

LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY- RESEARCHER NETWORKING EVENT

SUMMARY REPORT



Washington, D.C. · June 2019



Cancer Center

LGBTQ+ Community-Researcher Networking Event Summary Report

June 2019

CONTENTS

About the GW Cancer Center	2
LGBTQ+ Community-Researcher Networking Event 2019	2
Meeting Agenda	3
Event Photos.....	4
Conclusions and Next Steps.....	5
Evaluation Results	5
Additional Resources	6

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This event was sponsored by the George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center.

ABOUT THE GW CANCER CENTER

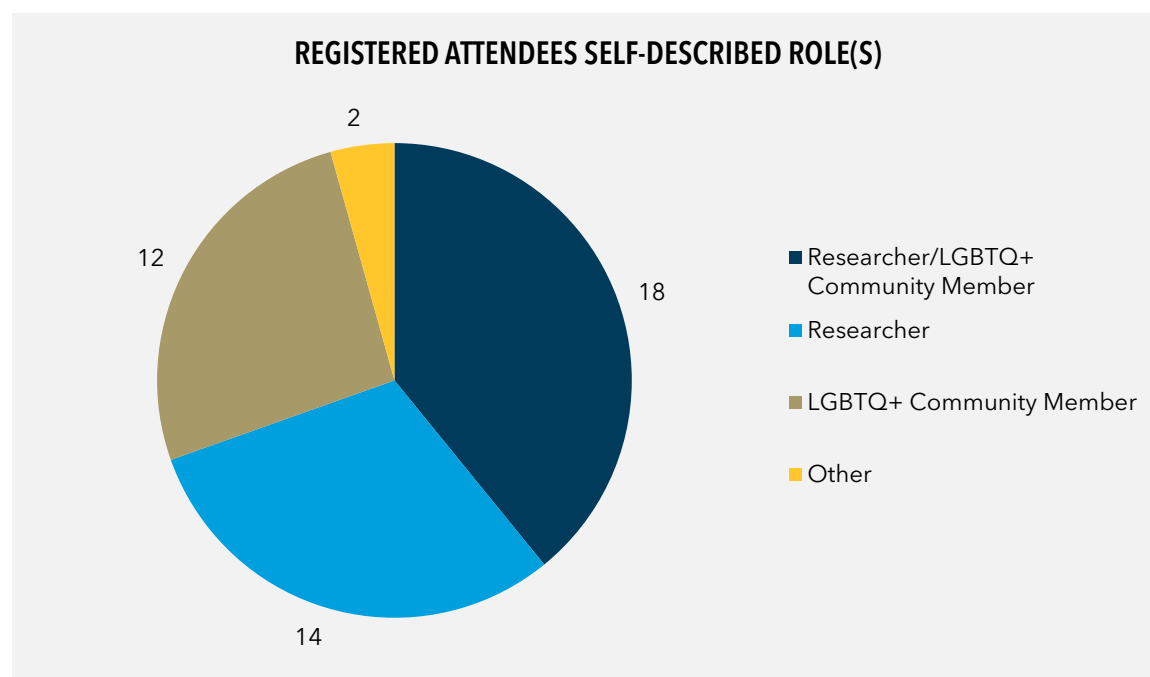
The George Washington University (GW) Cancer Center is a collaboration of the George Washington University, the GW Hospital and the GW Medical Faculty Associates to expand GW's efforts in the fight against cancer. The GW Cancer Center also incorporates all existing cancer-related activities at GW, with a vision to create a cancer-free world through groundbreaking research, innovative education and equitable care for all. Learn more about the GW Cancer Center at gwcancercenter.com.

LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY-RESEARCHER NETWORKING EVENT 2019

Thirty-eight researchers and community members gathered at Busboys & Poets in Washington, D.C. on June 13, 2019 for a networking event to bring together researchers and sexual and gender minority community members. LGBTQ+-focused researchers from a variety of fields attended, as well as community members and those interested in building collaborative research.

The goal of the event was to improve collaboration between researchers and community members, and to improve the relevance of LGBTQ+ research. Members of the LGBTQ+ Research Community Advisory Board (CAB), sponsored by the GW Cancer Center, also attended the event and assisted with hosting.

During the registration process, attendees were asked to identify whether they were researchers, LGBTQ+ community members, or other. Respondents could select multiple roles, and the majority of attendees self-identified as both researchers and LGBTQ+ community members. Nearly 40% of attendees were affiliated with GW in some capacity.



Attendees mentioned several areas of interest in LGBTQ+ research. Selected responses included:

- Self-advocacy, education, empowerment, health and wellness
- Legal regulation of transgender health care, mental health, HIV/AIDS criminalization, harm reduction/addiction in LGBTQIA+ communities, and conversion therapy
- HIV/AIDS prevention and stigma
- Anal cancer in MSM living with HIV
- Counseling and trans youth health quality
- Latino LGBTQ health disparities
- Infectious diseases and global health
- Intersectionality, policy and health equity research
- Staying healthy
- Mental health, LGBTQI and the justice system
- Minority stress interventions
- HPV-related anal cancer
- Seniors
- Trans masculine re hormones and HIV
- LGBTQ inclusion in medical professional societies and early detection and access
- LGBTQ media representations, rights and new media
- The creative aspect, flyers and infographics about research

MEETING AGENDA

6:00 PM - 6:15 PM - Registration and poster set-up

6:15 PM - 6:30 PM - Welcome and announcements by Mandi Pratt-Chapman, Associate Center Director for Patient-Centered Initiatives and Health Equity, the GW Cancer Center

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM - Networking and collaboration

7:30 PM - 8:00 PM - Evaluation and key takeaways

Prior to the event, registrants were provided with templates for presenting research in a community-friendly format, including a poster, researcher worksheet and community member worksheet to facilitate networking connections and an exchange of ideas. Several participants also brought their own research materials to discuss at the event.



Mandi Pratt-Chapman welcoming attendees

EVENT PHOTOS



CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

At the conclusion of the networking event, Mandi Pratt-Chapman facilitated a time for participants to share key takeaways and next steps for building community-engaged LGBTQI+ research in the District and surrounding region.

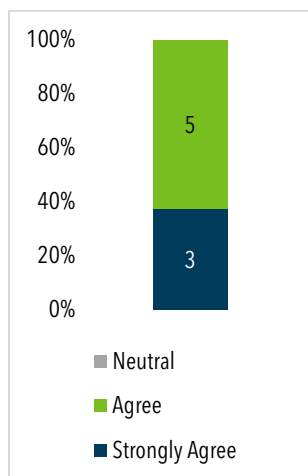
Participants felt it was critical to engage with the District of Columbia Department of Health to explore collaboration opportunities, especially with regard to the annual Report on the Health of the LGBT Community in the District of Columbia. Future collaboration with the DC Center for the LGBT Community's Health Working Group was encouraged. Additional DC funding streams and a DC cohort were also mentioned.

When asked how to keep the conversation going, quarterly community networking events were suggested in addition to an online platform or newsletter to keep researchers and community members connected. Funding was identified as a critical need going forward. Community members expressed the need for researchers to truly tap into community needs, while researchers identified the importance of finding out what research questions are a priority for community members.

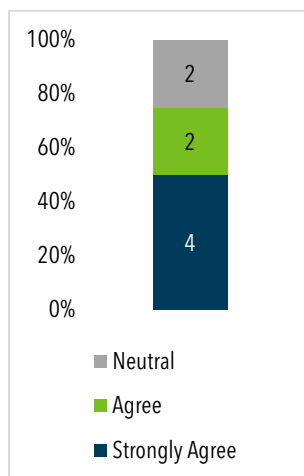
EVALUATION RESULTS

At the conclusion of the networking event, participants were asked to complete an evaluation form. Eight participants, including a mix of community members, researchers, clinicians and students, completed the evaluation form. All participants agreed that the GW Cancer Center should host similar events in the future.

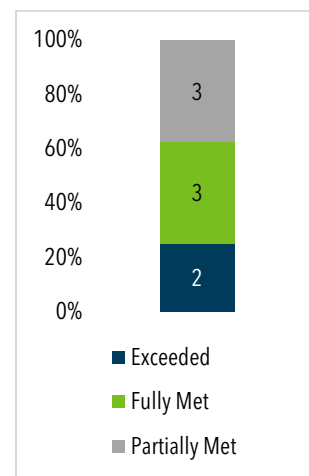
"Tonight's event increased my motivation to pursue or participate in community engaged research."



"Tonight's event increased my awareness of LGBTQI health concerns and research needs"



"To what extent did this event meet its goal to improve collaboration between researchers and community members and ensure research is relevant to community stakeholders?"



Qualitative feedback from respondents included the following:

- "Try to tell stories about the science taking place in this space"
- "Follow up on research project progress"
- "So many great people wanting to do similar great work. I think a website to post announcements or listserv with this group could really help continue these conversations!"
- "There are so many resources"
- "Better ways to share data/results with community"
- "I enjoyed seeing the ways disciplines can converge with focus on one population. A different format like speed dating or more structure work better."

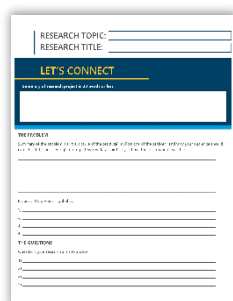
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

As part of this event, the GW Cancer Center recently released several community and researcher tools to facilitate collaboration and conversations around LGBTQI+ research topics and issues.



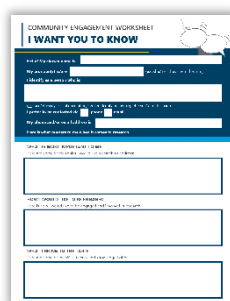
Researcher Flyer

This customizable 2-page flyer can help researchers make the case for their ideas and build community engagement.



Research Worksheet

This worksheet is a brainstorming and planning tool for researchers to develop their ideas and identify their audience.



Community Worksheet

This fillable tool can help community members share their research preferences, strengths, ideas and contact information.



Poster Template

Want to display your research at a conference or event? This customizable poster template can help.



Retreat Slides

In May 2019, the GW Cancer Center hosted a mini retreat on building community engaged research. View the slides [here](#).