



Irene Avila, PhD

Assistant Director of the NIH Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office
she/her/ella

Dr. Irene Avila is the Assistant Director of the Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office at the National Institutes of Health and leads the office's administrative and diversity efforts. She received her B.A. in Psychobiology at the University of California, Santa Cruz and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience from Arizona State University. She conducted her dissertation work, at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Intramural Research Program (IRP) through the Office of Intramural Training and Education's (OITE) Graduate Partnership Program (GPP), investigating the relationship between dopamine and basal ganglia-cortical system dysfunction with respect to gait in a rodent model of Parkinson's disease. Her Postdoc research at National Institute on Aging (NIA) IRP investigated how cognitive functions are mediated by interactions of cortical, basal forebrain and dopamine circuits.



Kellan Baker, PhD, MPH, MA

Executive Director and Chief Learning Officer at Whitman-Walker Institute
he/him

Dr. Kellan Baker is the Executive Director of Whitman-Walker Institute, the research, policy, and education arm of Whitman-Walker, a community health system in Washington, DC that also includes a Federally Qualified Health Center. He is a health services researcher, educator, and health policy professional with particular expertise in sexual and gender minority health, and he served as an appointed member of the National Academy of Sciences consensus study committee that developed standards for the collection of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation data for NIH. He holds appointments as affiliate faculty in the Departments of Health Policy and Management at the George Washington University and the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and he received his PhD in health policy and management from Johns Hopkins, where he was a Health Policy Research Scholar and Centennial Scholar; an MPH and MA from George Washington University; and a BA with high honors from Swarthmore College.



Jose Bauermeister, PhD, MPH

Chair of the Department of Family and Community Health at the University of Pennsylvania
he/him

José Bauermeister is the Founding Faculty Director of the Eidos LGBTQ+ Health Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the Albert M. Greenfield University Professor of Human Relations, Chair of the Department of Family and Community Health in the School Nursing and Psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine. José is an Aspen Institute's Health Innovators Fellow, and a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network.

José received his bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico, and his graduate degrees in public health from the University of Michigan. His work focuses on synergizing systems-level interventions, community engagement, digital strategies, and clinical innovations to optimize the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ communities.

Over the past 20 years, Jose has conducted extensive research on the unique health challenges faced by sexual and gender minority communities. Currently, José is lead investigator of several clinical trials, including a digital life skills program for sexual minority adolescent men, and a social support platform focused on addressing stigma for Black and Latinx sexual and gender minority adolescents and young adults.

José has led projects funded by the NIH, CDC, Ford Foundation, MAC AIDS Fund, HopeLab, and Herb Ritts Foundation. He has published over 250 peer-reviewed publications. José is a member of the NIH Sexual and Gender Minority Research Working Group and served as a co-author of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine consensus report: Measuring Sex, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation. He is a member of the editorial boards of the American Journal of Community Psychology, Journal of Community Psychology, Archives of Sexual Behavior, AIDS Education & Prevention, Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health, and Journal of Youth & Adolescence.



Christina Dragon, MSPH, CHES

Measurement and Data Lead in the NIH Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office
she/her

Christina Dragon (she|her) serves as the Measurement and Data Lead in the NIH Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office. Previously she served as the Sexual and Gender Minority Data Lead in Medicare's Office of Minority Health and as the data analyst for the Health People 2020 LGBT Health topic area at the National Center for Health Statistics, CDC. She serves as the Terminology Subgroup lead for the Measuring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Research Group, part of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM), and recently led the subgroup on SOGI data in administrative forms section of the Federal Evidence Agenda on LGBTQI+ Equity (2023). She holds a master's degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a double major from Smith College in Neuroscience and Woman and Gender Studies.



Jessica Fish, PhD, MS

Assistant Professor at the University of Maryland
she/her

Dr. Jessica Fish (she/her) is Associate Professor of Family Health and Well-being and Deputy Director for Research and Evaluation of the CDC-funded University of Maryland Prevention Research Center at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Her research and scholarship are in service to understanding and improving the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ people and their families. As a

human development and family science scholar, Dr. Fish seeks to understand how developmental and familial processes are implicated in the health of sexual and gender minority people, with a particular focus on LGBTQ+ youth and young adults. The primary goal of her scholarship is to inform developmentally sensitive policies, programs, and practices that promote the health of sexual and gender minority people across the life course.



Anna Han, PhD

Senior Advisor for Social and Behavioral Sciences, National Institutes of Health
she/her

Anna Han, Ph.D., is a senior behavioral scientist in the Office of the Director, Scientific Workforce Diversity, at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). Her work focuses on evidence-based approaches and interventions to enhance diversity and social inclusion in the scientific workforce. Before joining NIH, she was an associate professor of psychology at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Dr. Han received her doctorate from The Ohio State University. Her research areas include attitude and behavior change, stereotyping and prejudice, implicit/explicit biases, and implicit self-control. She has published numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and has served on several grant reviews and as an expert panelist on these topics.



Sarah Jackson, PhD

Intramural Research Scholar at the National Cancer Institute
she/her

Sarah S. Jackson earned her Ph.D. in epidemiology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She focused her doctoral research on risk prediction models for healthcare-associated infections. Prior to joining DCEG, Dr. Jackson worked in vaccine clinical trials at The EMMES Corporation and with the AIDS Clinical Trials Group at Social & Scientific Systems. She joined the Infections and Immunoepidemiology Branch (IIB) in 2018 as a postdoctoral fellow. In 2021, she was inducted into the NIH Independent Research Scholar Program and promoted to research fellow. Dr. Jackson's research interests include sex differences in cancer incidence and cancer risk and outcomes among transgender and non-binary individuals.



Sandy James, JD, PhD

Trial Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
he/him

Sandy James is a Trial Attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. Previously, he was a staff attorney at FreeState Justice where he represented clients in civil legal matters and conducted policy advocacy and education and outreach work. He was also the Research Director at the

National Center for Transgender Equality and lead author of The Report of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. In that role, he led a research team in conducting the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey. Sandy has worked on numerous projects involving trans- and LGBQ-related legislation, policy, and research. He earned a J.D. and a Ph.D. in Government from Georgetown University.



Allen Mallory, PhD

Assistant Professor at The Ohio State University
he/him

Allen Mallory is an assistant professor of Human Development in the Department of Human Sciences at The Ohio State University. His research has two primary foci; (1) Understanding the intersectional risk and protective factors for the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ youth and adults; and (2) risk and protective factors for individuals and couples' sexual well-being



Brian Mustanski, PhD

Director, Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing at Northwestern University
he/him

Director of the Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing, Co-Director of the NIH Third Coast Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), and Co-Director of the NIDA Center for Prevention Implementation Methodology. His research focuses on the health and development of LGBTQ youth and the application of new media and technology to sexual health promotion and HIV prevention. He has been a Principal Investigator of over \$60 million in federal and foundation grants. Dr. Mustanski's over 300 journal articles in the areas of LGBTQ health, HIV/AIDS, mental health, and substance use have appeared in Science, American Journal of Public Health, Implementation Science, AIDS, and Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology among others. In 2017, NBC News selected him from 1,600 nominees as one of 30 changemakers and innovators making a positive difference in the LGBTQ community. Dr. Mustanski is a frequent advisor to federal agencies and other organizations on LGBTQ health needs and research priorities, including being an appointed member of the National Advisory Council on Minority Health and Health Disparities.



Karen Parker, PhD, MSW

Director of the NIH Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office
she/her

Karen currently serves as Director of the Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office (SGMRO) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Parker was instrumental in the formation of the office in the fall of 2015 and was appointed Director in June 2016. In her role as Director, Dr. Parker is co-chair of the trans-NIH Sexual and Gender Minority Research Coordinating Committee (RCC), a committee on

which she has served since its inception in 2011, and co-chair of the NIH SGM Research Working Group of the Council of Councils. Dr. Parker is also a member of the NIH Anti-Harassment Steering Committee and serves as the co-chair of the NIH Office of the Director Equity Council. Additionally, she sits as an ad-hoc member on the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director Working Group on Diversity.

Dr. Parker is involved in several SGM-related initiatives beyond NIH. She serves as co-chair of the Measuring Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Research Group, an entity of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology, as well as an Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services LGBTQI+ Coordinating Committee. In 2021, Dr. Parker received the LGBTQ Health Achievement Award from GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality, for her contributions towards advancing the field of SGM health and health equity for SGM communities.

Dr. Parker began her NIH career in 2001 as a Presidential Management Fellow at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). She spent several years at NCI, serving in various roles in the Office of the Director. Dr. Parker received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Indiana University and her Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan, where she studied community organization, social policy, and evaluation. She subsequently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Maryland, School of Social Work.



Shyam Patel

Communications Expert for the NIH Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office
he/him

Shyam is the Communications Expert for the Sexual and Gender Minority Research Office at the NIH. Previously, Shyam served as the Senior Communications & Education Associate at GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality, a national organization committed to ensuring health equity for SGM individuals. His work primarily involved managing GLMA's education initiatives promoting SGM health research, as well as directing organizational advocacy efforts that sought to advance equitable health policy. During his time at GLMA, he served as a board member on the PRIDEnet Participant Advisory Board, assisting with the development of initiatives and activities to best engage SGM individuals in both the PRIDE Study and the *All of Us* Research Program.



Mandi Pratt-Chapman, PhD

Associate Professor of Medicine for the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences
she/her

Mandi Pratt-Chapman, PhD is Associate Professor of Medicine for the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Associate Professor of Prevention and Community Health for the GW Milken Institute School of Public Health, and Associate Center Director, Community Outreach, Engagement and Equity for the GW Cancer Center. Her personal mission is to make evidence-based health care and disease prevention strategies available to more people as quickly as possible. Her research focuses on patient navigation, cancer survivorship,

evidence-based cancer control, and health equity for intersectional lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) communities. She recently founded a nonprofit called Radical Inclusivity that promotes healing by bringing people closer to nature and to each other. The organization seeks to foster inclusive perspectives to solve challenging social problems. Learn more at radicalinclusivity.net.



Renee Rider, JD, MS

Program Director for the National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH
she/her

Renee Rider is a genetic counselor and a Program Director for the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). Prior to joining NHGRI, Renee worked at the University of Utah Alzheimer's Center and the Veterans' Administration. Renee received her master's in science in genetic counseling from the University of Utah and a juris doctor from Northeastern University School of Law. She is currently working on her Doctor of Public Health at George Washington University.



Ames Simmons, JD

Senior Fellow at Duke University School of Law
he/him/el

Ames Simmons is a queer white transgender man who holds a senior fellowship at Duke University School of Law. His work is grounded in community-based anti-racism, anti-violence, and anti-poverty efforts to achieve justice for transgender people and collective liberation. His previous roles include policy director at National Center for Transgender Equality, policy director at Equality North Carolina, and seventeen years as assistant general counsel at a healthcare company assisting uninsured patients with Medicaid. Ames attended Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA, and Emory University Law School, where he earned a Juris Doctor degree, as well as George Washington University's LGBT Health Policy & Practice graduate certificate program.



Ashley Wilder Smith, PhD, MPH

Chief, Outcomes Research Branch at the National Cancer Institute, NIH
she/her

Dr. Smith oversees ORB grants, contracts and activities, and personally manages a portfolio of ORB funded grants and applications focused on patient reported well-being, functioning, and healthcare delivery interventions. Dr. Smith also participates in efforts across the Department of Health and Human Services to study and improve the measurement and evaluation of patient-reported symptoms and health outcomes in observational studies, clinical trials, and for use in clinical care.



Asha Storm, PhD

Program Analyst/Health Specialist for the National Institutes of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, NIH

they/them

Dr. Asha Storm serves as a Program Analyst/Health Specialist for the National Institutes of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Storm also serves on multiple diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility groups such as NIH's UNITE Committee, the Sexual and Gender Minority Research Coordinating Committee, and NIBIB's internal DEIA group.



Pamela Tamez, PhD

NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity Office

she/her/ella

Dr. Pamela Tamez works at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) within the Chief Officer of Scientific Workforce Diversity office. She is currently leading a funding opportunity to recognize excellence in diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility mentorship, and she contributes to many programs in the office. Dr. Tamez has several years' experience at NIH, serving in various capacities from guiding the career development of trainees to curating and annotating genes. Prior to this, she spent several years in academia and launched her scientific career through NIH Diversity Supplement funding. Dr. Tamez received a B.A. from Southwestern University and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Karina Walters, PhD, MSW

Director of the NIH Tribal Health Research Office

she/her

Karina is the recently appointed Director of the Tribal Health Research Office at the National Institute of Health. She is an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, a Katherine Hall Chambers University Professor at the University of Washington School of Social Work, and an adjunct Professor in the Department of Global Health, School of Public Health, and Co-Director of the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute (IWRI) at the University of Washington. Dr. Walters is world renowned for her expertise in developing behavioral and multi-level health interventions steeped in culture to activate health-promoting behaviors. She has written landmark papers on traumatic stress and health, historical and intergenerational trauma, and originated the Indigenist Stress-Coping model. She has led 22 NIH-funded studies, is one of the leading American Indian scientists in the country, and is only one of two American Indians (and the only Native woman) ever invited to deliver the prestigious Director's lecture to the Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series (WALS) at the NIH. She is the first American Indian Fellow inductee into the American Academy of Social Welfare and Social Work (AASWSW).



Bali White, MA

Principal Strategist for the Portfolio for Sexual and Gender Minorities, NIH
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Bali is the Principal Strategist for the Portfolio for Sexual and Gender Minorities at the NIH Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Bali previously served as an Intramural Research Training Awardee (IRTA) with NIH's Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences, where she presented research posters across NIH, on Capitol Hill, and at the International AIDS Conference in South Africa regarding intersectional impacts on the health of African American women of transgender experience in NYC. She also co-authored an American Psychological Association textbook chapter on counseling transgender people of color.

Prior to federal service Bali designed and managed NYC and CDC funded health programming serving SGM youth and adults at community-based organizations including Hetrick-Martin Institute, Housing Works, GMHC, and Harlem United; and most recently at Lutheran Medical Center she coordinated HIV/STD and Hepatitis prevention strategies for LGBTQ+, undocumented, homeless, and young people throughout Brooklyn neighborhoods. She also served on the National Advisory Board for the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health, and the NYC HIV Prevention Planning Group.