, South Africa. Dr. Mabena plays an important role on the executive team to ensure quality client services and guide the board on strategic planning. Ntlotleng is technical advisor on medical male circumcision (MMC) and the establishment of high volume clinics in various South African provinces and other countries in Africa. Beyond her extensive work in HIV prevention, she is active in Reproductive Rights and Lesbian Rights; she recently started a program for lesbians who are victims of sexual violence and other hate crimes. At a 2014 U.S. State Department International Visitors Leadership Program on global women’s health, she continuously raised the voice and plight of LGBT people in Africa, particularly lesbians who are attacked in the name of “corrective rape.”

Maeve McKean, J.D., M.S.F.S. is currently on detail to the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator as the Senior Advisor for Human Rights. Previously, she was Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services where she was the office’s lead on human rights policy issues, including women and children’s health and LGBT health. Maeve holds a joint degree from Georgetown Law and master’s degree from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. After law school, she was a legal fellow through Georgetown’s Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellowship Program working to secure reproductive rights for HIV-positive women.

Javier Vasquez is a Panamanian international human rights lawyer and Human Rights Law Advisor at the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) / Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO). He advises PAHO’s Member States, civil society, multilateral organizations, universities, and international/regional treaty bodies on international human rights issues and strategies to improve the right to the highest attainable standard of health and other related human rights. He formulates and reviews national public health laws, polices, and practices; public health services consistent with international human rights treaties and standards in relation to: women, LGBTI groups, persons deprived of liberty, young people, children, older persons, persons living with HIV, racial discrimination, gender identities and access to medicines/technologies.

Michael Weinstein is the President of AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF) in Los Angeles, the largest global AIDS organization. Michael has been a leader in the fight against HIV and AIDS since 1986. As president and co-founder of AHF, he oversees an $860-million organization whose mission is to provide “cutting-edge medicine and advocacy regardless of ability to pay.” AHF currently serves 308,560 clients in the United States, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Asia-Pacific region and Eastern Europe. Under Weinstein’s leadership, AHF has grown from a group of friends dedicated to the creation of dignified care for people in the last stages of AIDS to the largest AIDS organization in the United States. In 2001, AHF launched AHF Global, a non-profit, international initiative to bring lifesaving antiretroviral therapy to developing and resource-poor countries. AHF Global works in partnership with local stakeholders including Ministries of Health and non-government organizations to establish sustainable and replicable models for high-quality HIV/AIDS healthcare service delivery. AHF currently has partnerships and/or operates over 60 free AIDS treatment clinics outside the United States. Worldwide, the Foundation operates over 200 treatment clinics in 32 countries.
DIRECTOR - LGBT HEALTH GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Stephen L. Forssell, Ph.D., is visiting assistant professor of Professional Psychology at the George Washington University. He is also on the faculty in the Psychology Department where he teaches courses in sexuality and gender, and health psychology. He is co-director of GW’s Summer Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Minority Communities, and is on the faculty of GW’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences where he teaches for the Human Sexuality and Clinical Medicine course.

Dr. Forssell received a B.A. ’98 in Psychology from the University of Virginia and a Master ’02 and Doctoral ’04 in Developmental Psychology from the University of Denver. He is also a graduate of the Summer Institutes on High-Risk Sexual Behavior at the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction.

ADVISORY BOARD

Desiray Bailey, M.D., chair, Hospital Chief of Staff, Group Health Central Hospital, Seattle, WA


Cornelius Baker, technical advisor for AIDS & Community Health, FHI 360, Washington, D.C.

Sylvia Kay Fisher, Ph.D., director of research & evaluation, U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA), Washington, D.C.

Sharon J. Glezen, M.D., FACP, CERT ’14 LGBT Health Policy & Practice, medical chief, University Health Service, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Spencer Perry, youth representative, CCAS 2017, George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Phil Sharp, Ph.D., president, Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C.

Shane Snowdon, director, Health and Aging Policy, Human Rights Campaign, Washington, D.C.

Stephen L. Forssell, Ph.D., Ex-Officio

CORE FACULTY

Merle Cunningham, M.D., associate program director, visiting associate professor in health policy, Milken Institute School of Public Health, Capstone

Robert Downy, Ph.D., senior legislative officer, American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C., Health Policy for the LGBT Population

Stephen L. Forssell, Ph.D., founding program director, visiting assistant professor in Professional Psychology, Columbian College of Arts & Sciences, Our Psychology, Ourselves: LGBT Mental Health, Capstone

E. Blaine Parrish, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Global Health, Milken Institute School of Public Health

Elizabeth Rigby, Ph.D., assistant professor, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration

Richard Ruth, Ph.D., associate professor, director of clinical training, Clinical Psychology & Professional Psychology Program, Columbian College of Arts & Sciences, Transgender Health

Alyssa N. Zucker, Ph.D., associate professor of Psychology & Women’s Studies, Columbian College of Arts & Sciences, Multidisciplinary Approaches to LGBT Health & Wellbeing

2014 - 15 CANDIDATES

Renata Arrington-Sanders, M.D. ’00 University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville, VA. M.P.H.’99 School of Hygiene and Public Health, Health Policy and Management, Certificate of Finance and Management and B.A.’95 in Natural Sciences and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD. Dr. Arrington-Sanders is Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine focused on the health of sexual minority youth, particularly black gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men (MSM). The GW program informs her NIH-funded work in this area and prepares her to become a successful independent minority investigator focused on improving the sexual health of this population.

Damián Cabrera Candelaria, M.A. 2015 in Sociology, University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras Campus and B.S. ’11 Industrial Biotechnology and Industrial Microbiology, Mayagüez Campus, Puerto Rico. Damián does research analysis at UPR-Río Piedras and volunteers at CARIB, a program that offers STD prevention and health services to men who have sex with men. His capstone sets up a research component that collects LGBTQ scientific literature to support work at a health services community center he co-founded in Puerto Rico.

Aiden Cropsey, B.A. ‘14 in Psychology, State University of New York at Geneseo, NY. As a Research Assistant, Aiden develops projects on the psychology of environmentalism and happiness. A transgender man, Aiden understands the need for advancement of LGBT issues through education, activism, and comprehensive healthcare services. The GW program prepares him to pursue a dual Master in Social Work and Public Health for a career in a mental health setting and as an activist for LGBT rights.
Lore Espinoza Guerrero, B.A. ’12 (Cum Laude) in International Studies, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT. Study abroad at Universidad de Guadalajara, Mexico; Università di Roma La Sapienza, Rome, Italy. Lore is founder and leader of Tacones Morados, a capstone project that will focus on the health barriers faced by transwomen in the city of Bogotá. A research/volunteer group formed by members of Bogota’s Secretaria Distrital LGBT, Secretaria de Salud, Centro de Atención a la Diversidad Sexual, and independent volunteers, Tacones Morados serves inner-city transwomen who are low-income, homeless, and/or engaged in prostitution.

Dennis L. Hargis, MSN, RN, CNOR, DNP 2014, Healthcare Leadership, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. M.S. in Nursing, Nursing Administration, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY. B.S. and A.D. in Nursing, Marymount University, Arlington, VA. Dennis is Nurse Manager of Surgical Services at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Orlando, FL. His capstone researches homophobia within the Veteran’s Health Care Administration and the need for LGBT sensitivity training. His long-term goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in nursing.

Kirsten Hartwick, B.S. ’14 in Public Health, minor in Biology (pre-med), George Washington University. Kirsten is an Emergency Medicine Communication Specialist at Medical Faculty Associates in Washington, D.C. She was in middle school when her mother came out as a lesbian and from this experience she was inspired to become a primary care physician specializing in LGBT health. The certificate program will be a foundation for her practice.

David Heilman, Psy.D. Candidate in Psychology, George Washington University. CERT ’12 in Psychology, Columbia University, NY. M.M.’10 in Vocal Performance, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, CA. B.M.’07 in Vocal Performance and Organ Performance, The Juilliard School, NY. A former accomplished musician, David is training to be a clinical psychologist specializing in LGBT mental wellness, identity issues, and anxiety disorders. The certificate program will prepare him to competently care for his patients and challenge practices that fail to meet the needs of LGBT people.

Naveed Jazayeri, B.A. ’14 Political Science, Sociology, and Economics, minor in History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. Study abroad St. Edmunds College, Cambridge University, England, UK. Naveed actively advocates for advancement of transgender issues. He has written about transgender individuals being banned from service by the U.S. military and why the LGBT movement systematically excluded the transgender community from its push for equality. The certificate program is a step towards his pursuing a Master in Public Policy and a career in policymaking that reduces disparities faced by the LGBT population.

Lynel Johnson, M.D.’03, School of Medicine, University of Texas at Galveston, TX. B.A.’85 in Psychology, Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX. As a primary care physician in Washington, D.C., Lynel is aware of the health disparities facing disenfranchised communities. As a Black American and member of the LGBTQ community himself, he knows firsthand the impact that race, sexuality, and gender identity can have on the clinical relationship. The certificate program will broaden his knowledge beyond his clinical experience and give him skills to incorporate activism and policy change into his practice.

Eric Julian Manalastas, M.S. ’07 in Gender & Sexuality, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. B.A. ’02 in Psychology, University of the Philippines, Quezon City. Eric is Deputy Director of Research, Public & Resource Collection at University of the Philippines Center for Women’s Studies where he is responsible for the university’s first LGBT Studies Collection, open to the public, with support from the U.S. Embassy and Consulate of Sweden. After the certificate program, Eric plans to obtain a Ph.D. in social psychology with a focus on public health to address how anti-LGBT stigma and social inequalities impact mental health, physical health, and economic well-being.

Michelle E. McEwan, M.S.W. ’13, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. B.A. ’12 (Cum Laude) in Psychology and Women's and Gender studies, Mercer University, Macon, GA. Study abroad in Tanzania, Africa with Mercer on Mission. Michelle embarked on her master’s studies in social work to diminish health disparities faced by vulnerable populations. Interning at a homecare agency, she developed a passion for work with geriatric clients but witnessed how her coworkers’ ignorance affected the LGBT clients. Her capstone focuses on educating health practitioners on the care of LGBT aging individuals.

Jason McMinn, LISW-S, MSW ’04, Cleveland State, Cleveland, OH. B.S. ’96 in Psychology, John Carroll University, University Heights, OH. As Social Work Coordinator in MetroHealth Medical Center HIV Clinic in Cleveland, Jason is part of an interdisciplinary care team for patients diagnosed with HIV/AIDS. His capstone assesses the Ryan White Medical Case Management program’s efficacy for other illnesses and care for LGBT youth vis-a-vis messages they are receiving about prevention of HIV and safer sex.

Paolo Morena, M.S. ’14 in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and B.S. ’94 in Sociology, Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT. Paolo counsels clients diagnosed with mental illness and dual disorders in a unique program at Catholic Charities. To specialize in counseling LGBT clients, the certificate program will enhance his knowledge and skills and future doctoral studies. His research interests include same-sex parenting vs. straight-sex parenting, HIV/AIDS, and gay children of immigrant parents.

Dan M. Nguyen, Doctor of Medicine 2016, Texas Tech University Health Science Center, School of Medicine, Lubbock, TX. B.A. ’11 Computer Science, minors in Biology and Chemistry. Austin College, Sherman, TX. As an aspiring physician, Dan mastered physiology, pathology, and pharmacology but, as an out and proud gay man, is dismayed with lack of training in LGBT health. Discovering the GW program was a beacon of light. He plans to scale-up Dr. Sharon Glezen’s (CERT ’14) capstone redesign of first year medical school curriculum to include LGBT health by partnering with nine Texas medical schools in a coordinated effort to implement change, not only in Texas, but in all accredited U.S. medical schools.

Chris Obermeyer, M.Ed.’13 in Curriculum and Instruction, Education Policy and Leadership, American University, Washington, D.C. B.Sc.’10 (Hons.) in Biology and Religious Studies and ’09 (Hons) Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science, Western Kentucky University Bowling Green, KY. Chris is a high school biology and environmental science teacher in Washington, D.C. When a parent wrote of her child being bullied for his perceived sexual orientation, Chris decided to come out to his students and teach them about tolerance for LGBT people. Appointed to the Mayor’s Office on GLBT Affairs, he works to make high school health curriculum inclusive and relevant for LGBTQ youth. His capstone develops a curricular resource and a national campaign to implement this change. Chris is the recipient of “The Joseph A. Covelli and William C. Lucia LGBT Health Policy & Practice Graduate Certificate Program Scholarship”.

Jeff Poirier, Ph.D. Candidate, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration and M.A. ’03 Education and Human Development, Education Policy Studies, the George Washington University. B.A. ’00 (Hons.) in Sociology, minor in Urban Education, University of Pennsylvania. Jeff is a senior researcher at American Institutes for Research where he addresses social inequity experienced by youth. His dissertation A Case Study of a Gay-­‐Straight Alliance: Fostering Safe, Supportive Schools for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Students informs his capstone to build cultural and linguistic competence and standards of practice in secondary education.
J. Michelle Schramm, M.S.N. ’02 in Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner and B.S. ’99 in Biology and Educational Studies, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN. Michelle is Coordinator of Sexual Health and Wellness (SHAW) for Princeton University Health Services (UHS) and strives for Princeton to excel as a premier health care provider for LGBT students. College is often the first place LGBT individuals feel safe being their authentic self. She plans to obtain a Doctorate of Nursing Practice with a focus on LGBT health to advocate for universal changes in college healthcare systems nationwide.

Carl G. Streed, Jr., M.D.’13 John Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD. B.S.’07 in Biochemistry and Chemistry, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Carl set out to become a physician to transform the patient-provider experience. As a Hopkins student, he advocated for inclusion of LGBT health in the curricula of the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health. His leadership earned him the 2014 Next Generation Award, 2012 White House Celebration of the Next Generation of LGBT Leaders Honoree, and 2012 National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals Out to Innovate Graduate Scholarship. The certificate program formalizes his experiential knowledge as he prepares for a career in LGBT health.

Valerie Velarde, B.S. ’14 (Hons.) in Psychology and Gender Studies, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT. Valerie is Safe Zone Program Coordinator at University of Utah’s LGBT Resource Center and Research Assistant to Dr. Donald S. Strassberg in the Department of Psychology. At the Center, she encountered a homeless and traumatized trans*person yet was unable to give practical assistance. This compelled her to seek expert training. The GW program brings her activist ideas and professionalism to life by teaching her skills to help people in crisis. Valerie plans to obtain a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology with a focus on social justice and LGBT advocacy.

Adam R. Ward, M.S.’14 in Comparative Biomedical Sciences and B.S.’11 in Environmental Sciences, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. Adam combines his two passions – biomedical research and LGBT advocacy – to address health disparities in the LGBT community. As a future clinician with an interest in research on HIV/AIDS vaccines and improved prevention, his goal is to create an organization like the Fenway Institute to provide primary health care and pro bono services to LGBT and other needy patients, conduct biomedical and behavioral research, and develop education and advocacy programs.