

2023 LGBTQ+ Research Symposium *Interdisciplinary Conversations on LGBTQ+ Health*

October 1st 2023, Biomedical Science Research Building

Authors: Ashley Li, Annika Brakebill, Evey Aslanian, and Ashley Lefebvre

Purpose: To promote involvement in LGBTQ+ health research and showcase ongoing research

Event Description: Half-day of faculty speakers, student sessions, and poster presentations.

Faculty Sessions:

- Designing Digital Transgender Health Resources, Dr. Oliver Haimson
- Black and Pink at SPH: Queer Abolitionist Public Health, Dr. William Lopez
- The Art of Engaging Community, Dr. Sarah Peitzmeier

Student Research

- Outcomes of 429 Primary Robotic Peritoneal Flap Gender Affirming Vaginoplasty Cases, Gaines Blasdel
- Mapping Access to Gender-Affirming Care for Transgender Youth: Results of a National Analysis, Data Limitations, and Ethical Considerations, Lucah Borah
- Enhancing LGBTQIA+ Health Education: LGBTQ+ Dermatology Online Elective Module, Marco Costanza



Student organizers, from left to right: Ashley Li, Annika Brakebill, Evey Aslanian, and Ashley Lefebvre

Highlights



MD Career Panel featuring physicians who provide gender affirming care
From left to right : Dr. Dan Shumer, Dr. Jessica Hsu, and Dr. Julie Blaszcak



Keynote session by Dr. Sarah Peitzmeier titled "The Art of Engaging Community"

Attendee Feedback

"I learned a lot from the panel discussions/ seminars I went to, and really appreciated the more casual format ... all of the speakers were open to receiving questions and delving a bit into the personal nature of their work alongside the professional."

"I was really blown away by the poster presentations, small group sessions, and especially by Dr. Harper's closing regards."

"There was a large focus on trans topics, which I understand are very important, but I wish there were more options to learn about research in other populations of the LGBTQ+ community."

Conclusions

OutMD has learned a lot about hosting these large-scale events. Our strengths were in selecting interesting speakers and creating a welcoming environment. For our next symposium, we aim to broaden our audience and create an even better experience.

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