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Thoughts on the AIDS Epidemic in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic  
Jack Drescher, M.D.  
jackdreschermd@gmail.com


One intern on my unit had a 20-something patient with a rare cancer, Kaposi’s Sarcoma, later commonly called KS. She told me about a forthcoming study by an NYU dermatologist describing a series of gay men with this rare cancer.

I returned home that day and opened Harrison’s Textbook of Medicine. A brief paragraph described KS, a rare cancer found in young men and boys in equatorial Africa and in older, immunosuppressed men. No explanation for what I saw earlier that day.

I completed my residency at SUNY-Downstate/Kings County in Brooklyn which served a significant Caribbean patient population. At the time, Haitians were one of four “at-risk groups,” the four “H’s:” homosexuals, Haitians, heroin addicts and hemophiliacs.
Hello again! Let me start saying that I hope you, your family, friends and patients are doing well. It has been challenging months and these words are coming later than expected; many things have changed, and our lives are going to be forever influenced by the events that have occurred so far in the year.

It is definitely interesting to see how differently people react to the same stressor, this historical event has only deepened my empathy and love for others. It has shown me the darker side of many but also the humanity, compassion and hope that others are sharing without any hesitation. I will always remember the cheers and claps I hear every day from my window at 7PM.

As you can imagine, this newsletter edition focuses on the current pandemic, you will find various perspectives shared by the members of the AGLP. We included contributions from Dinesh Bhugra, previous president of the World Psychiatric Association, and from members that want to share their experiences in the psychiatric field.

Sadly, we were not able to see each other in person at the APA meeting but AGLP is working hard to provide you with several online resources; please check our Facebook page and e-mails for more information about it.

There are many qualities we share in the LGBT community; but one keeps coming to my mind every day: resilience. We have had many fights and struggles in the past; I am pretty sure we will rise victorious from this challenge. ■ ■ ■

Celebrating Executive Director Roy Harker’s 25 Years with AGLP
Silver Anniversary Fundraising Campaign
Howard Rubin, M.D.

Although AGLP will not be meeting in at the APA’s annual convention, which has been cancelled because of the COVID pandemic, we have been working on how we can stay connected with you, our members, and continue to provide support through the journal, and our newsletter. We are also working on ways to bring some of the convention content to you virtually. Stay tuned!

The COVID crisis makes me very mindful of our personal histories, our own struggles as LGBTQ+ providers and people. It makes me mindful of other plagues we have struggled with in our lives, most notably HIV.

In the spirit of remembering our history and commemorating it, we can’t lose sight of those of us who have labored in the trenches of our movement.

Roy Harker started working with AGLP in January 1995. During that time, he has been our organization’s renaissance man. He runs our office, manages the website, designs the newsletter, coordinates all of our activities at APA annual meetings, assists the board with setting the priorities for AGLP, and enables us to carry out our mission.

To honor all of Roy’s dedicated services to AGLP, we are embarking on a $25,000+ fundraising campaign. Before Roy came on board, AGLP was largely a volunteer organization, which limited its growth. AGLP has had many accomplishments during his tenure including the completion of a film about reparative therapy called Abomination.
several months ago, after a Pilates session I found myself walking in the Sebastopol Cemetery. I saw many gravestones, some old and some new, most covered with dirt and pollen. Moss was growing on the stones and had stenciled itself into the carved words. As I read the dates of death, more than I had expected initially were from 1917-1918. The War to End All Wars, I thought, but then, looking at the dates of birth, I realized it was the Spanish Flu—a global pandemic that had killed 50-100 million people, which had taken the lives of the local people here in Sebastopol, a small community about 60 miles north of San Francisco, in Sonoma County, close to the Russian River.

Thinking about the Spanish Flu reminded me of AIDS, which had been the great pandemic of my time. I remembered the news reports about “GRID - Gay Related Immune Deficiency” that was afflicting gay men in San Francisco and New York in the very early 1980’s when I was in college. I came out during that crisis, and I received my training at Mount Sinai Medical School and Bellevue Hospital in New York City at the height of the epidemic when there was a lot we didn’t know about AIDS. Fear was everywhere. It was only with the advent of triple therapies in 1995, that major progress had been made to save lives, but by then, we had lost a generation of friends, colleagues, and patients.

As I absorbed the news that the APA meeting was being cancelled, I was filled with sadness. I realized that this year would be the first since I was a third-year medical student in the Spring of 1989, that I would not be attending an APA Annual Meeting. I recalled my first visits to cities like New Orleans and Toronto for the APA. I remembered the AGLP Saturday educational sessions, the membership meetings, and all the parties that members have generously hosted at their homes. I think fondly of all the AGLP members I have met through the years, of those who are still in my life and those who have passed.

This year’s APA would have also been the one in which I stepped down as President of AGLP. It has been a pleasure to have served in that capacity these past two years. I am grateful that I have been able to help with 40•400•1 campaign that Roy started to increase our membership and that we have greatly exceeded that goal. The APA in San Francisco and the IPS in New York were highlights for me as they contained a gratifyingly large amount of LGBTQ educational and social programming. As soon to be Past President, I will to continue efforts to ensure our viability for the next 40 years. To that end, I encourage everyone to help with the future of AGLP by donating to the recently started 25th anniversary fund to commemorate Roy Harker’s 25 years of service to AGLP.

When I started writing this column, we were approaching the Jewish Holiday of Passover. At the end of a seder—the holiday meal and service—it is traditional for Jews to state, “Next year in Jerusalem!” That saying conveys the universal wish for connection, home, and freedom. In that spirit, I say to you all, “Next year in Los Angeles!”
Mental Health in a Time of Crisis

As I sit here to write this column, there are over a million confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States and over 50,000 deaths. These are both almost certainly vastly underestimated, and no doubt both numbers will continue to grow in the coming days and weeks. There is no certainty that we will be able to resume normal life anytime soon, and unemployment is hitting over 20% already, with more to come.

In such a time, it is easy to become overwhelmed and hopeless. We have seen this in higher rates of depression and anxiety, particularly with healthcare workers. A highly publicized ER physician suicide in New York is a clear representation of this, but not the only one, I am sure.

So, how can we regroup mentally and give ourselves some hope? Well, one number we do not focus on is the total of recovered people. The Johns Hopkins Coronavirus map estimates over 1 million recovered people around the world so far! That is wonderful news. It does not mean guaranteed immunity, as the WHO has said, but this means that we can recover from this pandemic. We can recover as individuals, and as a society. It also means that the vast majority of people who are infected end up being OK, which should give us some comfort as we try to reduce our own risk of infection.

Another thing that gets little press is how this terrible pandemic has brought out the best in so many people. The protesters might get more news coverage, but there are many more people doing things for others. Some of my patients are even getting groceries for their neighbors or volunteering to do errands for the elderly who can’t leave their homes. I have friends who are doing fundraisers and donating time to organizations like Feeding America. I have also had many people tell me they are connecting more with people in this time of isolation, as it has allowed us all to reflect on those friends and family members we might not be able to catch up with so regularly when we are busy. It has made a difference in my life, as I have been able to connect on phone and video to many more people during this time.

In addition to all of this, I have had more free time to watch TV and specially to read. This has allowed me to open up my horizons and explore issues like racial inequality, our prison systems in America, immigrant struggles, and women’s equality. This, in addition to seeing all of the deaths on the news, has deepened my empathy and my feelings of closeness to the rest of humanity. If we needed a reminder that we are all in this together, we certainly got one this year.

Now, this is not to say that this pandemic was a good thing. To the contrary, it is a horrible event that will take years to recover from, both in terms of human lives lost and bereavement, and in terms of economic impact. Many will lose their jobs and their homes as well as their loved ones. All we can do is use this time to get back to basics and remember what is important. We can be thankful, connected, charitable, and empathic. That is my wish for all of you...that you come out of this healthy and safe, but also the best versions of yourselves.

We Should Never Take Liberty for Granted

Dinesh Bhugra, CBE

Over the past five decades or so, LGBT rights have been taken for granted in several parts of the world and in many countries equal rights for lesbian and gay couples, especially for marriage and adopting children, have been enshrined in law. The time is right to take stock as to what is going on.

At present there are 72 countries where male same-sex behaviour remains illegal and 45 countries where it is illegal between females; in many it is still punishable by death. Then there are countries where conversion therapy seems to have taken hold and is practiced widely. Many countries where same-sex behaviour is illegal have it as a legacy of British colonialism. Even in

Secretary's Column
Sarah Noble, D.O.

Well, this isn’t what I thought I’d be doing this spring. First, I have to say that I am so disappointed that we didn’t get to show you Philadelphia. Roy, Pratik and I had such a wonderful week planned for you. Second, I hope that you, your family, friends, and patients are all doing well in this tumultuous time.

Lastly, I have two PSA’s that I want to share. Due to the Covid-19 crisis I’m concerned that we will forget that it is a census year. It is so especially important that we complete our census and encourage our patients to do so as well. The census determines how much funding each municipality gets from the federal government for medical assistance, food stamps, etc. It also determines how many congressional appointments are apportioned. You can only imagine what our current Federal administration would like to do with that data, so we need to make it abundantly clear that people of color and LGBTQ folks are here and we’re not going to be silenced.

In addition, it’s becoming increasingly clear that Covid-19 will not be going away any time soon. This means that November elections could be endangered. Please push your patients to move towards voting by mail so that they are not putting themselves at risk to go to the voting booth, or worse yet, stay at home and don’t vote. Here in Pennsylvania, our Secretary of State has already begun a campaign to encourage all residents to vote by mail.

Stay safe, stay strong. I hope to see you next year in Los Angeles.

President Elect’s Column
Amir Ahuja, M.D.

AAhuja@aglp.org
Thoughts in the time of COVID-19
Continued from page 1

Fast forward to fall of 1984. AIDS cases continued to rise unabated. There was no treatment. It was not known what caused the disease. Sadly, outside communities affected, there was little interest in the health and welfare of the afflicted. President Reagan had still not mentioned “AIDS” in public, although he would the following year.

At Downstate, in 1984, I attended an epidemiologist’s lecture. The emerging consensus, based on population studies and in light of what was known about viral transmission, AIDS was most likely caused by a virus. This was eye-opening. However, no effective treatments were available, and the causative virus remained unidentified. A test would only become available in 1985. More than a decade later, in 1995, protease inhibitors became available.

Sadly, too many had died, including patients, friends and professional colleagues. The three gay men with whom I interned at St. Vincent’s were gone by 1992.

I wrote this history in response to an Associated Press inquiry about similarities and/or differences between the AIDS epidemic and the COVID-19 pandemic. Some thoughts:

Parallels:

- Then and now, health care professionals, politicians and the general public could not predict with certainty how things would unfold.
- Because AIDS-affected groups came from stigmatized populations, there was no substantive response by the health care bureaucracy to early cases. The delay in a national health care response to COVID is still felt today.
- Drugs were hyped before proven effective: AZT for HIV and anti-malarial drugs for COVID.
- Irrational theories about the man-made, laboratory origins of AIDS still abound today. Similar theories about coronavirus are circulating the internet. People feared getting AIDS from toilets—hospital personnel used masks in rooms of AIDS patients even after knowing the virus was not airborne. Today people sanitize their groceries to avoid COVID.
- Stigmatizing vulnerable groups: William Buckley infamously opined in the NY Times that people with AIDS should be tattooed. Because COVID originated in China, Asians are attacked, and their businesses boycotted.

Differences

- We know what causes illness—a virus similar to other known viruses.
- We know how to prevent infection, even though many ignore warnings.
- We lack necessary equipment—masks, protective gear, testing kits, and ventilators—to treat patients.
- We have technology to create a vaccine—there is still no AIDS vaccine.
- We may have drugs that will be effective in reducing life-threatening symptoms. AIDS can be treated but there is still no cure.
- We cannot attend funerals or memorials for those we’ve lost.

Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health Update:
Chris McIntosh, M.D., Editor-in-Chief
CMcIntosh@aglp.org

The Journal continues its upward rise in positive indicators as we enter our 31st year since first publication as the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy in 1989. In 2019 our articles were downloaded 51,070 times, our most ever and a 31% increase from the previous year. We received our highest ever number of submissions in 2019, a trend which will, should it continue, help us in coming years to be more selective about which we choose to publish. A higher rejection rate is a key quality indicator amongst academic journals, and this will better position us for acceptance to more indexing services. In addition to our longstanding indexing in PsychInfo, LGBT Life and others, we are newly indexed in Web of Science’s Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). This will help up increase the reach and impact of our Journal.

Our new team of Associate Editors is settling into their work, resulting in an improvement in our time from submission to publication compared to previous years. Much thanks to the volunteer efforts of Ron Hellman, Vivek Datta, Mark Bradley and Neir Eshel! I also wish to thank our peer reviewers who do a tremendous amount of work to keep the academic peer review system functioning. We have added six new members to our Editorial Board who have done much work already in recent years as ad hoc peer reviewers. Please welcome Kenn Ashley, Andy Tompkins, Shelley Craig, Lin Fraser, Paz Galupo and Stewart Adelson to the Editorial Board!

JGLMH Resident Paper Award 2020

Christ McIntosh, M.D., Editor-in-Chief
CMcIntosh@aglp.org

Roy Harker, C.A.E., Executive Director
RHarker@aglp.org

AGLP is pleased to announce the winner of the 2020 AGLP Outstanding Resident Paper Award for the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health. The paper, by Dustin Nowaskie, M.D., “A national survey of U.S. psychiatry residents’ LGBT cultural competency: The importance of LGBT patient exposure and formal education” was the winning manuscript in what was the most competitive year for the Award since its inception in 2010.

The JGLMH Outstanding Resident Paper Award includes $500 in cash, publication in the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health, and presentation at the Annual Meeting of the APA. The award was initially supported by a generous grant from the William A. Kerr Foundation, and is sustained by AGLP member dues and contributions.

Continued on page 6
AGLP Involvement with Lambda Legal Continues in New Litigation
Roy Harker, C.A.E., Executive Director
RHarker@aglp.org

After having won the court case in Santa Clara v. HHS - regarding the so-called “conscience” rule - AGLP finds itself in partnership once again with Lambda Legal in a new filing.

New intelligence shows that the horrific proposed rule removing LGBT protections under Section 1557 of the ACA will be finalized over the next few weeks, even as early as next week. To make sure that we are ready, Lambda Legal and our retained attounneys, Steptoe & Johnson, LLP, are preparing to file their lawsuit within about two weeks of the final rule dropping.

AGLP, listed as a plaintiff, will be offering more information and research about how removal of these critical nondiscrimination protections in healthcare affect AGLP, its members, and members’ patients.

More information and updates will be forthcoming.

AGLP Online Undergoing More Extensive Renovations
Roy Harker, C.A.E., Executive Director
RHarker@aglp.org

In January, AGLP launched a completely overhauled website with new graphics, content, and features. The new website is ADA compliant, mobile friendly, and fully integrated with our membership database.

The next step comes next month when the membership database portion of the website is upgraded. Work began last month to establish the new protocols and design. The data transfer should take place in mid May.

The new member portion of the website will also be ADA and FCC compliant, mobile friendly, and will have new features for our members that will increase its usefulness and mobility. New search engines will make the directory function much easier to maneuver. AGLP events will be available from an app and can link directly to your own calendar program. Annual Meeting events can be accessed in real time during the convention. Online forms for registration, dues renewal, contributions, and RSVPs, will be easier than ever to use from any device. The new system will also make it easier for the public looking for online referrals with tailored search routines and updated graphics. User experience will be enhanced for all that use the site.

I’ll be notifying you when the actual transfer of data is complete. I hope you will enjoy using AGLP’s online services even more in this updated format.

The presentation portion of the award was, unfortunately, canceled this year as a result of the ongoing pandemic. A virtual presentation was scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 2020, at 7:30pm EDT on Zoom. A recording of the Zoom event is posted on AGLP’s Facebook pages.

ABSTRACT: The prevalence of many mental health disorders is substantially higher in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population compared to the cisgender, heterosexual population. While psychiatry residents are in crucial roles as learners and providers, there is a paucity of data regarding U.S. psychiatry resident experiences and education with LGBT healthcare. A 29-item self-reporting, anonymous, cross-sectional survey was distributed to U.S. psychiatry residents across the country between July and October 2019. Survey items included demographics, experiential items, and the 7-point Likert LGBT-Development of Clinical Skills Scale. Psychiatry residents (N = 304) reported caring for many LGBT patients (M = 23.56, SD = 40.43) and receiving a low number of annual LGBT curricular hours (M = 1.21, SD = 1.58) and a moderate number of LGBT extracurricular hours (M = 10.79, SD = 20.54). They also reported very high affirming attitudinal awareness (M = 6.58, SD = 0.72), moderate knowledge (M = 5.42, SD = 1.28), and low clinical preparedness (M = 4.68, SD = 1.23). Approximations of 40 LGBT patients and 20 LGBT total hours were determined to offer significant preparedness and knowledge. Psychiatry residents embody many strengths, namely their diversity and affirming attitudes, and shortcomings such as clinical skills and preparedness. During this current state of national psychiatry training, there is a significant lack of standardized education and exposure to LGBT care. Future efforts should heavily consider increasing both LGBT patient contact hours and formal educational hours.

Dr. Dustin Nowaskie is a psychiatry resident at the Indiana University School of Medicine. A Summa Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Southern California, Dr. Nowaskie received his undergraduate degrees in neuroscience, biology, and psychology. He then received his medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine. For the past five years, Dr. Nowaskie’s personal identification, education, clinical research, and civic commitment have cultivated a passion to help minority populations in integrative ways. He is especially dedicated to diversity, equality, and culturally-competent healthcare. He is the principal investigator of several clinical research studies, is published in academic journals, and has presented at over 50 academic conferences nationwide. In 2015, he founded OutCare Health, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nationwide organization for the LGBTQ community. Specifically, OutCare creates educational materials, delivers cultural competency trainings, and maintains national initiatives such as the Public Resource Database, Mentorship Program, and OutList, an invaluable database of culturally-competent providers to maximize patient-centered care. For his efforts, Dr. Nowaskie is an inductee of many national organizations including the Gold Humanism Honor Society, Gamma Mu Foundation, National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, Tylerol Future Care Foundation, and Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. Additionally, he is the recipient of numerous local and national diversity awards.
Listings of Upcoming Subspecialty Meetings of Interests to Members

Many AGLP-ers are members of other organizations such as the ones listed here. As a way to increase the visibility and effectiveness of AGLP, members that participate in other organizations are encouraged to hold gatherings at these meetings to increase networking potentials. In the past these have ranged from a hosted get-together at a member’s home to more formal presentations combining the issues central to AGLP and the primary meeting issue. If you are interested in improving communications between the subspecialties and AGLP, contact our Executive Director, Roy Harker, CAE, for more details and suggestions.

American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL)
http://www.aapl.org/

American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry
http://www.aadp.org/

American Association for Emergency Psychiatry
https://www.emergencypsychiatry.org/

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry (AAGP)
http://www.aagppga.org/

American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training (AADPRT)
http://www.aadprt.org/

American College of Psychiatrists
http://www.acpsych.org/

American Psychiatric Association (APA)
http://www.psych.org/

2020 APA Annual Meeting • Philadelphia, PA • April 25-29
2021 APA Annual Meeting • Los Angeles, CA • May 1-5

Association of Women Psychiatrists
http://www.associationofwomenpsychiatrists.com/index.php

Meetings have been in conjunction with the Annual APA Convention

Black Psychiatrists of America (BPA)
http://www.blackpsych.org/

Silver Anniversary Fund Raiser
Continued from page 2

India only a year ago the old law from 159 years was repealed to decriminalise homosexuality. For every bit of progress in places like India and Trinidad, countries like Kenya and Singapore have failed to overturn the legal discrimination.

The tragedy has been that sexual orientation and behaviour are often confused, forgetting that many heterosexual individuals will participate in same-sex behaviours to experiment or when opposite sex is not available before marriage, as has been shown in many countries.

Studies have shown that rates of several psychiatric disorders are higher in LGBT populations including suicidal ideation and suicide. When laws related to equality are brought in, these differences disappear. The fact that in many countries around the world xenophobia has raised its ugly head in the past few years, seems to indicate that our liberties are in danger. From different parts of the world, the idea that left wing-liberalism has taken hold and are in privileged position is a myth that needs debunking. We need to challenge these myths as individuals and as a group of professionals, we need to form alliances nationally and internationally as there is strength in unity. But most of all we need to keep a close eye on these threats and challenge them before they become overpowering.

Dinesh Kumar Makan Lal Bhugra CBE is a professor of mental health and diversity at the Institute of Psychiatry at King’s College London. He is an honorary consultant psychiatrist at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and is former president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.
Thanks to the following who have generously supported AGLP for 2019-2020

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This fund raising effort is organized to celebrate and commemorate the 25th Anniversary of our Executive Director, Roy Harker, C.A.E. Our goal is to raise $25,000+ to help AGLP implement special membership development projects including improvements to our social media presence, a website redesign, new efforts in member- ship recruitment and retention, better advertising, and additional non-profit professional development education and board development.

Please consider honoring Roy and donating to the 25th Anniversary fund. You can send a check to AGLP at 4514 Chester Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143, or donate online by visiting our website, www.aglp.org, or clicking HERE.

Thank you for helping to sustain the long-term goals and growth of AGLP!

CURRENT BALANCE: $1,300.00
GOAL: $25,000

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Elsa Stoff
David Tay
See Thein, M.D.
Emilie Transue, M.D.
Andrew Vetter, D.O.
Christina Warner, M.D.
Emily Whisler, D.O.
Francis Yang, M.D.
Huailin Zhang
AGLP Virtual Meet Ups and Educational Sessions

As a response to the cancellation of the APA meeting, AGLP is bringing online virtual experiences to you. Our first was a discussion with Billy Jones, MD, recipient of this year’s Fryer Award, and the second was a presentation of the paper that won this year’s AGLP Resident Paper Award for the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health by Dustin Noweskie, MD. Both Zoom sessions received about 50 participants.

Zoom invitations will be emailed separately for each event and will be posted on our website, www.aglp.org. Please join us for the following upcoming virtual events:

AGLP’s First Zoom Happy Hour and Social
Saturday, May 9th, 7:00pm-8:00pm EDT/4:00pm-5:00pm PDT
Join us for an opportunity to connect with old friends and new in an informal chat. Bring your own cocktails (mocktails).

AGLP Annual Membership Meeting/APA LGBT Caucus Meeting via Zoom
Sunday, May 17th, at 3:00pm-5:00pm EDT/12:00pm-2:00pm PDT
Please come and find out what AGLP plans to do this coming year, give us your feedback and get more involved with the organization.

AGLP Educational Zoom Session
Title: From Stonewall to Tomorrow: Drawing on LGBTQ+ History to Improve your Practice
Sunday, May 24th, at 4:30pm-6:00pm EDT/7:30pm-9:00pm PDT
Description: Together we’ll look at the history of psychiatry and the modern gay rights movement as a way to understand ongoing challenges faced by clinicians and LGBT+ patients.

Presenters:
James Koved MD, Assistant Professor, Oregon Health and Science University; Caitlin Rippey MD PhD, Senior Fellow, University of Washington Medical Center; Jesse Markman MD MBA, Assistant Professor, University of Washington Medical Center & Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health, VA Puget Sound

AGLP’s First Book Discussion Group
Date TBA

2021 Ralph Roughton Paper Award

The Ralph Roughton Paper Award was established in 1998 to honor the founding Chairperson of APsaA’s Committee on Gay and Lesbian Issues. In its first decade, it offered formal recognition to outstanding published papers that deepened our psychoanalytic understanding of gay men and lesbians. In 2007, the mission of the Award was changed. In the years that it is awarded, the Ralph Roughton Paper Award is now given to an unpublished manuscript that, in the opinion of the judges, makes an original and outstanding contribution to the psychoanalytic understanding and/or treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, trans*, or gender-variant people.

The Award carries a cash prize of $1000, and the author of the winning paper will be invited to present it in New York on Wednesday, February 10, at the 2021 National Meeting of the American Psychoanalytic Association. The winner may submit the paper for review by the Journal of American Psychoanalytic Association and, if accepted, it will be published as the winner of the Ralph Roughton Paper Award.

Submission Guidelines:

The paper must be unpublished (but may have been presented at professional meetings) and must conform to the Preparation of Manuscript guidelines outlined by the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association with the exception that the length should not exceed 30 double-spaced typed pages. Paper submissions are welcome from anyone regardless of institutional affiliation. Submissions are due JUNE 1, 2020 [NOTE THE NEW DATE]. Email one Word document containing the manuscript with all references to the author deleted, and email a second Word document containing the author’s name, email address, address, phone number, and any institutional affiliation to Carol Levin.

Co-Chairs, Ralph Roughton Paper Award
Don Spivak, M.D. Carol B. Levin, M.D.
(248) 540-7776 (517) 381-0496
dspivakmd@gmail.com carol.levin@me.com

Bob Cabaj, M.D.

We are very sad to share the news that Bob Cabaj, M.D., a long-time member of AGLP and Past-President of the organization, passed away suddenly on February 22 after a brief hospitalization. His enormous contributions to the organization, the field of psychiatry, and in particular, the contributions to the LGBTQ community, will forever hold his place among the leaders in the field. His “Textbook of Homosexuality and Mental Health,” edited with long-time friend Terry Stein, M.D., remains one of the authoritative and broadly used publications on the subject. Beyond his accomplishments, he is well known for his affable personality, abundant respect for his peers, and warm relationships with all of those he encountered. He will be sorely missed.
Reflection on a Transformative Training Experience: The APA Medical Student Elective in HIV Psychiatry

Dennis Dacarett-Galeano
medstudents@aglp.org

As a gay Honduran-American from Texas just arrived in New York City to start my undergrad, I learned of the stark, deterministic disparities in HIV, particularly among multiply marginalized communities. At the current rates of diagnosis, 1 in 2 Black men who have sex with men and 1 in 4 Latino MSM will contract HIV in their lifetime.

Motivated to unpack the meaning of these disparities, that year, I deepened my understandings of different aspects of my identity and delved into histories of advocacy by gender and sexual minorities — from the involvement of Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera at the Stonewall Riots, to the removal of homosexuality from the DSM, to the illness narratives that fueled ACT UP in the midst of the AIDS crisis. This exploration led me to a transformative experience working for the Substance Use Research Unit of the San Francisco Department of Public Health’s HIV Prevention Section.

This was 2012. Among other notable things that summer, I remember a few that make it stand out as a pivotal time — the Director of SFDPH’s HIV Prevention Section had just been appointed to be the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy under President Obama; the International AIDS Society Conference was held in the United States for the first time in 20 years after the administration lifted its ban on HIV-positive travelers; the discussion around the paradigm shift of Treatment as Prevention had just launched after the HPTN 052 clinical trial was released in 2011; and, that July, Truvada as Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis was approved by the FDA. In just a few years, it truly feels like a different era with significant strides, as well as new challenges.

My experiences that summer motivated so much of my career trajectory in medicine, public health, and now, psychiatry, so you can imagine my excitement as a clinical student when I found out about an incredible opportunity to train with pioneers in the field of HIV Psychiatry as a fourth year medical student! As part of this fully funded fellowship through the American Psychiatric Association, I visited the APA headquarters in Washington, DC, to participate in a weekend intensive training alongside 7 other medical students, and afterwards, traveled to the Bay Area for a month-long clinical experience throughout several sites at Stanford Medical Center, UCSF, and the San Francisco Department of Public Health. As part of this “homecoming” of sorts, I was able to immerse myself in the field’s ongoing dialogue. My patients spoke to the continuing challenges of stigma and discrimination as much as they expressed new obstacles with political asylum at the intersection of gang violence and the War on Drugs in Central America. As much as so many things have changed, it is still clear to me that the impact of HIV continues to be far-reaching and most profound among those intersectionally disenfranchised.

As I emerge into my own clinical voice as an incoming psychiatry resident, I feel more fueled to act and am so thankful to feel community in the lifelong relationships I’ve developed with mentors and future colleagues who have allied passion and commitment. I could not be more grateful for this experience.

If you want more information about the APA Medical Student Elective in HIV Psychiatry or would like to find out more on how you can become more involved and support its efforts, please email me at medstudents@aglp.org or dennis.dacarett-galeano@itahn.mssm.edu.

Support for documentary about Dr. Roger Peele

Dennis Dacarett-Galeano
medstudents@aglp.org

Medical professionals have always been our heroes, but some aren’t always properly acknowledged. Not all medical heroes are the ones who discover a vaccine, there are heroes who help us discover things about ourselves that we might not even know. Psychiatrists are dealt the daily task of finding our deepest and darkest secrets to help us become better people.

Dr. Roger Peele: The Documentary is about a man who has given a lifetime to advancing some of the highest principles of medical science. Dr. Peele’s story is one that delves into how one man can shine a light on the potential of the psychiatric field.

The purpose of this film is to educate the global community about the evolution of LGBTQ+ advocacy and THE mental health challenges that exist in the U.S. today. The film profiles Dr. Peele, an influential psychiatrist at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he worked for over 40 years.

In 1975, as Superintendent of St. Elizabeth’s, Dr. Peele and his colleagues accomplished the removal of homosexuality as a mental illness from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). The film documents the historical significance of this momentous accomplishment and showcases the mentorship relationships Dr. Peele has with his colleagues and students. He has trained some of the most prominent psychiatrists today, including Saul Levin, M.D., the first openly gay psychiatrist to be CEO and Medical Director of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Peele is a role model for intergenerational respect, ethical medicine and learning.

Please support this film by going to the attached GoFundMe link: https://www.gofundme.com/f/roger-peele-the-documentary

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact the film’s Director and Executive Producer, Robbie Shinder, via email at robbieshinder@gmail.com, thank you!
AGLP MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

NAME: ________________________________

DEGREE: ___________________________ PREFERRED (nick) 1ST NAME: ________________________________

☐ Full Member - $285 ☐ member of the APA
☐ Resident - $60
☐ Medical Student - $0
☐ Early Career - $125 (1st 3 years out of training)
☐ Friend/Ally - $100
☐ International (outside US and Canada) - $125 (US Cur.)
☐ Founding (Patron Level) - $1,000
☐ Patron (Patron Level) - $500
☐ Sponsoring (Patron Level) - $350

If a student or resident, date of completion: ________________________________

DO YOU WANT YOUR TO APPEAR IN AN ONLINE DIRECTORY OF AGLP MEMBERS? ☐ Yes ☐ No

EMAIL: ________________________________

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NEW ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER ARE SENT AS A PDF TO ALL MEMBERS BY EMAIL TO KEEP COSTS DOWN. IF A PHYSICAL COPY IS REQUIRED PLEASE PROVIDE A PREFERRED ADDRESS: ☐ Home ☐ Office

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OR REGISTER ONLINE AT www.aglp.org

APPLICATION FORM

CAUCUS OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PSYCHIATRISTS

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

(CLGBT is the official APA minority caucus for lesbian, gay and bisexual psychiatrists. Membership lists are maintained by the APA; confidentiality is not assured. Membership is free.)

NAME: ________________________________

ADDRESS: ________________________________

STATE: _______ ZIP: ________________________________ - ________________________________

*APA Membership Status: ________________________________

Please enroll me in the Caucus of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Psychiatrists.

SIGNED: ________________________________ DATE: ________________________________

Send this form to: Office of Membership
American Psychiatric Association
1000 Wilson Boulevard • Suite 1825
Arlington, VA 22209

You may also update your Online Membership Profile at www.psychiatry.org by checking off the appropriate caucus(es) in question 3Fa. “APA Caucus Membership” in Section 3: Current Practice and Professional Activities.

* Member-In-Training, General Member, Fellow, Life Member, Life Fellow

“NEXT YEAR IN LOS ANGELES”
May 1 to May 5, 2021