

Sex and Gender Identification and Implications for Disability Evaluation

Committee

Hortensia d. Amaro

Chair

Dr. Hortensia Amaro, Ph.D., is Distinguished University Professor and Senior Scholar on Community Health at the Wertheim College of Medicine and Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work at Florida International University. She previously served as an Associate Vice-Provost and Dean's Professor of Public Health and Social Work at the University of Southern California. Previous to that, she was a Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean at the Northeastern University College of Health Sciences, where she founded the Institute on Urban Health Research, and Professor at the Boston University School of Public Health where she was the first to introduce courses on gender health disparities and on race/ethnicity health disparities in the early 90's. Dr. Amaro's scholarship has focused on advancing the understanding of gender and ethno-racial inequities in health, particularly in substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders treatment in women, HIV prevention, and other urgent public health challenges. Dr. Amaro has authored more than 170 scholarly publications and she has made landmark contributions to improving behavioral health care in community-based organizations by launching addiction treatment programs around the world. In her distinguished career, Dr. Amaro has received over 50 awards – including two honorary doctoral degrees in humane letters by Simmons College in 1994 and the Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology in 2012 – and she has served on advisory committees to the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Health Research and Services Administration, and the U.S. State Department's Latin America programs in Costa Rica and Venezuela. Dr. Amaro is a member of the National Academy of Medicine and has served on more than ten National Academies consensus studies, workshop committees, and boards. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Heidi Allen

Member

Dr. Heidi L. Allen, PhD (she/her) is an Associate Professor at Columbia School of Social Work. Dr. Allen's research focuses on eliminating health disparities through evidence-based health policy and evolved from her clinical practice in mental health and emergency department social work. She spent several years working in state health policy, focusing on delivery system redesign and coverage expansion. Dr Allen is currently involved in research examining access and quality of health care for gender and sexual minorities, particularly those enrolled in public insurance. She is a commissioner on the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), a non-resident fellow at the Urban Institute, and a contributing writer at Milbank Quarterly. Her recent research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, the Steven & Alexandra Cohen Foundation, and Columbia World Projects. Dr. Allen is a Columbia Provost Faculty Teaching Scholar, a Columbia University Provost Leadership Fellow, and was awarded the 2019 Society for Social Work Research Social Policy Researcher Award. She has her MSW and PhD in social work.

Walter O. Bockting

Member

Dr. Walter Bockting (he/him) is a Professor of Medical Psychology (in Psychiatry and Nursing) at Columbia University and a Research Scientist with the New York State Psychiatric Institute (NYSPI). He is Area Leader of Gender, Sexuality, and Health at NYSPI/Columbia Psychiatry; Director of the Program for the Study of LGBTQ+ Health at Columbia University Irving Medical Center; and Director of the Columbia Gender Identity Program. Previously, he led the Transgender Health Services at the University of Minnesota Medical School (1991-2012) and co-founded this University's Leo Fung Center for Adrenal Hyperplasia (CAH) and Disorders of Sex Development (DSD) (2004). He is currently the Principal Investigator of several NIH-funded research studies on trans/nonbinary identity development across the lifespan and risk for behavioral cardiovascular disease; quality of life after gender-affirming surgery; and the role of social connectedness in the development of cognitive reserve and resilience among LGBTQ+ adults and their cisgender, heterosexual counterparts. Dr. Bockting is currently serving on a task force for the World Health Organization formulating guidelines for gender-affirming care. Dr. Bockting served on the Institute of Medicine Committee on LGBT Health Issues and Research Gaps and Opportunities (2010-11); is a past president and fellow of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality; and served as the 2009-11 President of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. He received his PhD in Medical Psychology from the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, the Netherlands (1998), and trained extensively in psychology and human sexuality at Utrecht University (1987-88) and the University of Minnesota (1988-1990).

Don S. Dizon

Member

Dr. Don S. Dizon, MD, FACP, FASCO, (he/him) is a Professor of Medicine and Professor of Surgery at Brown University and serves as the Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Professional Engagement at the Southwest Oncology Group Cancer Research Network, a member of the National Cancer Institute's National Clinical Trials Network. He also serves as the Editor of CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians, the flagship journal of the American Cancer Society. He is a medical oncologist specializing in ovarian, cervical, and uterine cancer; prevention, particularly as it relates to the HPV vaccine; sexuality after cancer for men and women; and professional use of social media. He is the Director of The Pelvic Malignancies Program at Lifespan Cancer Institute, Director of Medical Oncology at Rhode Island Hospital, and Associate Director of Community Outreach and Engagement at Legorreta Cancer Center at Brown University. Among his other roles, he is on the boards of multiple nonprofits, including the Hope Foundation for Cancer Research and the LGBTQ Cancer Network. Dr. Dizon is a founding member of the Collaboration for Outcomes Using Social Media in Oncology. Dr. Dizon received his MD from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

Scott Hadland

Member

Dr. Scott Hadland MD, MPH, MS (he/him) is the Chief of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. His clinical and research interests focus on the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults, and in particular, on mental health and substance use. As part of this work, he has carefully examined health outcomes among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/gender-diverse and queer/questioning youth. Dr. Hadland's research has been funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and numerous foundations. He was the 2020 recipient of the Emerging Leader Award in Adolescent Health from the American Academy of Pediatrics. In 2023, Dr. Hadland was selected to the Presidential Leadership Scholars program, which brings together national leaders committed to facing critical challenges in partnership with the Clinton Presidential Center and George W. Bush Presidential Center. Dr. Hadland holds triple board certification in General Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine, and Addiction Medicine. He received his MD degree from Washington University in St. Louis, an MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and an MS in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health. He completed his pediatrics residency and chief residency at the Boston Combined Residency Program before pursuing fellowship training in Adolescent Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital and completing the Pediatric Health Services Research Fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

Raksha Jain

Member

Dr. Raksha Jain, M.D.,(she/her) is a Professor of Medicine and Pulmonary Critical Care at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. She is Director of the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) and Bronchiectasis Program and leads of a number of multi-center clinical trials for therapeutic drug development for people with CF. Her area of interest focuses on sex and gender disparities in people with CF and bronchiectasis and the role of sex/gonadal hormones in immune response to infection. She is active in the respiratory research community and a fellow of the American Thoracic Society. Dr. Jain serves as a scientific advisory board member for Boehringer Ingelheim and Recode Pharmaceuticals and on a data safety monitoring committee for Armata Pharmaceuticals; in these roles, she advises on therapeutic drug development for Cystic Fibrosis. She completed her bachelor's of science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, medical degree at the University of Texas Houston Health Science Center, Internal Medicine training at the University of Texas Southwestern and Fellowship training in Pulmonary and Critical Care and Masters of Science in Clinical Investigation at Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

Dinushika Mohottige

Member

Dr. Dinushika Mohottige MD, MPH (she/her) is an Assistant Professor within the Institute of Health Equity Research at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the Barbara T. Murphy Division of Nephrology and a general nephrologist. She engages in patient and community-centered, inequity-focused research around the impact of socio-structural factors/racialized medicine on kidney health and kidney transplantation. As part of this work, she has interrogated the role of race and other sociopolitical variables in clinical algorithms including kidney function estimation and considered the role of racism and related socio-structural factors on kidney disease. Dinushika has also contributed to multiple perspective pieces regarding considerations for gender affirming kidney care, inclusive care practices for the LGBTQ+ community, and she has partnered with experts in the application of an intersectional lens to kidney health research. Dr. Mohottige is a member of the National Kidney Foundation Health Equity Taskforce, the National Kidney Foundation Transplant Advisory Committee, the 2022 NIH PhenX Social Determinants of Health Committee, and the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) National Coordinating Center Health Equity Committee. Dr. Mohottige received a B.A. in Public Policy and a Health Policy Certificate from Duke University in 2006, where she was a Robertson Scholar. She then earned an MPH in Health Behavior/Health Education from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and a medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, followed by Internal Medicine/Chief Residency and Nephrology training at Duke University.

Tonia Poteat

Member

Dr. Tonia Poteat, PhD, PA-C, MPH, (she/her) is a professor in the Duke University School of Nursing, Division of Healthcare in Adult Populations and Co-Director of the Duke Sexual and Gender Minority Health Program. Her research, teaching, and clinical practice attend to health equity with a specific focus on populations minoritized on the bases of gender, sexual orientation, and/or race. She is an Associate Editor of the journal *LGBT Health*, member of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, a member of the research committee for the US Professional Association for Transgender Health, and former Vice President for Education for GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality. She served on the National Academies committee that authored the report, "Understanding the Well-Being of LGBTQI+ Populations" published in 2020. She completed her PhD in International Health at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and she holds an MPH in Behavioral Science from Rollins School of Public Health, a Masters in Medical Science from Emory University, and a bachelor's degree in biology from Yale University.

Asa Radix

Member

Dr. Asa Radix, MD, PhD, MPH (he/they) is the Senior Director of Research and Education at the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center and a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, both in New York City. He has over two decades of clinical experience working with transgender and gender diverse individuals and has co-authored national and international guidelines in transgender health. Dr Radix's research predominately focuses on access to care and health outcomes for transgender individuals. He serves on the New York State AIDS Institute's Medical Clinical Care Committee and the DHHS Panel on Antiretroviral Guidelines for Adults and Adolescents and was co-chair of the WPATH (World Professional Association of Transgender health) Standards of Care 8 Revision committee. In 2022, Dr Radix was awarded the 2022 The WPATH Gold Medal for major contributions to global trans health. Dr Radix is an associate editor of the journals *Transgender Health* and the *International Journal of Transgender Health*. Dr. Radix is board-certified in internal medicine and infectious disease and holds a PhD in epidemiology from Columbia University.

Joshua D. Safer

Member

Dr. Joshua D. Safer, MD, FACP (he/him) is the Executive Director of the Mount Sinai Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery in New York City and Professor of Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Safer is a co-author of the Endocrine Society guidelines for the medical care of transgender patients, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) standards of care (SOC, version 8), the gender affirming hormone treatment sections for UpToDate, the transgender medical care review in the New England Journal of Medicine and the review of transgender medical care in Annals of Internal Medicine. Dr. Safer was the inaugural president of the United States Professional Association for Transgender Health (USPATH). Dr. Safer is currently a WPATH board member. He also serves on the Global Education Institute (GEI) for WPATH and has been a scientific co-chair for multiple WPATH international meetings. Dr. Safer is an associate editor of the Journal of Transgender Health and serves on the editorial board of Endocrine Practice. He also chairs the DSD/Intersex and Transgender Athlete Panel of Experts for World Athletics. Dr. Safer has served as a paid consultant to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in cases related to transgender athletes in Connecticut, Idaho, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Florida. Dr. Safer received his medical degree, from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine.

Loren Schechter

Member

Dr. Loren Schechter, MD (he/him) is Professor of Surgery and Urology and Chief of Gender Affirmation Surgery at Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL. He serves on the Executive Committee of The World Professional Association for Transgender Health, co-authored the 7th Edition of The Standards of Care (SOC), international evidence-based guidelines for the care of gender diverse individuals, and served as co-lead for the Surgery and Post-Operative Care section of the 8th Edition of the SOC. He authored the first surgical atlas on gender affirming surgery, Surgical Management of Transgender Individuals, and is a founding member and president-elect of The Society of Gender Surgeons. Dr. Schechter is a past president of the Illinois Society of Plastic Surgeons and The Chicago Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. He is an associate editor for the International Journal of Transgender Health and serves on the editorial board for the Journal of Transgender Health. Dr. Schechter has served as an expert witness in federal lawsuits in Florida, Idaho and North Carolina where he has provided testimony on appropriate gender-affirming surgical interventions. He also often serves as an expert witness in medical malpractice cases providing testimony to establish medical standards for gender-affirming care. Dr. Schechter received the 2013 Illinois State Bar Association Community Service Award for his advocacy efforts for the transgender community, was an invited discussant to the Pentagon in 2017 to discuss military service by transgender individuals and was named a Distinguished Sexual and Gender Health Revolutionary by the University of Minnesota Program in Human Sexuality. Dr. Schechter received his medical degree, with honors, from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine where he was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society and graduated as The Outstanding Student in Surgery. He completed his residency in general and plastic surgery as well as a fellowship in reconstructive microsurgery at the University of Chicago Hospitals.

Amy Tishelman

Member

Dr. Tishelman, PhD (she/her) is a clinical and research psychologist, and a Research Associate Professor at Boston College in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience. She previously worked at Boston Children's Hospital (BCH) for close to three decades where she last held the position as Director of Clinical Research in the Behavioral Health, Endocrinology, and Urology (BE-U) Program and Gender Multispecialty Service (GeMS). These programs provide clinical care to youth, young adults, and families related to differences of sex development (DSD), intersex conditions, and gender. She was also a Senior Attending Psychologist at BCH and an Assistant Professor at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Tishelman previously worked extensively in the areas of child maltreatment and trauma. Dr. Tishelman has been awarded several NIH grants as an MPI or Co-I, investigating well-being and/or gender development in children and adolescents, and youth/young adults with DSD. She also co-authored a clinical report for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), published in *Pediatrics*, on fertility and sexual function counseling for at-risk pediatric patients. Dr. Tishelman was selected by the World Association of Transgender Health (WPATH) to be the international leader in developing new global standards of care for prepubescent children, and by the American Psychological Association to co-chair a national task force on DSD. She is on several journal editorial boards and speaks and publishes frequently in her areas of expertise. Dr. Tishelman received her Ph.D. from West Virginia University.

Kathryn Whetten

Member

Dr. Kathryn Whetten, PhD (they/them) is a Professor of Public Policy and Global Health at Duke University. They are also the Director of the Center for Health Policy and Inequalities Research, the Co-Director of Duke's Sexual and Gender Minority Wellness Program and the Research Director, Hart Fellows Program. As a health policy and population health researcher, Dr. Whetten has devoted the majority of their research, practice and training career to understanding how life course events influence beliefs and behaviors that can put one at risk for HIV as well as other infectious and chronic diseases and influence interactions with health care providers. As part of this work, Dr. Whetten examines US (and international) policies that influence access to health and other care services, including Medicaid and Medicare. The combination of being a health policy expert and population health scientist allows Dr. Whetten a unique view into how National and State level policies influence health care reception and wellbeing of those who receive, or could receive, these services. As such, Dr. Whetten has worked with both legislators in NC and in DC to provide evidence-based research and findings to inform and change policies, such as eligibility for Medicaid and for Ryan White funds and services. The vast majority of Dr. Whetten's work has been funded by the NIH and the Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO). As the Co-Lead of Duke's SGM Wellness Program, Dr. Whetten works with clinician researchers to, among other things, understand variations in gender related laboratory test results when the patient is transgender or non-binary. Dr. Whetten has previously serviced on the Institute of Medicine Committee dedicated to reviewing the impact and future of PEPFAR. Dr. Whetten received their PhD in Health Policy and Administration and Population Health Sciences from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Selma F. Witchel

Member

Dr. Selma Feldman Witchel, MD (she/her) is a tenured Professor Emerita of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Witchel is the immediate Past Program Director for the pediatric endocrinology fellowship training program at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She chairs the Differences in Sex Development Committee at the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. She is primarily interested in the physiology and genetics of the hypothalamic-pituitary-gonadal (HPG) and hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axes. Her research elucidated the concept of the "manifesting heterozygote" in patients with disorders of steroidogenesis. Her interests extend to the care of patients with variations in sex development and polycystic ovary syndrome. She is also actively involved in the health care of gender diverse youth. She is participating in studies regarding fertility preservation in these patient groups. She was an active participant in the global enterprise that culminated in the 2018 publication of the "International evidence-based guideline for the assessment and management of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome." She is currently contributing to the ongoing 2023 update of these evidence-based guidelines. She is a past chair of the Pediatric Endocrine Society Education sub-committee. She served as the co-chair of the 50th year anniversary annual meeting of the Pediatric Endocrine Society in 2022. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the Pediatric Endocrine Society in 2022. Dr. Witchel is an active member of the Endocrine Society Annual Meeting Steering Committee. She is an Associate Editor for two journals: "The Journal of the Endocrine Society" and "Steroids". She is a past president of the Androgen Excess-Polycystic Ovary Society. She has published over 200 articles, reviews, and chapters. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Oberlin College and her medical degree at the University of Pittsburgh, graduating as a member of AOA. She completed her pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital Medical Center, University of Cincinnati and her pediatric endocrinology fellowship at the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh.

Nancy F. Woods

Member

Dr. Nancy Fugate Woods, PhD, RN, FAAN (she/her) is an Emerita Professor of Nursing at the University of Washington. Dr. Woods has served as an educator and researcher in women's symptom science, and leader of initiatives in women's health, including the NIH Advisory Committee on Women's Health dating to the 1980s. Dr. Woods led the development of the first NIH-funded Center for Women's Health Research, established at the University of Washington in 1989, conducting NIH-funded research on menstrual cycle-related symptoms, the menopausal transition, and older women's health since the 1970s. She led the Seattle Midlife Women's Health Study, a longitudinal study of the menopausal transition, with up to 25 years of follow-up. Her early efforts focusing on sex and gender included publication of a text "Human Sexuality in Health and Illness" to ensure that health professionals caring for patients were adequately informed about current research about sexuality (1975) and has continued this effort by editing textbooks about women's health, e.g. Women's Health Care in Advanced Practice Nursing. Dr. Woods was elected to the American Academy of Nursing in 1980 and the National Academy of Medicine in 1993, and was awarded the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Women's Health, Trailblazer Award by the USPHS. She has served on NAM committees dealing with health consequences of Gulf War Service and Environmental Health in Women. Dr. Woods received her PhD in epidemiology and public health from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.