

Communicating effectively and safely in LGBTQ Health

Learn to analyze and recognize the barriers to effective communication between patients and healthcare professionals. Special attention will be paid to the latino/a transgender population and its specific barriers.



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Advocate Illinois Masonic
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RUSH University. 600 S Paulina St, Chicago, IL 60612



Ervin Kocjancic, MD

Ervin Kocjancic, MD, is a full professor of Surgery/Urology at University of Chicago. He is a reconstructive Urologist who specializes in pelvic health, urinary incontinence, and reconstructive urology care for female, male, and transgender patients. He is an expert in Gender Affirmation surgeries. Dr. Kocjancic is active in several international medical and service organizations, promoting the practice and importance of urology around the world. He will speak about Difficult communication in transgender patients



Cec Hardacker, MSN, RN, CNL

Cec Hardacker, MSN, RN, CNL is the Director of Education at Howard Brown's Center for Education, Research and Advocacy. Cec is responsible for disseminating LGBTQ+ best practices to multiple disciplines across the U.S., her favorite is nursing education. In the 12 years Cec has been at Howard Brown, she has contributed to national consortia in LGBTQ+ cultural competency education, conducted bladder health research in SGM populations, has published, co-edited/authored a book on TGD elders.



Nereida Rojas, MD

Nereida Rojas, MD, was born and raised in Chicago. She went to college at St. John's University in New York, and medical school at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. She finished her residency at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, followed by a fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine at the Loyola University and Edward Hines Jr., VA combined Geriatric Medicine Fellowship program. Dr. Rojas' interests include urgent care, geriatric medicine, equity in healthcare and access to health care for all. She opened Beauty at First Sight, a med spa in the North Center neighborhood in Chicago. She enjoys helping patients achieve health care goals. Dr. Rojas has published research on heart failure and quality of life among underrepresented communities.



Cesar J. Oropeza MD

Cesar Oropeza is a 3rd year internal medicine resident in Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. He is devoted to improving care for patients, developing patient safety initiatives in an effort to provide optimum health care for our community. He currently serves as part of the LGBTQIA and sepsis committees in the aforementioned institution. Where he has developed multiple projects that guarantee equitable health access and quality for the LGBTQ community. He graduated from Universidad Central de Venezuela where he obtained the degree of Medico Cirujano. After graduation, he worked in rural and underserved populations in his country. He then moved to the US where he obtained ECFMG certification. He joined MOLA in 2020 and since then he has been advocating for increasing Latino representation within the healthcare field.