

# NIH Sexual and Gender Minority Research Investigator Awards Program

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Sexual and Gender Minority (SGM) Research Investigator Award Program was developed to recognize early-stage investigators who have made substantial, outstanding research contributions in areas related to SGM health. The Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO) is pleased to recognize the 2018 Investigator Awardees.



## Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld

is a board-certified physician anesthesiologist with a background in clinical research, advocacy, and health care policy. He currently is a professor at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He serves as Director of Education Research for the Vanderbilt Office of Health Sciences Education, Associate Director of the Anesthesiology & Perioperative Informatics Research Division, and Director of the Vanderbilt Program for

LGBTQ Health. He also is the Chair-Elect of the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. Dr. Ehrenfeld's research interests include biomedical informatics and the application of information technology to increase patient safety and reduce health care disparities, studying how information technology can improve overall system reliability and performance. He currently serves in the U.S. Navy and as an Adjunct Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He also has served as a special advisor to the 20th U.S. Surgeon General. In recognition of his staunch LGBTQ health advocacy, he received a 2015 White House News Photographers Association Award and was a GLAAD Media Award nominee and Emmy nominee in 2016.



## Dr. Annesa Flentje

is an Assistant Professor at the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing. She is a clinical psychologist who focuses on reducing health disparities among sexual and gender minority individuals. Her research has targeted multiple ways to reduce these disparities, including prevention, increasing the visibility of sexual and gender minorities in research, and improving mental health and substance abuse

services for sexual and gender minorities. Her current research is identifying the relationship between minority stress, substance use, and biological functioning at the molecular level (i.e., gene expression and DNA methylation). She has developed an individually delivered intervention to reduce minority stress among sexual minority men and is investigating it as a means to reduce substance use and improve the physical and mental health of sexual minority people (K23DA039800). Dr. Flentje also is an Associate Director of The PRIDE Study, a prospective, national, longitudinal study of the health of sexual and gender minority individuals within the United States that has enrolled more than 12,000 sexual and gender minority people to date.

### 2:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m. Welcome and Introduction of Awardees

James M. Anderson, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI), Office of the Director (OD), NIH

### 2:10 p.m. – 2:40 p.m. Informatics and Health Policy: Building the Evidence to Improve Transgender Health

Jesse Ehrenfeld, M.D., M.P.H.  
Joseph A. Johnson, Jr. Distinguished Leadership Professor of Anesthesiology, Surgery, Biomedical Informatics, and Health Policy, Vanderbilt University

### 2:40 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. Reducing Health Disparities Among Sexual and Gender Minority Individuals

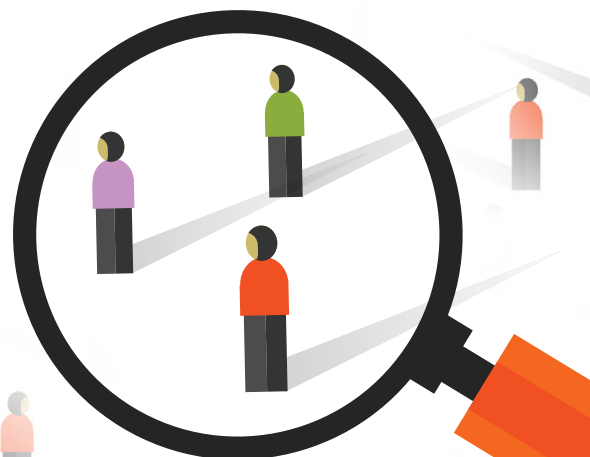
Annesa Flentje, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of California, San Francisco

### 3:10 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. Presentation of Awards

Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D.  
Principal Deputy Director, NIH

### 3:20 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Closing Remarks

Karen Parker, Ph.D., M.S.W.  
Director, SGMRO, DPCPSI, OD, NIH



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