Ground-breaking discovery through research

Compassionate, innovative, evidence-based care

Education and community partners

Science-based advocacy and public policy

Advancing the sexual health of Minnesota, the nation, and the world through preeminence in research, education, clinical service, and advocacy.
As we look back on 2015, the Program in Human Sexuality (PHS) at the University of Minnesota has much to celebrate. We inaugurated the Elders Chair in Sexual Health Education (the first chair of its kind in the nation), premiered the “Sexuality of Aging” play at Pangea and AASECT, launched two new fellowship campaigns, began a search for two new faculty members and a clinical psychologist, and started planning our 45th Anniversary Celebration to be held in April 2016.

As both the University of Minnesota Chair in Sexual Health and director of the Program in Human Sexuality (PHS), I have the opportunity to support the overall mission of PHS, while having a platform to advocate for sexual health around our world. Now, with the addition of the Joycelyn Elders Chair devoted to sexual health education, we are well poised to advance the cornerstone of sexual health – EDUCATION!

I had the incredible honor of being involved in the creation of a new Declaration of Sexual Rights for the World Association for Sexual Health. This work allowed me to advocate at the World Health Organization conference in Geneva to implement a strategy to promote sexual health around the world, using a sexual and human rights perspective. Essentially, if we don’t insist that laws and policies ensure access to care, education and sexual health services, individuals and communities will be denied the opportunity to be sexually healthy. We must recognize sexual rights as fundamental human rights essential for the sexual health and well-being of all citizens of the world.

In addition, we published an article in JAMA outlining a vision for a new integrated strategy to promote sexual health in our own country, leaving no person behind. We also published an article in Armed Forces and Society advocating for the elimination of discrimination and stigma for trans people in the military and ensuring that they receive the best available medical treatment.

Our faculty were also involved in challenging civil commitment policies for sexual offenders here in Minnesota and archaic restrictions by insurance companies for transgender related health care.

All of our work is not without acknowledgement of the many forces that still want to throw us back into the Stone Age in regards to sexuality, sexual health, and sexual rights. At PHS, we will not rest until we overcome these barriers and revolutionize the sexual climate of not just our country, but our world.

There is much to be done—but it is nice to pause and be grateful for what we have accomplished. I want to thank each of you for your amazing support of our program and the work we do. I believe 2016 will be even greater year for PHS, as we continue to grow and prosper.

Warm regards,

Eli Coleman, PhD. is a professor, director of the Program in Human Sexuality, and Chair in Sexual Health at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of numerous articles and books on compulsive sexual behavior, sexual offenders, sexual orientation, gender dysphoria, chemical dependency, family intimacy, and the psychological and pharmacological treatment of a variety of sexual dysfunctions and disorders. Coleman is the founding editor of the International Journal of Transgenderism and is the founding and current editor of the International Journal of Sexual Health. He is past president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (formerly the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association), and the World Association for Sexual Health.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- **10,538** client visits
- **878** visits per month
- **21** active therapy groups
- **29** peer-reviewed journal publications
- **25** research and clinical presentations
Sexuality and Aging
This formative research project is designed to investigate sexuality, mindfulness, and the body in aging populations. Sara Mize, PhD, and Alex Iantaffi, PhD, are the principal investigators on this project funded by the Sexuality and Aging Research Fund at the University of Minnesota Foundation.

Somali Women’s Initiative for Sexual Health
The aim of this project was to better understand the sexual knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to female genital cutting and HIV/STD transmission and prevention within the Somali community. Bean Robinson, PhD, is the principal investigator, and the study was funded by the University’s Program in Health Disparities Research, IDEA Multicultural Research Award, and UCare Foundation.

SOTIPS Implementation Evaluation Project
The aim of this project is to conduct a rigorous analysis of the utility of a newly developed, dynamic risk factor assessment for sexual offenders, the Sex Offender Treatment Intervention and Progress Scale (SOTIPS). Michael Miner, PhD, is the principal investigator of this study funded by the Department of Justice National Institute of Justice.

BIMOR: Bisexual Individuals in Mixed Orientation Relationships
“Mixed orientation relationships” happen when the sexual orientations of people in a relationship do not match. Because we know very little about how this dynamic can impact both individual and overall relational health, the aim of this project is to gather baseline data on bisexual individuals’ relationship health, sexual functioning, minority stress experiences, and general psychological well-being. Jennifer A. Vencill, PhD is the principal investigator of this study funded by the American Institute of Bisexuality.
We educate postdoctoral psychologists, medical students, medical residents, and researchers in specialized sexual health care and sexual science. With our community partners, we work to improve sexual health resources and education.

We graduated postdoctoral fellow Phillip Johnson, PhD in 2015. Tera Jansen, PsyD, and Tracy Carlson, PhD, joined fellows Janet Brito, PhD, Jennifer Vencill, PhD, and Rachel Becker-Warner, PsyD. We welcomed second-year medical student Jilyan Decker, interning under the supervision of Michael Ross, MD, PhD, MPH.

Faculty worked with community partners, primarily in the areas of LGBT health and sexuality and aging.

PHS hosted a Discovery Showcase event in June 2015. Seven interactive stations were set up in the areas of our research and clinical efforts. Faculty at each station shared their research results and clinical models in various interactive and stimulating ways.

With the use of iPad sexual health quizzes, body part label matching, and a board game called ‘Genderland’, invited guests learned about the advancement PHS is doing in the world of sexual health.
We promote the sexual health of individuals, couples, and families of all backgrounds and ages by providing assessment and treatment.

We continue to explore ways in which our clinical care can be synchronized with clinical research. The research and clinical faculty are collaborating to develop a more focused research agenda in the area of transgender health, including the adult and adolescent international testing and assessment protocols. We have been working on developing electronic health record forms that increase the usability of electronic records to accurately track transgender patients and increase the ability to utilize clinical data for research.
Above: Eli Coleman, PhD, at the expert consultation meeting with WHO.

Our faculty work to translate science-based information into science-based public policy.

Eli Coleman, PhD, participated in an expert consultation with the World Health Organization outlining a sexual and human rights based approach to improving the sexual health and wellbeing of citizens around the world.

Katie Spencer, PhD, provided leadership and expert opinion with the collaboration of the Minnesota Transgender Insurance Taskforce to support the Departments of Health and Commerce in issuing a bulletin to all public and private insurance companies in Minnesota: Include transgender-related services in coverage.

Michael Miner, PhD, provided expert witness testimony during the ongoing legal battles surrounding civil commitment of people who were found guilty of a sex crime.

Eli Coleman, PhD, worked with Joycelyn Elders, MD, George R. Brown, Thomas A. Kolditz, and Alan M. Steinman to publish a paper in the Journal of the American Medical Association. It outlines a broad sexual health strategy which uses a comprehensive, integrative approach to address a myriad of sexual health problems.
FELLOWSHIPS

The Michael E. Metz Fellowship in Couples’ Sexual Health was created to honor the life and work of Michael E. Metz, PhD. Metz was a nationally respected psychologist and couples therapist, who served on the faculty of the Program in Human Sexuality for 12 years and directed the relationship and sex therapy program. Fellows complete a two-year program that combines clinical care and research. The Michael E. Metz Fellowship in Couples’ Sexual Health has been made possible through a generous gift from his wife Hildy Bowbeer.

The Randi and Fred Ettner Fellowship in Transgender Health is named for Drs. Randi and Fred Ettner. Fellows will provide clinical services and conduct research, advancing the rapidly evolving field of transgender health. Drs. Randi and Fred Ettner have 30+ years of treating and advocating for transgender patients in the Chicago area. They have provided initial funding for this fellowship.

The Doug Braun-Harvey Fellowship in Compulsive Sexual Behavior is named for Doug Braun-Harvey, a sexual health psychotherapist. Fellows in the Program in Human Sexuality with an emphasis in Compulsive Sexual Behavior complete a two-year program that combines clinical care and research. Doug and his husband Albert Killen-Harvey have provided initial funding for the fellowship.

Fellowship opportunities at the Program in Human Sexuality are evolving into specialized fields of study. With generous philanthropic support, PHS has expanded the fellowship program to focused areas of compulsive and out of control sexual behavior, transgender health, and couples' sexual health.

Above: Doug Braun-Harvey, MFT, Eli Coleman, PhD, and PHS supporter.

Above: Bean Robinson, PhD, and post doctoral fellows.
Above: L-R: Michael Ross, MD, PhD

The Program in Human Sexuality hosted the Joycelyn Elders Chair in Sexual Health Education Symposium, held on Thursday, May 14, 2015 at Mayo Auditorium on the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities campus.

Former Surgeons General converged to discuss the state of sexual health education in the United States. This was a panel style symposium with such esteemed Surgeons General as Richard Carmona, MD, Kenneth Moritsugu, MD, David Satcher, MD, and Joycelyn Elders, MD, MS.

On December 1, 2014, PHS announced the appointment for the Joycelyn Elders Chair in Sexual Health Education: Michael W. Ross, MD, PhD.

Ross was born in New Zealand and educated in Australia, England, and Sweden. He completed doctoral training in health psychology, medical training in venereology, and degrees in public health, criminology, and health education.

On May 14, 2015, PHS celebrated both Drs. Elders and Ross in a wonderful evening at the Weisman Art Museum. Over 100 attendees came out to pay tribute to Dr. Elders and welcome Dr. Ross.

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THE JOYCELYN ELDERS
CHAIR IN SEXUAL HEALTH
EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

THE JOYCELYN ELDERS
CHAIR IN SEXUAL HEALTH
EDUCATION INAUGURATION
As the current chair of the Program in Human Sexuality’s National Leadership Council, I am both thrilled with the challenge before us and humbled by the tasks ahead. In 2015, the Leadership Council members broke new ground with expanded fellowships in sexual health. The Doug Braun-Harvey Fellowship in Compulsive Sexual Behavior, established in nine months, is already searching for a candidate. Building off of this philanthropic fellowship momentum, we are excited to support council members Randi and Fred Ettner on the establishment of their fellowship; The Randi and Fred Ettner Fellowship in Transgender Health.

This is a powerfully dynamic council and we are grateful for the vision, heart and generous contributions that have created the foundation for the chairs and fellowships of the Program in Human Sexuality here at the University of Minnesota. We are a committed group from across the country and understand that the next part of this journey requires our collective vision, effort, and support. We are dedicated to ensuring better sexual health research, education and awareness here at the University of Minnesota, in the US, and worldwide.

Lou Paget
Chair, National Leadership Council
Chair in Sexual Health**

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David Thornton, PhD, Clinical Dr., Sand Ridge Secure Treatment Center
Robin Wilson, PhD, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON


PUBLICATIONS
PRESENTATIONS


MINER, M.A. Parkinson’s Disease and Sexuality. Parkinson’s Support Group, Bethesda Hospital, St. Paul, MN. February 2015.

MINER, M.A. No Expatriate Date. Sexuality and Aging. P&S Faculty Research Presentation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, June 2015.

Robinson, B. Sex Offender Treatment Intervention Progress Scale (SOTIPS): Reliability and Validity. ATSA 34th Annual Research and Treatment Conference, Montreal, Quebec, October 15, 2015.

Ross, M.W. Health care in a hostile climate. Stigma and its sexual health education impact in Tanzanian MSM. P&S Faculty Research Presentation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. March 2015.


Spencer, K.G. International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture, and Society (IASSCS) Conference, Evolving Narratives, Shifting Identities: How Generations of Trans* Internet Users are Shaping the Discourse on Gender Identity/Presentation at F&S Faculty Research Presentation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. October 2015.

Spencer, K.G. Evolving Narratives, Shifting Identities: How Generations of Trans* Internet Users are Shaping the Discourse on Gender Identity/Presentation at F&S Faculty Research Presentation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. January 14, 2015.

Spencer, K.G. Transgender Research and Education.+ P&S faculty research presentation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. June 2015.

Venell, A. Brokken: Addressing Sexual Pleasure and Intimacy Concerns in the Context of the Sexual Health Model. P&S Faculty Research Presentation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, September 2015.

Venell, A. Socio-cultural Influences on the Sexual and Relationship Health of Gender and Sexual Minorities. P&S Faculty Research Presentation, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, December 2015.