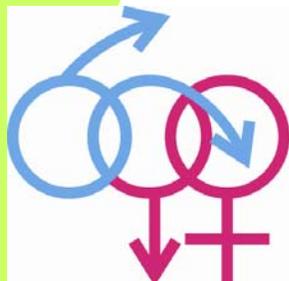


# The Update

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health

Volume 21, Issue 2

Summer 2011



## WPATH 2011 Biennial Symposium Information

The WPATH Biennial Symposium is just a few weeks away on September 24 – 28, 2011 in Atlanta, Georgia. This year's Symposium is on track to foster connections amongst WPATH and two important trans/GLBT organizations. For the first time, the WPATH symposium will be held in collaboration with two other societies: Southern Comfort Conference (SCC) (one of the largest continuously ongoing annual conventions for the trans community in the U.S.) and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA).

On September 21-24 (immediately prior to the start of the WPATH symposium), these two societies will be holding their annual conventions in Atlanta as well. WPATH members will be providing special workshops and symposia at both the SCC and GLMA convention sites.

On Saturday, September 24, the WPATH Symposium kicks off with the pre-conference program; Emory University will be providing preconference attendees CME and CEU credits. On the same day, a special "Invitation only" Surgical Summit will be held to discuss

refinements in transgender surgeries.

On Sunday, September 25, the WPATH Symposium will begin with a unique collaborative program. Several collaborative seminars hosted by Southern Comfort, Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and WPATH will occur in the morning with an opportunity for dialogue and networking in the afternoon. The evening will end with a welcome reception and poster viewing of selected scientific abstracts. The scientific program will resume on Monday September 26 with key note speakers and scientific oral presentations. Then, Emory University will sponsor a reception at the Emory School of Public Health located across from the Emory Conference Center Hotel.

The symposium will resume on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 27 & 28 with several selected oral research presentations. The traditional gala will be held at the Fernbank Museum located approximately 1 mile from the conference site. See URL [www.fernbankmuseum.org](http://www.fernbankmuseum.org)

The conference will end by noon on Wednesday September 28 ---- prior to the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah.

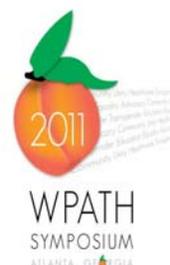
Hotel and symposium registration has already begun. The preliminary program is posted on the WPATH website. Register and make your hotel reservations early since this Symposium is shaping up to be one of the largest WPATH events in the past decade. We hope that you save the date and plan to join us in Atlanta.

For more information  
[www.wpath.org](http://www.wpath.org)

To register  
<http://www.regonline.com/2011wpathsymposium>

To register for the pre-conference only  
<http://www.regonline.com/wpath2011preconferenceregistration>

**Vin Tangpricha, MD, PhD** is the 2011 WPATH Symposium Local Organizing Committee Chair and is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia (USA)



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## Top 10 reasons you should stay at the Emory Conference Center Hotel or Emory Inn during WPATH Symposium 2011

1. The Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn are located within 30 acres of forest preserve just 20-30 minutes away from the Atlanta International Airport by shuttle/taxi and about 10-15 minutes away from downtown Atlanta. The hotel provides a contemporary oasis with Frank Lloyd Wright inspired architecture well suited for a relaxing and productive interchange of information and forming new collaborations.
2.
  - For budget conscious guests, there are two Holiday Inns located 1 and 2 miles away. The Holiday Inn hotels do not have good public transport to the convention site, especially on Saturday and Sunday.
  - Students may consider staying at the Villa-International, a student dormitory located within walking distance. [www.villainternational.org](http://www.villainternational.org) or at the University Inn (not affiliated with Emory) located within a 15 minute walk. [www.univinn.com](http://www.univinn.com)
3. The Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn hotel package is an all inclusive rate. Your WPATH special rate includes breakfast and lunch and an afternoon tea/snack break. The rate also entitles you to free parking and free internet access in the public spaces. This is a \$90 value! The Emory Conference Center hotel is a great value compared to past WPATH Symposium hotels.
4. Free transportation shuttle service will be provided from the Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn for the Tuesday Night Gala Dinner. There is no other shuttle service from surrounding hotels. Taxi service from nearby hotels starts at \$15-20 each way.
5. The Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn is located within a 10-minute walk to Emory Village, a dining and shopping area convenient to the Emory University campus. The Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn is located across from the Emory University Campus where you will find other dining options, the Carlos Museum, and Lullwater Park, a beautiful area on Emory's campus where the President of the University and his family reside. The surrounding park serves as a recreational area for Emory students, faculty, and staff. Lullwater's wooded trails and scenic pond make it a favorite place for members of the Emory community. The park is open during daylight hours and has a main entrance within a 5 minute walk of the conference site.
6. The Emory Conference Center Hotel has a shuttle service to the airport. Contact <http://www.atlsuperiorshuttle.com/> for pricing and reservations.
  - Other publication transportation options include rail/bus service. From the Hartsfield International Airport take MARTA to the Lindbergh Station. From Lindbergh take the #6 bus directly to the hotel.
  - Monday through Friday from 6 AM to 6 PM the Emory Blue Flyer also departs from Lindbergh station. Visit [www.itsmarta.com](http://www.itsmarta.com).
  - Other local hotels have limited shuttle options. If you are not staying at the Emory Conference Center Hotel, please call ahead to your hotel to inquire about shuttle service.
7. You don't have to drive if you stay at the Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn. Atlanta traffic is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation right behind Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. Arrive at your lectures and workshops refreshed and worry-free. The conference is being held during a time when most University students have returned to campus. Avoid the headaches of Atlanta traffic by staying at the Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn.
8. There is a rental car service on-site. If you are interested in visiting Atlanta or the State of Georgia before or after the conference, Enterprise Car Rental company is located in the parking garage of the Emory Conference Center hotel, making the car rental process a breeze.
9. Facilities at the Emory Conference Center Hotel feature a spa, fitness center and swimming pool.
10. The Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn is a perfect size for the WPATH Symposium. The Symposium organizers hope that everyone registered for the Symposium plans to stay at the Emory Conference Center Hotel to catch up with old colleagues and make new ones in the beautifully appointed public spaces, restaurants and bar.
11. Staying at the Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn supports WPATH. Larger numbers of WPATH Symposium participants staying at the Emory Conference Center Hotel and Emory Inn ensure that the full complement of center facilities are available for your use, and make your conference fees go farther for the Association.

## U.N. Condemns Discrimination based on Gender Identity

On June 17, 2011, the United Nations issued an historic first condemnation of discrimination against gay, lesbian, and transgender people. This is important for transsexual people because they are often perceived as homosexual, particularly in cultures where there is little tolerance for diversity or gender-variance.

South Africa proposed the resolution, which was narrowly passed by the members of the U.N. Human Rights Council on a vote of 23 in support and 19 against (47 member states participate on this council). According to an Associated Press report, supporters included the E.U., the U.S., Brazil and other Latin American countries, while opposition came from Muslim and African nations, including Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Nigeria, and Russia. China, Zambia, and Burkina Faso abstained, and Kyrgyzstan did not vote.

The resolution expresses “grave concern at acts of violence and discrimination, in all regions of the world, committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation and gender identity,” and creates a formal U.N. process to document human rights abuses on these bases, including discriminatory laws and acts of violence. Countries in opposition expressed “concern” that their laws would be subject to outside scrutiny. Diplomats from Pakistan

and Nigeria decried the extension of human rights to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people as “notions that have no legal foundation” and “an attempt to replace the natural rights of a human being with an unnatural right.”

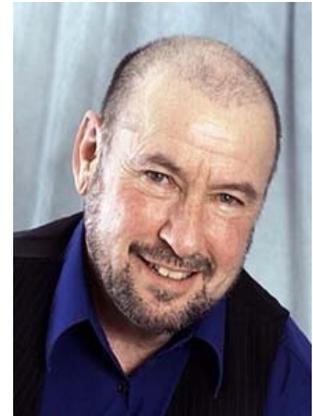
According to the Associated Press report, Boris Dittrich, a staff member of Human Rights Watch, “noted that the U.N. has no enforcement mechanism to back up the resolution. ‘It’s up to civil society to name and shame those governments that continue abuses, Dittrich said.’”

In December 2010, the WPATH Board of Directors issued a statement urging the U.N. General Assembly to amend its resolution condemning “extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary executions for discriminatory reasons on any basis” to specifically condemn killings that are motivated by hatred, fear, and intolerance of differences in sexual orientation and to recognize prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as one of the real sources of violence in society.

At that time, WPATH President Dr. Walter Bockting said, “While we abhor killing for any reason, it is important to recognize that prejudice based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity or expression is the direct cause of scores of killings annually. It is this preju-

dice that must be confronted and eliminated.”

With such a close vote on this resolution, and with ideological positions squaring up along religious and sovereignty lines, this writer expects we will be in for a protracted battle; however, I am pleased to see the U.N. finally taking a stand, and I’m grateful to the Obama administration and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for their strong advocacy on this issue. In the U.S., this kind of international advocacy from the government is also an historic first.



Jamison Green, PhD

**Jamison Green, PhD** is President-Elect of WPATH, an author, and a staff member at the Center of Excellence for Transgender Health at UCSF (USA): [www.transhealth.ucsf.edu](http://www.transhealth.ucsf.edu)

### Incoming Officers:

Jamison Green, PhD—  
President-Elect

Gail Knudson, MD—  
Secretary Treasurer

### Board of Directors:

Rebecca Allison, MD  
Griet DeCuyper, MD  
Randi Ettner, PhD

### Notes from the WPATH Board of Directors

The Board has been focused on completing Version 7 of the *Standards of Care*. A draft has been circulated by the Writing Group to the full *Standards of Care* Committee and the International Advisory Group. Feedback on this draft has been elicited via a google site as well as teleconference meetings. A revised draft was just released to the committees July 29 for further commentary. We

are successfully meeting our target deadlines and look forward to releasing *Standards of Care, Version 7* at the 2011 WPATH Symposium in Atlanta in September.

We offer our hearty congratulations to WPATH Board Member, Dr. Kevan Wylie. This year he served as Program Chair for the World Association of Sexology Congress in Glasgow, Scot-

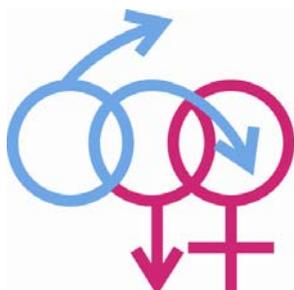
land and organized an outstanding meeting in June. WPATH was invited to present a symposium on our association which was facilitated by Board Members Drs. Walter Bockting, Jamison Green and Gail Knudson.

**Gail Knudson, MD** is the Secretary-Treasurer of WPATH and is a Clinical Associate Professor, University of British Columbia, Canada



## The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH)

(Formerly known as the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc.)



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Tuesday - Friday 8:30 am—5:00 pm CT

The Update is the official publication of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. Items submitted to the editors for publication will be edited for clarity, readability, syntax, duplication, grammar, spelling as well as gender-biased language. Materials should be prepared in MS Word and sent as attachments to the email address at left.

Yearly Publication Schedule: Winter, Spring, Summer & Fall.

### WPATH Mission Statement

As an international multidisciplinary professional Association, the mission of The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) is to promote evidence-based care, education, research, advocacy, public policy, and respect in transgender health.

### WPATH Vision Statement

The vision of The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) is to expand its worldwide authority by promoting education, advocacy, training, research, quality health care and best practice standards for service providers and policy makers regarding gender-variant individuals.