



The University of Texas at Austin Texas Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health Research

The **Texas Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Research** (TISGMHR) brings together a diverse group of interdisciplinary scholars across UT's colleges and schools whose research and practice examine and address sexual and gender minority health. Spearheaded by directors Dr. Aliza Norwood and Dr. Stephen Russell, the TISGMHR has members from nine departments in seven colleges.

Our faculty boasts an impressive breadth of experience with community-based participatory research, particularly in:

Cancer-Related Behaviors | Cancer Screening & Prevention | Cognition & Neuro-Degenerative Disease | Health Disparities | Health Policy | Infectious Disease | LGBTQ+ Health | Marginalized & Minority Populations | Mental & Behavioral Health | Pediatrics & Adolescent Health | Sexual & Reproductive Health | Substance-Use Behaviors

Aliza Norwood, MD, FACP, AAHIVS

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine & Population Health, Dell Medical School & Co-Director, Texas Institute for Sexual & Gender Minority Health Research

Aliza Norwood leads the Division of General Internal Medicine at Dell Medical School and serves as medical director at Vivent Health, a patient-centered medical home for people living with HIV. She is board-certified in internal medicine and holds an HIV specialist certification.

Stephen T. Russell, PhD

Director, School of Human Ecology & Co-Director, Texas Institute for Sexual & Gender Minority Health Research

Stephen Russell is the Amy Johnson McLaughlin Director of the School of Human Ecology. He studies intersectional health risk and resilience among SGM youth and young adults, focusing on mental health and suicide, and substance use and abuse.

Anton L.V. Avanceña, PhD

Assistant Professor of Health Outcomes, College of Pharmacy

Anton Avanceña is a decision scientist and health policy researcher with expertise in mental and behavioral health, pediatrics, oncology, and infectious diseases. He conducts evaluations of treatments and interventions using real-world data analysis and simulation modeling.

Nazan Aksan, PhD

Senior Biostatistician, Biomedical Data Science Hub, Dell Medical School

Nazan Aksan is a senior biostatistician in Dell Medical School's Office of Research, with expertise in developmental psychology, mental health outcomes, cognition, and neuro-degenerative disease.

Jessica Calderón-Mora, DrPH

Asst Professor of Medicine, Population Health, Dell Medical School; Operational Director, Cancer Prevention & Control Program, Livestrong Cancer Institutes

Jessica Calderón-Mora is a particularly active researcher, establishing an impressive career early on and focusing on health promotion and behavioral sciences with a particular emphasis on health disparities and cancer prevention within the Latinx community.

E. Ciszek, PhD

Associate Professor of Advertising & Public Relations, Moody College of Communication

Dr. Ciszek is a leader in strategic communication. Ciszek's research engages in theoretically and empirically rigorous work with hard-to-reach and hard-to-study populations, many of which are historically marginalized, vulnerable, and difficult to represent.

Nessette A Falu, PhD

Assistant Professor, African and Africa Diaspora Studies, College of Liberal Arts

Nessette Falu's work examines the intersections of anti-Blackness, heteronormativity, medicine, trauma, resistance, and freedom. She seeks to expose and challenge hidden and silenced forms of power, focusing particularly on abuses within gynecology and medicine.

Josephine (Tres) Hinds, PhD

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Kinesiology & Health Education, College of Education; Assistant Professor of Health, University of Houston

Tres Hinds uses mixed methods and experience in Tobacco Regulatory Science to identify and explain LGBTQ+ tobacco and substance use disparities. They seek to develop identity-affirming initiatives and communications designed to reduce SGM tobacco and other substance use disparities.

Hank Sherwood, PhD

Post-doctoral Fellow, Human Development & Family Sciences, College of Natural Sciences

S. Henry (Hank) Sherwood is a sociologist whose research centers on sexual and gender minority youth in educational settings, exploring their mental well-being, health equity, and outcomes associated with SGM identity disclosure.

Carolina Snaider, PhD

Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education

Dr. Snaider's research explores the enactment of educational policy in early childhood practice, with a particular focus on issues of gender and sexuality with young children. Her work is informed by post-structural feminism, queer theory, trans-studies, and intersectionality. She conducts qualitative and mixed-methods research.

Jenny Spencer, PhD

Assistant Professor of Population Health, Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Dell Medical School

Jenny Spencer employs econometric and decision science to improve health equity in cancer screening and prevention, particularly cervical, breast, and colorectal cancers. Her projects include exploring uptake of HPV vaccination and cervical cancer screening, modeling approaches to improve colorectal cancer screening in Texas, and studying LGBTQ+ disparities in breast and cervical cancer screening.

Julie Zuniga, PhD, RN, FAAN

Associate Professor, College of Nursing

Julie Zuniga is an associate professor whose research focuses on self-management of stigmatized illnesses alongside co-morbid conditions, particularly HIV and diabetes.

Support for the TISGMHR comes from the UT Office of the Vice President for Research, Dell Medical School, Steve Hicks School of Social Work, Moody College of Communication, and the colleges of Liberal Arts, Pharmacy, and Natural Sciences.