

Dear Friend,

I am the Associate Director for The PRIDE Study and I lead our efforts at the University of California San Francisco. I am a queer Arab American cisgender woman who has spent the past 15 years working to improve the health of our LGBTQ+ communities through research and advocacy.

One of my roles at The PRIDE Study, is to lead our training efforts to foster a whole new generation of researchers who can advance health for LGBTQ+ communities in collaboration with The PRIDE Study participants. We call this group the PRIDE Lab. We have a great group of trainees at all levels, from folks who are working on their undergraduate degrees to new professors. PRIDE Lab participants learn from each other and work through the challenges of research together. You can learn more about our current PRIDE Lab on our team page under the Affiliated Research Team section.

We are working on so many new research projects! Most recently, we received a grant from the federal government through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that will finance one of our Ancillary research studies within The PRIDE Study. We will be examining how stress experiences are related to behavior and their biology. We will also look at how these stress experiences are related to changes in the way our bodies work, specifically how our DNA works. We are so pleased that the NIH sees the importance in investing in The PRIDE Study, a study that includes community involvement at every step. This means that our tax dollars (yours and mine) are being reinvested in helping us to understand more about the health of LGBTQ+ communities.

It's been a tense year for so many underrepresented communities, and the political divides remain more evident than ever, but I remain hopeful that we can find a way to come together and embrace both our democracy and each other's humanity. Know that we are here doing what we can to use research to improve the health of LGBTQ+ people for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support of The PRIDE Study. And if you haven't joined yet, you can find out more at <u>pridestudy.org</u>. Let your friends know too!



Sincerely,

*Annesa Flentje* Annesa Flentje, PhD Associate Director, The PRIDE Study UCSF Site Director, The PRIDE Study

# The PRIDE Study Blog Corner

Why Including LGBTQ+ Populations in Reproductive Justice, Matters! An Interview with Dr. Juno Obedin-Maliver

#### by: Ana Rescate Pronouns: She, Her, Hers



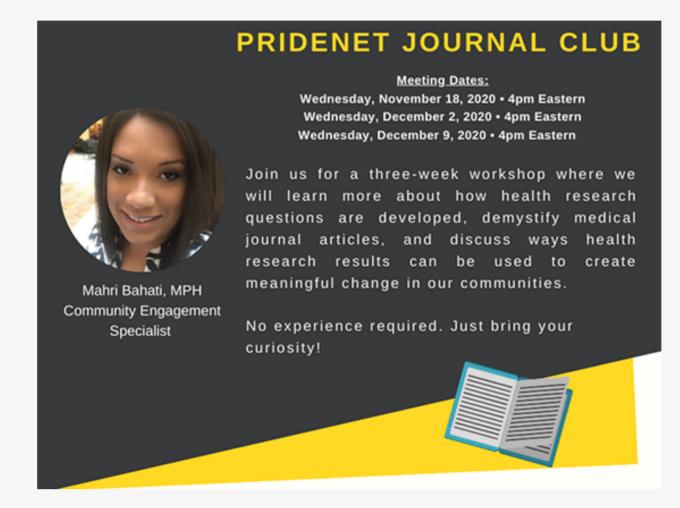
For Dr. Juno Obedin-Maliver, Co-PI of The PRIDE Study, reproductive justice has always been front and center. "Before I was a doctor, I was a doula, someone who helps people during pregnancy and labor. As a doula I realized how ignored people were in pregnancy labor and birth and in all aspects of reproductive health including their needs and desires around contraception and abortion." Dr. Juno, as she is affectionately known in the clinic, found this to be especially true for LGBTQ+ people. "That's why I became an OB/GYN to help support ALL people, but especially LGBTQ+ folks in having the health care they need and want especially when it comes to sexual and reproductive health."

As Dr. Juno entered the medical community, she found it troubling that in the research field there was a lack of data that included LGBTQ+ people and their reproductive decisions. "Our needs as LGBTQ+

people building families, or, choosing not to, has been overlooked. There is so little information out there. We don't know how many LGBTQ+ people are parents, how they built their families, how they wish to build families or the precise challenges and needs they have in preventing pregnancies or ending a pregnancy that wasn't planned." This is one of the reasons Dr. Juno began forming The PRIDE Study, to fill in those gaps.

#### **YOU'RE INVITED!**

#### Want to read health research papers like a pro? Come learn with us.

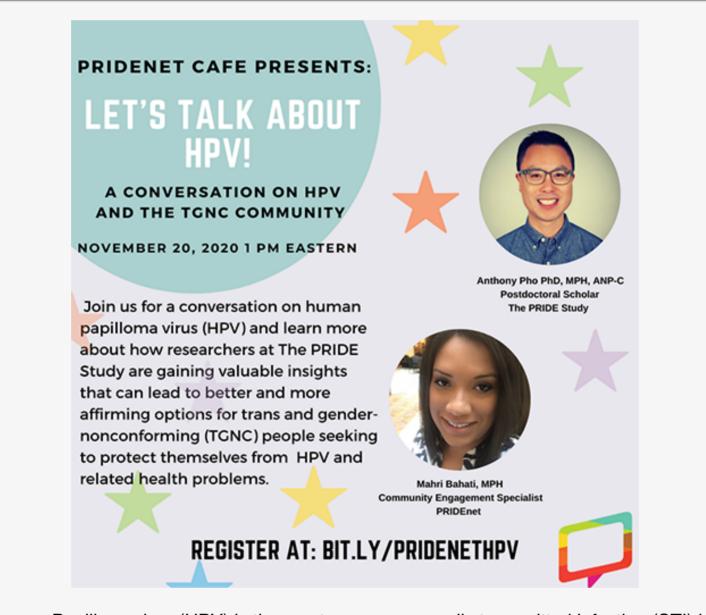


In this series of workshops we will take a journey together into the world of health research and learn more about how researchers communicate their results to their colleagues and the world via the scientific journal article. We will learn the anatomy of a journal article, how to get the most information out of these articles, and discuss ways that you can use health research results to create change in your communities. We're excited to create this learning experience for you, here are some additional details: Three weekly sessions, meeting for 75 minutes on Wednesdays.

- Week 1: Health Research 101 Wednesday, November 18, 2020 4PM ET
- Week 2: Anatomy of a journal article Wednesday, December 2, 2020 4PM ET
- Week 3: Group Reading and Discussion Wednesday, December 9, 2020 4PM
  ET

No experience required! Just bring an open, curious mind.

Register: https://bit.ly/PRIDEnetJournalClub



Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the world, yet for many reasons trans and gender-nonconforming (TGNC) people may not be aware of their risk, or may not have access to the appropriate information to help them make decisions about their health. Join us for a conversation on HPV and learn more about how researchers at The PRIDE Study are gaining valuable insights that can lead to better and more affirming options for TGNC people seeking to protect themselves from HPV and related health problems.

Date and Time: Friday, November 20, 2020 at 1pm Eastern

Host: Mahri Bahati, MPH, PRIDEnet Community Engagement Specialist

**Guest:** Anthony Pho PhD, MPH, ANP-C, Postdoctoral Scholar, The PRIDE Study **Register:** <u>http://bit.ly/PRIDEnetHPV</u>



Antibodies are one way your body fights infection. When you get a virus or a bacterial infection, your immune system makes antibodies. Some antibodies can stay in your blood for a long time. They can keep you from getting the same illness—such as chickenpox—a second time. Other antibodies fade away more quickly.

The body makes different antibodies for different infections. That means that testing for antibodies can show whether you've had a particular disease before. And that's why researchers are interested in antibody testing for COVID-19.

An antibody test is different from the cotton swab test to find out whether someone currently has the virus that causes COVID-19. An antibody test is a blood test. If a person is infected now, an antibody test might not show that, but it may show whether the person was infected in the past. That's especially important for COVID-19. Many people who are infected don't have any symptoms. Also, it might be possible to use blood from people who have recovered from COVID-19 to make a treatment for people who are sick. In that case, antibody testing could identify people who could donate blood.

Learn more about the <u>All of Us antibody testing project</u>.

To learn more about the *All of Us* Research Program and to **enroll online**, <u>JoinAllofUs.org/LGBTQ</u>.



# REPLAY ICYMI:Ensuring Equity, Expanding Access, Transforming Care



Today, more than ever before, there is growing recognition that access to health care is unequally distributed, and historically marginalized populations are suffering as a result. A fundamental transformation in the field of medicine is needed to ensure the health and well-being of LGBTQ+ patients—a group that remains largely underserved in health care.

During this virtual conversation, you'll learn how Stanford Medicine's emerging LGBTQ+ Health Program aims to address the medical, social, and mental health needs of LGBTQ+ people in the Bay Area and beyond.

Watch Now!

# **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

- Joe Biden is the first president-elect in US history to include transgender people in his victory speech
- 2020 Voter Turnout Was the Highest the U.S. Has Seen in Over a Century
- Rainbow Wave 2020: LGBTQ+ Candidates Who Won on Election Night
- I'm Coming Out as Intersex After Years of Keeping it a Secret
- Coming Out is More Than Just A Day

Here's The PRIDE Study team encouraging everyone to vote in the election!

Not only did this year's election have one of the highest turn outs in history, there were a lot of first for <u>LGBTQ+</u> candidates! Including one of our community partner representatives, <u>Taylor Small</u>, who is the first out trans person to be elected to the Vermont state legislature.



View more stories and images by joining our online community!



JOIN STUDY

Already joined? <u>Click here to log in and check for new</u> <u>surveys!</u>