

A Global Education Initiative

In 2013 the WPATH Board of Directors approved a strategic plan developed based on the Association's mission, vision and guiding principles. The Global Education Initiative (GEI) was created to carry out the activities under WPATH'S Strategic Direction Item Three, which was to Educate and Train. .

The vision of GEI is to develop a global education network to improve access to care for transsexual, transgender and gender diverse people. In February 2014, a GEI International Consensus Meeting was held in Bangkok with 30 people in attendance from around the world to discuss educational needs in their various regions. Three primary areas were agreed upon: mental health, medical treatment and legal and human rights, (including cultural humility).

By July 2014, a GEI Steering Committee, composed of education experts, held a conference call to further define the educational needs and discuss a potential infrastructure. This group agreed on piloting in-person training opportunities geared towards medical and mental health coordinated care teams. In addition to hopefully meeting the educational needs of the participants, these live programs would give us the opportunity to gather feedback across various regions, disciplines and levels of experience in order to create a robust educational program. These training opportunities would take the form of small courses or as collaborative programs with institutions, beginning in the United States where most of our volunteer and staffing resources are located. In May 2015, WPATH hired professional management to provide increased infrastructure to the organization to be able to start running the pilot programs. Our first GEI training course was held in Chicago in November 2015, followed by one in Atlanta in February 2016 and, most recently, in Springfield Missouri in April 2016.

The next goal of this work was to create educational competencies from the US region that can be compared and contrasted with other regions with the goal of having a common set of competencies globally (see next story below). This group would advise on the content of the on-line training modules that would be accessible in a number of languages. Certification would be made available as a member benefit, as appropriate to the individual member's as well as region's need.

PATHs Appoint Representatives to Core Competencies Committee

We have asked each regional areas/PATHs to appoint two to three members with experience in content as well as educational competency development, to take part in a working group creating global educational domains and core competencies. This will enable us to provide top-quality trans health educational programming that is globally consistent based on the current version of the Standards of Care. At the same time, these competencies will allow for cultural diversity and systematic differences within each region. An extremely talented group has been assembled and we have already begun that work via teleconference and email exchange. An in-person working group meeting (with skype feed) will take place in Amsterdam and the groups deliberations will be delivered to all interested attendees on Monday, June 20th at 4:45 pm as part of the WPATH Symposium. Current sub-committee participants hail from Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Iran, Germany, Japan, South America, Thailand, Russia, and USA.



GEI CO-CHAIRS

LIN FRASER, ED.D

GAIL KNUDSON, MD



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Upcoming Events Calendar
- GEI Committee Listing
- Special Supplement
The Path to Certification

UPCOMING GEI EVENTS

May 27-28 AACE meeting

4.5 hours of advanced endocrinology credit available for specific sessions.

June 17-21, 2016 - Amsterdam

Earn elective credits at the WPATH Pre-courses, Mini Symposia and/or Advanced Surgical Track credit watch website for further details on what is included.

July 23, 2016- Yokohama, Japan

Earn elective credit at the GEI and IPsyNet Pre-courses at the International Congress of Psychology.

Sept. 26-29 2016 - Ft. Lauderdale

WPATH Foundations advanced courses and electives will all be available in conjunction with the Southern Comfort Conference.

October 21-22, 2016-Chicago

Transmale Genital Surgery Cadaver Lab. 10/21 Didactic open to all healthcare professional, Lab on 10/22 is surgeons only.

November 5, 2016 - Atlanta

A spirituality elective program and more to be in conjunction with THEA Peach State Conference.

2017

Jan. 31- Feb. 2, 2017 - Los Angeles

Foundations, Advanced and Electives will all be available in conjunction with a U.S. Symposium.



IN BRIEF: WPATH CERTIFICATION

In the US and likely in other parts of the world, there are many new providers starting to provide treatment to transgender, transsexual and gender non-binary individuals and many are doing so with little to no experience with clients, or patients in these groups. The GEI courses are first and foremost about providing foundational training to as many providers as possible. Those who take an interest may choose to become a member of WPATH and have the option to pursue certification.

The certification option is a WPATH membership benefit (not an outside credentialing process). It is meant only to recognize member providers who have taken steps to further their continuing education in a broad range of specific topics related to the WPATH Standards of Care 7.

More about the details of the certification requirements and grandfathering can be found in our GEI News Special Supplement that accompanies this newsletter.

This program is meant to enhance, not limit access to care in any way. Each WPATH member may determine if certification matters to them, some providers will see this as an advantage and other will not. That is perfectly fine. WPATH certification is meant to reward those who wish to complete the extensive training and feel it beneficial in their region and practice setting to signify to the community that they are a WPATH member, that they have been through a rigorous WPATH educational training curriculum and that they continue to stay on top of evidence in the field.

This option will be extended to all members regardless of where in the world they reside. The entire curriculum has not yet been completed. The global core competencies committee is currently working on defining the educational domains and competencies that will have global consistency and that WPATH will utilize for our future trainings to be offered live and eventually online.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION THREE: TO EDUCATE AND TRAIN A WORK IN PROGRESS

1. To improve cultural and clinical competence

Develop a train-the-trainers program to equip regional teams to provide providers and population education and training services.

Develop evidence-based educational curriculum and products that can be modified to specific situations and context.

Develop multiple modalities (e.g. e-learning, internet based training, symposia, regional gatherings, etc.) to provide access to education in multiple languages.

Formulate outreach & marketing plan for distribution of educational materials & services, including business plan for educational programming to eventually be financially self-sustaining.

2. To support and advise selected advocacy groups

We are proud to be bridging the gaps in knowledge and understanding through our WPATH GEI Town Hall meetings like the ones held in both Atlanta and Springfield this year. Partnering with local community groups such as the Transgender Health and Education Alliance (THEA), a panel of experts from both WPATH and the community advocates participate in moderated Q&A forum with an audience of healthcare providers and community members.

We also look forward to partnering with the Southern Comfort Conference and providing training for healthcare providers and programming for community members this September. Although our Amsterdam symposia posed a conflict for this year, we are looking forward to participation in the Philly Trans conference in 2017.

We have been partnering with the VA Road Home Project in Chicago's Do Ask Do Tell program, Div. 44 of the APA, IPSYNET, Kaiser and Fenway Health and Burrell Behavioral Health.

3. To Combat Stigma

Develop focused plan for responding to requests for advocacy that are in line with WPATH's mission, vision guiding principles and organizational strengths to utilized evidence-based research to combat stigma and its expressions in law, policy, and practices.

Consult with community advocacy partners who are able to drive the advocacy work and do power analyses regarding appropriate targets for advocacy work dependent upon where the power is in a given location/situation and where there are political opportunities for success.

Capitalize on WPATH's expertise in evidence-based research to partner with these advocacy organizations to support their advocacy and policy work.

Develop a referral network of allied and advocacy members.



*So much has been shared beyond the WPATH Standards of Care ...
This has been a week of connections. Springfield MO attendee, RN.*

GEI WORKING IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Our vision for GEI Phase II is to work with NGO's in the developing world to assist the transgender community and improve access to care.

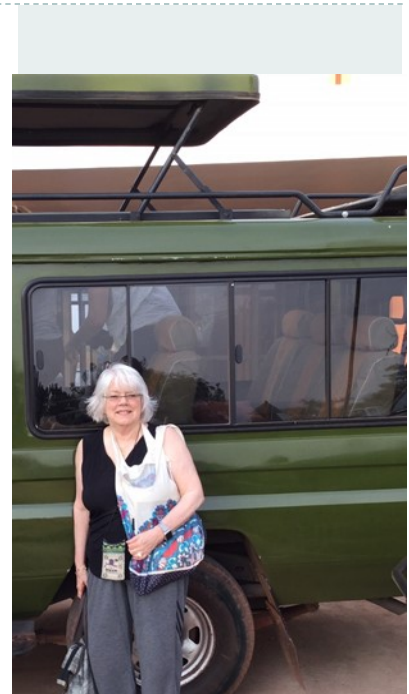
Our Immediate Past President, Lin Fraser, EdD traveled to Rwanda in late 2015 to take part in a training-credentialing course.

April took Jamison Green WPATH President to Kazakhstan at the invitation of the Ministry of Health. He then traveled through central Asia meeting with dignitaries.

We are delighted to be co-sponsoring a satellite symposium with Fenway Health and several other groups to be presented at the IAS meeting in Durbin South Africa.

Our GEI committee has also been in telecommunication with providers from across the globe for guidance on training and healthcare standards. Discussions have been had with people in Iran, Pakistan and Egypt.

We continue to translate the SOC into additional languages and will be doing the same with our core competency documents when complete.



GEI COMMITTEE

Additional GEI committees

Global Trans Advisory Group

Global Steering Committee

Global Core Competencies
Sub-Committee

GEI Co-Chairs:

Lin Fraser EdD

Gail Knudson MD

Committee Members Initial Projects Launch

Eli Coleman, MD, Development and SOC

Randi Ettner, PhD, Courses sub-committee

julie Graham, LMFT, Core Competencies sub-committee

Jamison Green, PhD – Certification sub-committee

Dan Karasic, MD- Courses sub-committee

Scott Leibowitz, MD, Core Competencies sub-committee

Stan Monstrey, MD, International Surgical Task Force

Josh Safer, MD, Certification sub-committee

Vin Tangpricha, MD, Certification sub-committee



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Photo of staff and some GEI
trainers at CNN Center in Atlanta

