

2021–22 Transformational Ideas Initiative Project

Closing the Gap of Knowledge and Education Among Providers in the Disparities Sexual and Gender Minorities Face



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Project Background

On average, medical schools nationwide provide an average of two hours of pre-clinical lectures dedicated to LGBTQIA individuals, while these sexual and gender minorities (SGM) experience increased levels of alcohol and substance use disorder, homelessness, mental illness, HIV, certain cancers, and hate crimes compared to their cis, heterosexual counterparts. This project will focus on incorporating interactive, facilitated, case-based learning into pre-clinical curriculum to increase the awareness of unique disparities that SGM experience, as well as addressing the implicit bias that many have towards LGBTQIA individuals.

Project Plan

We plan to use an Implicit Bias test through Harvard of both the sexuality IAT as well as the transgender IAT for all students participating in case-based learning. Multiple cases will be generated centered around SGM as it pertains to well exams, cancer screenings, sexual history, hormone replacement therapy,

and acute concerns. These cases will be based off of real-life scenarios that those who are LGBTQIA have experienced. Studies have shown that when facilitated, case-based learning is taught by someone who identifies as that patient population (in this instance, LGBTQIA) that students have greater empathy moving forward when working with those populations, so it will be imperative to recruit medical professionals to facilitate these cases who identify as LGBTQIA.

The primary outcome will be increasing the general awareness of pre-clinical students of the unique disparities that SGM face on a daily basis, especially in a doctor's office which will hopefully lead to greater empathy and compassion towards this population.