

SPEAKERS

EXPERTS IN GENDER DYSPHORIA



ERICA ANDERSON, PHD (US)

Former President of USPATH and past board member of WPATH, Anderson served as a clinical psychologist at the Child and Adolescent Gender Center at the University of California–San Francisco. Dr. Anderson was one of the first gender clinicians to publicly speak out about inadequate evaluation of gender-dysphoric adolescents and young adults in the US.



ROBERTO D'ANGELO, PSYD, MMED (AUSTRALIA)

Psychiatrist and psychoanalyst in private practice in Byron Bay, Australia. Dr. D'Angelo works with adolescents and young adults with gender dysphoria, using a contemporary psychoanalytic approach. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Institute of Contemporary Psychoanalysis, Los Angeles. His publications explore clinical and ethical issues in the treatment of gender dysphoria. Roberto D'Angelo serves as the President of SEGM.



LAURA EDWARDS-LEEPER, PHD (US)

Founding psychologist for the Gender Management Service at Boston's Children's Hospital—the first US youth gender clinic. Dr. Edwards-Leeper has been a member of committees focused on gender-diverse youth, including the American Psychological Association and WPATH. She served on the child and adolescent committees that created Standards of Care 8. Dr. Edwards-Leeper's clinical focus is on working with gender diverse/transgender young people. She also facilitates trainings in psychological assessment of transgender-identifying adolescents seeking medical interventions, and provides consultation to health care providers working with gender-diverse youth. Dr. Edwards-Leeper is a Professor Emerita in the School of Graduate Psychology at Pacific University in Oregon.



ANNA HUTCHINSON, DCLINPSY (UK)

Clinical psychologist with extensive experience in working with gender dysphoric minors, and a whistleblower on unsafe practices at the Tavistock's Gender Identity Development Service (GIDS), the largest pediatric gender clinic in the world. Following the investigation of GIDS, the UK NHS is currently revising the standard of care to prioritize psychosocial interventions provided in general, non-gender-clinic settings.



RIITAKERTTU KALTIALA, MD, PHD (FINLAND)

Professor of adolescent psychiatry, leader of one of the two nationally centralized gender identity units for minors in Finland, and committee member for national guidelines for health services related to medical and surgical gender reassignment. Dr. Kaltiala was the first leader of a national pediatric gender clinic to raise concerns regarding the risk-benefit ratio of treating gender dysphoric youth with puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones. Finland was the first country to revise the standard of care to prioritize noninvasive approaches, sharply restricting eligibility for hormonal interventions. Dr. Kaltiala is currently involved in two major international evidence review projects in the field of gender medicine.



ALEXANDER KORTE, DR MED., MA

Senior consultant at the Clinic for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. He is a board member of the German Society for Sexual Medicine, Sex Therapy and Sexology (DGSM e.V.), co-editor of the journal *Sexuologie*, and a member of the AWMF Guidelines Commission on Gender Dysphoria in Childhood and Adolescence. Dr. Korte's clinical and scientific focus is gender dysphoria as well as anorexic disorders in childhood and adolescence. He is the author of numerous medical publications in national and international journals and medical textbooks.



MIKAEL LANDÉN, MD, PHD (SWEDEN)

Professor of psychiatry at University of Gothenburg and researcher at Karolinska Institute. After defending his PhD thesis on 'Transsexualism' in 1999, he has published over 330 original and review papers. He was recently among the experts reviewing the evidence for hormone treatment of children and adolescents with gender dysphoria for the Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services.



STEPHEN LEVINE, MD (US)

Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and professor of psychiatry at Case Western Reserve University, with 50 years of expertise in gender medicine. Dr. Levine founded a gender clinic in 1974. He has published numerous widely-cited publications raising concerns about the informed consent practices in the field of gender medicine and the problematic implications for young people and their families. Dr. Levine was the chairman of World Professional Association for Transgender Health Standards of Care 5.



JAMIE REED, MS (US)

The first gender clinic employee in the US to raise concerns about the proliferation of invasive interventions for gender-dysphoric minors. At the time, she was the clinical research manager and care coordinator at St. Louis Children's Hospital's Transgender Center.



ANNE WÆHRE, MD, PHD (NORWAY)

Pediatrician working within child and adolescent psychiatry at the Department of Pediatrics, Oslo University. Dr. Wæhre's research interests include child and adolescent mental health; sexuality, gender identity and mental health in adolescence and disorders of sexual development. Dr. Wæhre recently spent a year as a Research Fellow in Pediatrics at Boston Children's Hospital.



KEN ZUCKER, PHD (CANADA)

Editor-in-Chief of the Archives of Sexual Behavior, a peer-reviewed journal that has led the way in platforming debate in the field of youth gender medicine. Dr. Zucker served as the chair of the DSM-5 Work Group on Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders. A clinical psychologist with 40+ years of experience working with gender-dysphoric youth, Dr. Zucker formerly led the Child Youth and Family Gender Identity Clinic at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto, Canada.

EXPERTS IN RESEARCH AND METHODS



ZHENYA ABBRUZZESE (US)

Healthcare researcher and author of several widely-read peer-reviewed publications in pediatric gender medicine. After observing an influx of teens presenting with gender dysphoria for the first time in adolescence in 2018, Zhenya began to study the Dutch protocol and its applicability to the current clinical dilemmas. Eventually her work led her to co-found the Society for Evidence-Based Gender Medicine. Previously, Zhenya worked for a major US-based health insurer identifying low-value healthcare interventions, and led a venture-backed startup focused on patients suffering with medically-unexplained symptoms. Zhenya consults for a range of healthcare organizations, working at the intersection of physical and mental health and the promotion of culturally-competent evidence-based healthcare.



SALLIE BAXENDALE, PHD (UK)

Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology at the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology and the Lead Consultant Neuropsychologist for the epilepsy surgery program at the National Hospital for Neurology, Queen Square. She has over 190 academic publications in neuropsychology, including books, book chapters and original research studies and was awarded the International Neuropsychological Society Arthur Benton Prize in 2018 in recognition of her outstanding scientific contributions to the field of neuropsychology. Her research and clinical interests focus on understanding the multifactorial nature of cognitive impairments in clinical populations. She contributed to the Cass Review, advocating for the multidisciplinary models of decision making and follow-up used in elective neurosurgical programs to be adopted in gender identity services and has recently completed a systematic review of the impact of puberty blockers on cognitive development in adolescence.



SUSAN BEWLEY, MD, PHD (UK)

Studied at Oxford and the Middlesex Hospital, qualifying as a doctor in 1982. She was the first woman trained in Maternal-Fetal Medicine in the UK, studied Medical Law and Ethics, and served as a consultant and Clinical Director of Womens Services at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals for nearly two decades. Her focus areas include severe maternal morbidity and domestic violence in pregnancy. Dr. Bewley has established many innovative services and has over 400 publications, including seven edited books. In later years, she was also a sexual offenses forensic examiner and co-led the London Havens (Sexual Assault Referral Centres). She has belonged to, and chaired, many guideline development groups (NICE, MAGICApp, WHO) and recently chaired the charity HealthSense-UK which campaigns "for science and integrity in healthcare." She was the co-founder Chair of GLADD (the LGBT+ Association of Doctors and Dentists in the UK), and has published original research in gender medicine.



MICHAEL BIGGS, PHD (UK)

Associate professor of sociology, University of Oxford. Dr. Biggs exposed the suppression of results from the Tavistock GIDS' study of puberty blockers, and is researching the Dutch protocol for treating children and adolescents with gender dysphoria. Dr. Biggs is concerned about the lack of evidence justifying endocrinological interventions on children and young people who identify as transgender. He has published on this subject in the Archives of Sexual Behavior, the Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy, the Journal of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism, and the Journal of Sexual Medicine. He has also acted as an expert witness in the case of Keira Bell and Mrs. A. versus Tavistock NHS Trust (2020) at the High Court of England and Wales and for a case in the Australian Family Court.



ROMINA BRIGNARDELLO, DDS, MSC, PHD (CANADA)

Associate professor, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, McMaster University; GRADE working group member; methodologist for 20+ clinical practice guidelines and author of 80+ systematic reviews, including a synthesis of the best available evidence addressing the effects of puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries commissioned by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. Dr. Brignardello is leading a team conducting systematic reviews of evidence for social transition and hormonal and surgical interventions for youth with gender dysphoria.



IVAN D. FLOREZ, MD, PHD (CANADA, COLOMBIA)

Leader of the AGREE Collaboration for the evaluation of practice guidelines for quality; director of Cochrane Colombia; practicing pediatrician and associate professor of Health Research Methodology at McMaster University. Dr. Florez is leading an overview of systematic reviews of evidence in youth gender medicine.



GORDON GUYATT, MD (CANADA)

One of the founders of the field of Evidence-Based Medicine. Distinguished professor of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics at McMaster University. Dr. Guyatt is a co-founder and co-chair of the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) working group, which established and continues to advance the preeminent approach for evidence evaluation and synthesis.



PATRIK VANKRUNKELSVEN, MD, PHD (BELGIUM)

General practitioner and lecturer in general medicine at Leuven University. Director of the Belgian Evidence-Based Medicine Center and Cochrane Belgium, which provides methodological training and support and disseminates the results of Cochrane reviews. Dr. Vankrunkelsven recently expressed concerns over the lack of evidence for the use of puberty blockers for gender dysphoria in minors, and the overall poor quality of the WPATH guidelines.



DENA ZERAATKAR, PHD (CANADA)

Assistant professor at McMaster University in the Departments of Anesthesia and Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact. Dr. Zeraatkar completed her doctoral degree in Health Research Methodology and a Banting Fellowship at Harvard Medical School. Her research centers on synthesizing evidence and evaluation to guide complex healthcare and public health questions. Dr. Zeraatkar is leading a study to evaluate the quality of the WPATH SOC8 for the care of children, adolescents, and young people with gender dysphoria.

EXPERTS WORKING AT THE INTERSECTION OF BIOLOGY, EPIDEMIOLOGY, MEDICINE, AND CULTURE



SASHA AYAD, LPC, M ED (US)

Licensed professional counselor and one of the first clinicians in the US to draw attention to the unprecedented rise of trans identities among previously gender-normative youths. Since 2016, she has worked with hundreds of gender diverse youths and their families. In the process, she has developed unique insight into the development of transgender identity in adolescence, predisposing vs. protective factors, and paths toward resolution of gender-related distress.



HANNAH BARNES (UK)

Award-winning journalist at the BBC, specializing in investigative and analytical journalism for both television and radio. She is currently Investigations Producer at the BBC's flagship television news and current affairs program, *Newsnight*, and led its coverage of the care available to young people experiencing gender-related distress, which helped precipitate an extensive review of this area of healthcare by the UK's National Health Service. The Tavistock's Gender Identity Development Service is now earmarked for closure. Her book, *Time To Think: The Inside Story of the Collapse of the Tavistock's Gender Service for Children*, is a meticulously researched account of what went wrong at the Tavistock Clinic, drawing on thousands of pages of documents and well over a hundred hours of personal testimony, and was shortlisted for the prestigious Orwell Prize for Political Writing.



ALEX CAPO, LMHC (US)

Executive director of The Charlton School—a nonprofit therapeutic learning community for girls and young women experiencing mental health challenges—in Burnt Hills, New York. Alex has over 25 years of clinical experience in working with children, adolescents, and families in various clinical, therapeutic, and educational settings. The Charlton School experienced a wave of trans identification among pupils between 2016 and 2020. After first adopting an affirmative approach, the school later changed course after realizing that focusing on gender meant neglecting other issues students faced.



ALISON CLAYTON, MD (AUSTRALIA)

Consultant psychiatrist and specialist psychotherapist and a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne's School of History and Philosophy of Science, researching the history of psychiatry. Dr Clayton is an author of several academic publications, including papers raising questions about research methodology in gender medicine research and of placebo and nocebo effects in pediatric gender medicine.



PAUL GARCIA-RYAN, LCSW (US)

A licensed clinical social worker focused on psychotherapeutic support to adolescents, adults, and families facing gender-related challenges, including individuals who have incurred medical harm as a result of the mental health field's failure to maintain appropriate safeguarding. Paul holds a Master of Social Work from Hunter College's Silberman School of Social Work and post-graduate training in mind-body, trauma-informed psychotherapy. He is an active member of the Gender Exploratory Therapy Association and serves on the clinical team of The Open Therapy Institute.



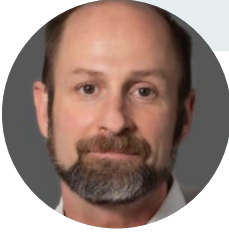
KATHLEEN GOONAN, MD (US)

Health care senior executive and primary-care physician, with extensive experience in healthcare quality. She now advises parents and caregivers around the world on how to support their gender non-conforming children and teens. She trained in primary care internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, where she now serves as a volunteer parent advocate with health care providers and schools. Previously, she served as SVP for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement and SVP for Health Affairs at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. She has been a national judge for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award and the American Hospital Association Quest for Quality Award.



MOTI GORIN, PHD, MBE (US)

Associate professor of philosophy at Colorado State University. Dr. Gorin is a philosopher and bioethicist whose research focuses on the ethics of interpersonal influence, with a special focus on manipulation. More recently, he has been working on the ethics of pediatric medical transition. One of his current projects explores patient autonomy and the role it should play in conceptions of disease, health, and the proper aims of medicine.



KRISTOPHER KALIEBE, MD (US)

Professor of psychiatry at University of South Florida, in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Kaliebe is Board certified in Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Forensic Psychiatry. He is a distinguished fellow of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). Dr. Kaliebe's teaching, publications and presentations focus on the effect of digital technologies on mental health, psychotherapy, Mind Body Medicine, nutrition, mental health in primary-care settings, and preventing overdiagnosis and overtreatment.



LISA LITTMAN, MD (US)

Physician and researcher of gender dysphoria, the experiences of people who desist (or re-identify) after identifying as transgender, and people who detransition after gender transition. She is the President and Director of the Institute for Comprehensive Gender Dysphoria Research. Previously, she held academic positions at the Brown University School of Public Health and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Littman's groundbreaking research into the social factors contributing to the adolescent-onset of gender dysphoria initiated a worldwide debate about how to best care for this novel patient cohort.



WILLIAM MALONE, MD (US)

Assistant Clinical Professor of Endocrinology. He earned a BA in Human Biology from Stanford University and an MD from New York University School of Medicine. Following this, he completed a residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism at the LAC-USC Medical Center. In 2018, motivated by what he felt was an absence of rigor in the Endocrine Society's clinical guidelines regarding gender dysphoric youth, and the organization's unwillingness to foster debate on optimal approaches for assisting such vulnerable youth, Dr. Malone helped form the Society for Evidence-Based Gender Medicine. Through this society, he actively contributes to enhancing the quality and depth of discourse and practice in gender medicine.



JULIA MASON, MD (US)

Board-certified pediatrician with almost 30 years of experience. Dr. Mason started medical school with a Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) fellowship at the University of Illinois-Chicago and participated in the Medical Scholars Program at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, graduating with a master's degree in Nutritional Science as well as her MD. She trained in pediatrics at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and has worked as a hospitalist but is primarily a general pediatrician. In 2018, Dr. Mason became concerned with the lack of evidence for the treatment of gender dysphoria in young people. As a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Mason has campaigned since 2019 to get the AAP to conduct systematic reviews of evidence youth gender transitions and align their treatment recommendations with the best available evidence. Dr. Mason serves on the board of the Society for Evidence-Based Gender Medicine.



CARRIE MENDOZA, MD (US)

Practicing Emergency Medicine physician who completed a Fellowship in Medical Toxicology. She has been working for over 20 years in rural, suburban, and urban hospitals managing the full range of medical and social issues, such as the opioid epidemic, chronic diseases, and technology's influence on health care policy and patient care. She also serves as Director of FAIR in Medicine where she develops webinars and established a Continuing Medical Education program to offer a forum for viewpoint diversity and open conversations on ethical concerns in health care. Dr. Mendoza holds patents for innovative technology solutions to improve patient experience and education in emergency departments.



LEOR SAPIR, PHD (US)

Researcher with a PhD in political science from Boston College. His academic work focused on how courts and federal agencies used legal and medical rationales to change how schools accommodate students who identify as transgender. His current work focuses on the challenges of adopting evidence-based practices in US healthcare policy. Previously, he completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Program on Constitutional Government at Harvard University. Dr. Sapir is a Fellow at the Manhattan Institute.



SAMUEL VEISSIÈRE, PHD (FRANCE/CANADA)

President of the Scientific Council of the Observatoire de la Petite Sirène, anthropologist, clinician, and behavioral consultant working at the intersection of psychiatry, cognitive science, and social sciences. His work combines ethnographic, experimental, clinical, evolutionary, contemplative, and psychoanalytic perspectives on human cognition, consciousness, sociality, and mental health. Dr. Veissière's current work examines risk and protective factors against radicalization and extremism.