



OFFICE OF DIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



WINTER 2019 • ISSUE 2

LIFELINE

PCOM GEORGIA'S LGBTQIA NEWSLETTER



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A LETTER TO OUR READERS

PCOM Georgia's LGBTQIA Council and the Office of Diversity & Community Partnerships is composed of members who are dedicated to addressing issues of gender and sexual orientation diversity. This newsletter is a collaborative project with the goal of communicating important events, programs, information and resources for the LGBTQIA community at PCOM Georgia. We strive to provide a safe, inclusive space for people of all genders and sexual orientation on campus.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. In this and future editions, we hope to show you our commitment to serving all aspects of the LGBTQIA community.

With love and support,
The LGBTQIA Council
Office of Diversity and Community Partnerships

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT: PCOM MEDALLIANCE

Find out why our
E-board members
chose to join PMA:

"I believe that education and empathy are critical to be a great healthcare provider.

As a PMA member, I hope to educate others on the importance of LGBTQ+ inclusion in healthcare education and to eradicate stigmas and misinformation about the LGBTQ+ community."

Shelly Restificar, Vice-President

"I joined MedAlliance because I wanted to be part of a group that values having a safe space, openness and spreads awareness of the LGBT community."

Gabriela Chayeale, Treasurer

"I like the different perspective and preparedness this club gives you on the treatment of a particular patient population, and I really enjoy the new people I've met through the club. I would love to continue to see increasing student and faculty involvement."

Logan Allee, Secretary

"Overall, PCOM has a good sense of 'inclusiveness,' so I think goals for this organization should be to engage the school and local communities so that LGBT+, and specifically caring for this population's health, is no longer 'forward-thinking' but normalized in the attitude culture."

Tyler Raeford, SOC Representative

As PCOM Georgia's first student organization that specifically addresses LGBT needs, their mission is to spread awareness of LGBT issues within the healthcare field, with the ultimate goal of educating future healthcare providers and the community on how to treat and support one of our nation's most underserved populations.

Meet the members of the Executive Board!

Sydney Lipskind (President)

Shelly Restificar (Vice-President)

Gabriela Chayeale (Treasurer)

Logan Allee (Secretary)

Tyler Raeford (SOC Representative)

Darnae Parks (Advisor)

"This club fosters a sense of community that I had not experienced at PCOM until joining. I have been able to share ideas and experiences with peers, faculty and staff in different programs that I most likely would not have encountered. Through PMA, I hope to continue to educate and spread awareness to my peers and the community as a whole."

Sydney Lipskind, President



LGBTQIA+ IN THE PCOMmunity

a year in review

MAY 2019

LAVENDER AWARDS

On May 16, 2019, the LGBTQIA Council and the Office of Diversity and Community Partnerships hosted its first annual Lavender Awards Dinner. This event highlighted campus representatives for their work, advocacy and support of the LGBTQIA community.

The following recipients from the PCOM Georgia campus were: Elizabeth Levine, MA, MCP; Tricia Reed, Director of Standardized Patient Program; and Ashley Abrahamson, former student President of MedAlliance and DO Candidate.

In addition, an Award for Outstanding Allyship was given to Linda Ellis, Executive Director of The Health Initiative, which is dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of Georgia's LGBTQ+ community through education, support, access to care and advocacy. Darie L.K. Wolfson, Systems Administrator, accepted the award on her behalf.

JULY 2019

NETROOTS CONFERENCE

From July 10th to July 13th, Marcine Pickron-Davis, Chief of Diversity and Community Outreach; faculty members Drs. McGraw-Senat and Cates; DO student Sydney Lipskind and Biomed student Shelly Restificar attended the 14th Annual Netroots Nation conference hosted in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This political conference was attended by professionals from all over the country, including grassroots activists, campaign workers and volunteers; local, state, and national elected officials; independent media makers, members of advocacy organizations and progressive companies or labor unions.

The conference offered 3 days of training sessions to increase support and provide more effective activism with inspiring keynote addresses from speakers recognized nationally, caucuses, and film screenings to discuss emerging issues in politics and society. Throughout the conference there were numerous opportunities for networking and social events. PCOM was proud to be the only academic institution represented at the LGBTQIA caucus.



LGBTQIA+ IN THE PCOMmunity

a year in review

SEPTEMBER 2019

GLMA

Previously known as the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association, GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality is the world's largest and oldest association of LGBTQ healthcare professionals. GLMA is a national organization committed to ensuring health equity and equality for LGBTQ+ individuals in their work and learning environments. To achieve their mission, GLMA utilizes the scientific expertise of its diverse multidisciplinary membership to inform and drive advocacy, education, and research. From September 11-14th, faculty member Darnae Parks attended the annual GLMA Conference in New Orleans. This event highlighted the importance of understanding the ever-changing healthcare needs of LGBTQ people throughout their lives, from birth to end-of-life care.

"With each education session, my passion to help close the gap of health care disparities for members of the LGBTQ community grew stronger. To hear that this is a national battle is mind blowing. I believe that PCOM Georgia can be a leader in closing this gap through education and outreach." -Mr. Darnae Parks

AIDS WALK

AIDS Walk Atlanta is the largest HIV/AIDS fundraising and awareness event in Georgia. Members of the PCOM's School of Pharmacy's APhA-ASP chapter partnered with Emory Midtown Hospital Clinic to participate in the 5K walk to show support for people living with HIV/AIDS. Participation in AIDS Walk Atlanta exemplifies that a multitude of small actions, such as a walk or run, can connect people to work together to accomplish more than fundraising.

From this experience, student pharmacists had the opportunity to exchange words of support and buttress the community's familiarity of a pharmacist's involvement in HIV/AIDS care. Through Emory Midtown Hospital Clinic, who provided informational pamphlets on AIDS treatment and service organizations, we were able to learn more about the different types of care that are currently available to assist patients. Engaging in AIDS Walk Atlanta allowed to reinforce our roles as prospective providers in caring for patients with HIV/AIDS.



LGBTQIA+ IN THE PCOMmunity

a year in review

OCTOBER 2019

Library Resources: LGBTQIA HISTORY

The library hosted a display chronicling LGBT history, sharing events from 2450 BCE to the present. The timeline gave detail about events using words, pictures, books and commemorative buttons, which were graciously on loan from Ms. Elizabeth Levine. The library also provided coloring sheets from GLSEN that highlight LGBT figures and events in the United States. Students were invited to stop by, relax and review the timeline. Anyone is free to check out any of the LGBT collections any time.

If you have suggestions for how the Library can improve their print or digital LGBT collections, please let them know at galibrary@pcom.edu.

THE ANNIE KOCH SHOW

On October 1st, the Office of Diversity and Community Partnerships held the fourth lecture in Transgender in Medicine Series. World renowned speaker, author and advocate, Annie Koch, DMD, along with locally-based counselor Anna Lisa Deranthral, led an enlightening discussion and Q&A on the topic "Transitioning after Gender Reassignment Surgery."

Dr. Koch is a Penn-trained endodontist who, since her transition from male to female, has become an advocate for transgender health issue, stressing the need for competent, caring and educated health practitioners who can effectively serve the needs of this still-largely underserved population. Dr. Koch graciously followed the discussion with a signing of her book "It Never Goes Away: Gender Transition at a Mature Age."



LGBTQIA+ IN THE PCOMmunity a year in review

OCTOBER 2019

NIGHT OF INCLUSION

On October 4, the Council of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, in collaboration with the LGBTQIA Council and Office of Diversity and Community Partnerships, hosted the second annual Night of Inclusion. The events of the evening included a celebration of diversity and inclusion for members of the Georgia campus to provide education, awareness and understanding for all. Two alumni, Dr. Barbara Joy Jones and Dr. LaDawn Hackett were speakers for the event, offering words of wisdom and encouragement for students.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

On October 11, the PCOM community gathered to show support for its LGBT+ members at the National Coming Out Day event. Sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Community Partnerships and the LGBTQIA Council, the celebration featured exhibits from Student Affairs, the PCOM MedAlliance student club and the Library. Games, treats, information and community togetherness were the unofficial themes of the event. A student attendee, Daryl Jackson, says of the day: "I like how it's becoming normalized. I feel supported by the community." As with last year, this year's National Coming Out Day celebration was a great time for both exhibitors and attendees.

PRIDE EVENT

During LGBT History Month, members of the LGBTQIA Council and student organization Med Alliance represented PCOM Georgia at the 2019 Atlanta Pride to celebrate and recognize diversity. Students shared informational resources through interactive games, sold Med Alliance t-shirts for fundraising and continued to establish community partnerships in the LGBTQIA community.



PCOM SAFE SPACE PROGRAM

Creating safe LGBTQIA spaces



The program is open to all faculty, students, administrators and staff at each of PCOM's three locations. The program was established to create and offer a safe environment for LGBTQIA students, staff, faculty, patients and others affiliated with PCOM.

Participants who complete the training are encouraged to identify their offices/workspaces utilizing a symbol placed on their door or other convenient location as safe places for members of the LGBTQIA community.

The PCOM Safe Space program exists to:

- Promote acceptance and awareness of the diversity of gender identity and sexual orientation at PCOM, PCOM Georgia and PCOM South Georgia
- Provide a community of allies for LGBTQIA people
- Provide evidence of and visibility for the support of LGBTQIA people and their allies within the PCOM community

Be on the lookout for our next training session!



FAST FACTS ON LGBTQIA HISTORY: HIV/AIDS AWARENESS



16-year-old AIDS patient Ryan White at his new school. Ryan White had to leave his last school because the administration refused to let him attend. They were afraid that his condition was a threat to the other kids. Indiana. January 1, 1987. Getty Images.



An AIDS activist holds up a sign protesting the decision to overturn an anti-discrimination law. Orange County, California. June 20, 1989. Los Angeles Public Library.



A crowd of 2,000 gathers for a candlelight vigil to those who have been lost to the AIDS epidemic. Los Angeles, California. May 30, 1987. Los Angeles Public Library.



A team works at sewing the names of loved ones who have been lost to AIDS onto one massive quilt. Los Angeles, California. April 8, 1988. Los Angeles Public Library.



One of the last photos ever taken of AIDS victim David Kirby. Ohio. November, 1990. Therese Frare.

Pre-1980

- 1920: Widely believed this was when HIV crossed species from chimpanzees to humans

1980s

- 1981: Cases of rare lung infection called *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia were found in 5 young, previously healthy gay men in Los Angeles.
- End of 1981: There were 270 reported cases of severe immune deficiency among gay men and 121 of them had died
- 1982: Cases suggest that the cause of the immune deficiency was sexual, and the syndrome was initially called gay-related immune deficiency (GRID)
- September 1982: the CDC used the term AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) for the first time
- September 1983: CDC identified all major routes of transmission and ruled out transmission via casual contact, food, water, air or surfaces
- November 1983: World Health Organization (WHO) held its first meeting to assess global AIDS situation and began international surveillance
- 1984: Over 7,699 AIDS cases and AIDS-related deaths have been reported in the USA, with 762 cases reported in Europe
- 1985: Ryan White, a teenager from Indiana, acquired AIDS through contaminated blood products used to treat his hemophilia
- February 1987: The WHO launched the Global Program on AIDS to raise awareness; generate evidence-based policies; provide technical and financial support to countries; conduct research; and promote the rights of people living with HIV.
- March 1987: FDA approved the first antiretroviral drug, zidovudine (AZT), as treatment for HIV
- 1988: The WHO declared December 1 as the first World AIDS Day

1990s

- April 8, 1990: Ryan White died of an AIDS-related illness at age 18
- 1991: Red Ribbon Project was launched to create the symbol of compassion for people living with HIV
- 1991: Professional basketball player Magic Johnson announced he had HIV, and musician Freddie Mercury died of AIDS-related illnesses
- 1995: The FDA approved the first protease inhibitor and began a new era of highly active antiretroviral treatment (HAART). HAART brought about an immediate decline of between 60% and 80% in rates of AIDS-related deaths and hospitalization
- 1999: the WHO announced that AIDS was the fourth biggest cause of death worldwide; an estimated 33 million people were living with HIV and 14 million people had died from AIDS since the start of the epidemic

2000s

- 2010: A clinical study showed that gay men who took pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, showed a reduction in HIV acquisition of 44%
- 2012: FDA approved PrEP for HIV-negative people to prevent sexual transmission of the virus
- 2017: More than half of the global population living with HIV are receiving antiretroviral treatment

WORLD AIDS DAY 2019: "COMMUNITIES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE"

World AIDS Day is recognized globally on December 1. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.

Since the identification of the virus in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history. There are an estimated 36.7 million people who have the virus globally.

Despite scientific advancements in HIV treatment and laws enacted to protect people living with HIV, there are still people who don't know the facts about how to protect themselves and others. Unfortunately, stigma and discrimination remain a reality of many people living with the condition.

WORLD AIDS DAY @ PCOM

World AIDS Day was recognized at PCOM on Tuesday, December 3. The event reflected this year's World AIDS Day theme, "Communities make the difference," recognizing the important role communities have played and continued to play in the AIDS response at the international, national and local levels. Communities include peer educators, networks of people living with or affected by HIV, such as gay men and other men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and sex workers, women and young people, counsellors, community health workers, door-to-door service providers, civil society organizations and grass-roots activists.

GUEST SPEAKER: MARXAVIAN JONES

Growing up in Yazoo City, Mississippi, Marxavian Jones was presented a clear illustration in social determinants of health. Believing that his community was being negatively impacted by health disparities and inequalities, he has become an advocate for social justice; he has fought for the end of discrimination against marginalized populations, such as people of color and the LGBT community. Mr. Jones holds a Master's degree in Public Health Administration with a concentration in Healthcare Administration. Jones currently serves as Research Administrative Coordinator at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University.

