



**National LGBTQ Health Conference:
Bridging Research and Practice
April 28-30, 2017, Chicago IL**

Call for Submissions

The Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing at Northwestern University and Center on Halsted invite submissions for the **5th Annual National LGBTQ Health Conference**. With national sponsors including the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Centers for Disease Control, the National LGBTQ Health Conference is an interdisciplinary translational research conference that aims to bring together scientists, public health professionals, and healthcare providers to improve the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer populations.

This conference will specifically focus on creating a dialogue between researchers and practitioners by integrating both research findings and clinical application into each panel or symposium. We further aim to foster professional development and networking opportunities. Keynote speakers include:

- Dr. Laura Kann, Senior Scientist and Chief of the School-Based Surveillance Branch in the Division of Adolescent and School Health at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Dr. Ilan Meyer, Williams Distinguished Senior Scholar of Public Policy at the Williams Institute

In October 2016, the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) announced the formal designation of sexual and gender minorities (SGMs) as a health disparity population for NIH research. Experts concur that additional research is needed to better understand the health inequities experienced by SGM populations.

This and other recent developments have created an extraordinary window of opportunity to conduct innovative research on the most important health concerns and needs of LGBTQ populations, to train scientists and clinicians in the best practices to meet those needs, and to profoundly lower the barriers to healthcare and eliminate inequities in health outcomes. While the struggle for LGBTQ equality and conduct of health research are not new, developments during the last several years, including the exceptional increases in national and local attention of LGBTQ health and policy changes like legal recognition of same-sex marriage, have laid a

promising foundation for impactful and groundbreaking developments in research, education, and healthcare.

Reducing health disparities related to LGBTQ people requires a cadre of scholars and practitioners who understand how to effectively engage with this minority community. This conference is a rare opportunity for in-depth person-to-person interactions among scholars and practitioners that promote dissemination of the most relevant research and application to practice.

Special Conference Themes

Each year, we select special themes designed to highlight specific areas of research relevant to LGBTQ Health and Wellness. These special themes guide the development of plenary sessions, symposia, and preconference workshops. In 2017 our conference themes are:

- HIV/AIDs;
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases;
- Adolescent Health;
- Violence and Trauma;
- Suicide and Mental Health;
- Intersections of Race/Ethnicity and LGBTQ Health

STDs continue to be a major public health problem in the United States and worldwide. With the appearance of HIV/AIDS in the early 1980's, significant attention has been redirected to the prevention, treatment, and nature of sexually transmitted diseases, as other STDs can increase HIV transmission risk. Certain populations are more at-risk for contracting **HIV/AIDS** and STDs, and a crucial component to combating these epidemics is focusing research, treatment and prevention efforts towards high-risk groups. One group disproportionately affected is **adolescents**, who represent a quarter of the sexually active population but account for half of all new sexually transmitted infections each year.

LGBTQ people experience higher rates of sexual assault, domestic violence and hate crimes than their heterosexual counterparts. These experiences of **violence and victimization** have a long-lasting effect on both the individuals and the communities. Additionally, rates of **suicidal ideation and suicide attempts** are substantially higher among sexual and gender minority populations. Lifetime rates of mood, anxiety, and substance use disorders are approximately 2.5 times higher among sexual minorities than heterosexuals. Although less is known about the prevalence of mental disorders among gender minorities, high rates of **mental health** problems have been documented in samples of transgender individuals.

Intersectionality has emerged as an important theoretical and analytic tool to understand how **race/ethnicity**, geographic location, socioeconomic status, gender identity, and other marginalized positions in society contribute to health disparities among sexual minorities, and how these factors may affect minority stress processes and intervention approaches. Research needs to explore ways in which health equity is achieved across LGBTQ and racial/ethnic communities. These communities experience dramatic differences in terms of access to healthcare, political power, and financial resources, and struggle with racism, transphobia, and homophobia.

Submission Requests

We welcome submissions from both researchers and practitioners. Priority will be given to submissions that could promote the integration of research and practice (e.g., action research, translational research, clinical studies, program evaluations, implementation science, etc.).

Submission Types

- Oral Paper Presentation: Submissions for brief research and clinical reports (15 minutes) are requested. It is not required for your submission to focus on one of the scientific theme areas, but please indicate if your submission does fall within one of the themes as we seek to group talks together in these areas.
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Sexually Transmitted Diseases
 - Adolescent Health
 - Violence and Trauma
 - Suicide and Mental Health
 - Intersections of Race/Ethnicity and LGBTQ Health
- Poster Presentation: We seek a broad range of posters addressing LGBTQ health. There will be separate competitions for student- and professional-led posters. Winners will receive a monetary award.

Instructions

To review the submission guidelines and submit your application online, please visit our [Proposal Submission Webpage](#).

Applications must be received by **January 16, 2017** at 11:59PM CST. All applicants will be notified by February 1, 2017 if they have been selected to present.

The conference will be held April 28-30, 2017 in Chicago. For more information, [please visit the conference web page](#).

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