

Dear Friend,

It is easy to look at the world during times like these and lose hope. Friends and community members are losing their lives and livelihoods due to COVID-19 and some of us are facing these issues ourselves on top of other challenges we were already facing before the pandemic. Many of us can't see the people we love or find a shoulder to lean on to help us through this collective moment of distress.

Our communities have a history of facing enormous challenges head-on. We have survived and supported each other through our personal struggles as well as in the collective battles against stigma and discrimination and the global HIV pandemic. Each of these struggles that we have faced, whether personally or as a community, contributes to the resilience of LGBTQ+ communities, and the rich stories we can share with generations to come.

There are so many ways that these stories can be told. Some people may write songs, poems, or make art. Interestingly enough, some of us, like the team here at PRIDENet, are passionate about telling stories with LGBTQ+ health data.

Filling out health surveys may not seem like storytelling, but big changes can happen when we all start putting all of that information together. Researchers can begin looking for answers to what affects LGBTQ+ health in negative ways, but also what helps us live vibrant, healthy lives. When we say "Your story, your health," we really mean it.

This is why I do what I do. I enjoy getting out into the community for events, hosting PRIDENet Cafés, and doing everything I can to encourage my community to share their health story by joining The PRIDE Study and the *All of Us* Research Program. For far too long our communities haven't been represented in health research even as we fought for visibility in other areas, and the time has come for us to change that.

Sincerely,
Mahri Bahati
Mahri Bahati, MPH
Community Engagement Specialist, The PRIDE Study, PRIDENet

Join us for PRIDENet Cafe



PRIDENET CAFE PRESENTS:
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
FORUM ON TRANS CIVIL RIGHTS ELIMINATION IN FEDERAL POLICIES
JULY 24, 2020 10:00-11:30 AM PACIFIC

Join us to hear from a panel of legal experts and advocates and find out what actions are being taken to combat proposed federal policy changes that affect trans health care and housing. Find out what you can do to advocate for yourself and your community.

REGISTER AT: [BIT.LY/TRANSCIVILRIGHTS](http://bit.ly/transcivilrights)

Panelists: Sacha Buchert, Shawn Meeckampfer, John Oeffinger, Jerissa Riggs, Kaira St. James, Emmett Schelling, Mahri Bahati.

The federal government has recently proposed rule changes that may impact health care and housing access for the trans community. Confused? Anxious? Wondering what's next? If so, come to our next [PRIDENet Cafe on July 24, 2020](http://bit.ly/transcivilrights) from 10-11:30 AM PDT to hear from a panel of legal experts and advocates and find out what actions are being taken to combat these measures, as well as what you can do to advocate for yourself and your community.

Register at: <http://bit.ly/transcivilrights>

Why is Diversity Important to the *All of Us* Research Program?



These are challenging times for many of us. But the Black community and all communities of color have faced particular hardships in the past few months. Recent events have brought national attention to ongoing social injustices, and the COVID-19 pandemic has shed light on existing health disparities.

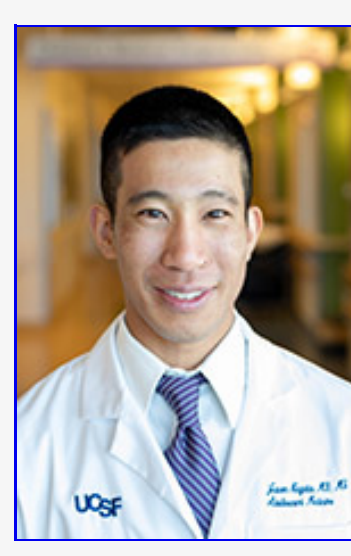
Statistics show that COVID-19 is affecting minority communities at higher rates. In 32 states plus Washington, D.C., Blacks are dying at rates higher than their proportion of the population. Rates of infection for Latinos and Hispanics are two times higher than expected in 30 states.

From a scientific standpoint, researchers don't know as much about why people in these groups stay healthy or get sick. The *All of Us* Research Program is trying to change that. From the beginning of this program, one of its core values has been making sure that participants reflect the rich diversity of the United States. Today, about 80% of participants are from groups that have been underrepresented in research in the past.

Ending health disparities will require many different approaches. Research is one powerful way to make a difference, and we hope that *All of Us* will help researchers find new ways to improve health and health care for everyone.

Learn more about diversity and the *All of Us* Research Program at: <https://allofus.nih.gov/about/diversity-and-inclusion>

To learn more about the *All of Us* Research Program and to enroll, visit JoinAllOfUs.org/LGBTQ.



New Publication:




Eating Attitudes and Behaviors in Lesbian Women

UCSF Assistant Professor, Pediatrics and The PRIDE Study Affiliated Researcher Jason Nagata, MD's, *Eating Attitudes and Behaviors in Lesbian Women*, was published by *Body Image*. This is the first study to explore whether lesbian women cared less about thin body ideals and body image issues than their heterosexual counterparts using the average scores of a widely used eating disorder survey among lesbian women.

[Read more – Scroll to Study #10](#)

And the Winner Is...

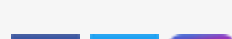
Recently we held a design contest via social media to select artwork that will be used on swag for The PRIDE Study and PRIDENet. We offered \$500 prizes for designs in three categories, asking designers to select a theme for each design as well as an explanation of their choice.

	<p>Square Design Winner: Betty Rose Theme: Diversity. Too often we hear people call representation "too PC (politically correct) and 'unrealistic'. I've even heard the words 'what next, a trans, black disabled character?' Yes? Because these people do exist! And diversity isn't a burden, it's a gift that gives new perspectives, rich stories, understanding, and makes for a better world full of people with so much to contribute and live for.</p>
	<p>Round Design Winner: Betty Rose Theme: Change-making. A reference to the fist raised high for the Black Lives Matter movement I wanted to show the LGBT+ community solidarity of inclusion and diversity inside and outside of the LGBT+ community. At the core of this community is the belief that we all deserve love and safety, and that should be for everyone. We are in this together.</p>
	<p>Open Design Winner: Ryan DeTomi Theme: For this design, I selected the word 'PRIDE' empowerment theme as I feel the word itself is empowering. However, people often can overlook the correlation of Pride with the LGBT community and forget the message that pride carries with our people. To me, Pride is more than a feeling, but a reminder to be yourself and voice the significance of the struggles and achievements we as a community have endured. While we continue to fight for equality and justice, we will continue to be proud of our individuality.</p>

OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY!

Become a part of our online community and learn about program updates, as well as what's happening in the community around the country.

Follow One, Follow All, Follow Today!



In Case You Missed It - From our social media feed.

- [Nearly 1 in 3 LGBTQ people live in the South](#)
- [Caring For Lesbian Icon Phyllis Lyon, With Love And Deceit](#)
- [Trans Latino Man Named 2020's Social Worker of the Year](#)
- [Kenneth Felts came out as gay at age 90 — and he's only just getting started](#)
- [This Mother Has Held The Same Heart-Warming Sign At Every NYC Pride March](#)

View more stories and images by joining our online community!



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