



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

2024–2025 ANNUAL REPORT

ADVANCING RESEARCH. SUPPORTING INNOVATION. BUILDING COMMUNITY.

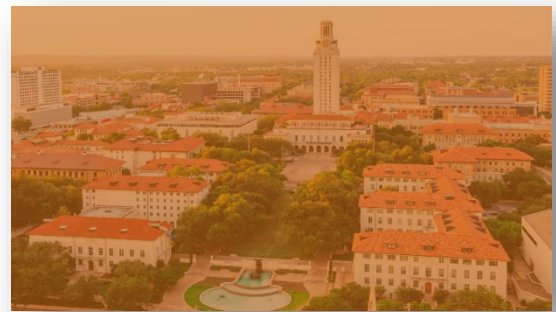
The Texas Institute for Sexual & Gender Minority Health Research (TISGMHR) is proud to report a productive and impactful year. Through strategic investment, community engagement, and academic collaboration, facilitated by the launch of our website, TISGMHR supports cutting-edge research and learning to advance the health and well-being of sexual and gender minority (SGM) communities.

RESEARCH PILOT FUNDING & SUPPORT

TOTAL AWARDED: \$61,500+

NUMBER OF PILOT PROJECTS FUNDED: 7*

In 2024–2025, TISGMHR committed over **\$61,500** to support seven research studies led by or in collaboration with UT Austin faculty, enabling faculty to create innovative and impactful research on SGM health spanning multiple disciplines, including psychology, pharmacy, public health, social work, and medicine.



IMPACT OF FUNDED WORK:

- The authors of a TISGMHR study published their results in the April 2025 issue of the [JAMA Network Open](#) with an invited commentary (Avanceña 2025). It has been viewed 1,614 times as of May 27, 2025, featured in high-impact medical newsletters, such as Doximity, and presented at multiple national conferences.
- Faculty have partnered on two large proposals for SGM research funding from Gilead Sciences, and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) respectively.

EXAMPLES OF SUPPORTED WORK:

- A longitudinal investigation into predictors of alcohol/substance use, mood, suicide-related thoughts and PTSD symptomatology within SGM populations
- Interviews to better understand how urologic oncologists can improve patient experiences and optimize post-operative expectations for SGM post-prostatectomy
- Analyzing the impact of anti-transgender narratives on parents and caregivers of trans and gender dysphoric youth

* See page four for full list of grantees

GRANTEE IMPACT

Pilot funds supported several analyses of healthcare claims data to identify links between alcohol use disorder (AUD) and PrEP. Our first analysis, published in [JAMA Network Open](#) with an accompanying [editorial](#), estimated the prevalence of AUD diagnoses among individuals who use PrEP with private insurance coverage. Next, we evaluated the association between AUD diagnoses and PrEP adherence and continuation. As a follow-up, we assessed different adherence trajectories among PrEP users with AUD, including access to treatments. Our research has been presented at the scientific conferences of the American Managed Care Pharmacy and American Society of Addiction Medicine and is expected to serve as preliminary data for an NIH grant on [alcohol use and HIV prevention](#).

— **Anton L.V. Avanceña, College of Pharmacy**

In Fall 2024, TISGMHR supported an international research initiative exploring the impact of public health communication during the 2022 Mpox virus outbreak in Portugal. Collaborating with Portuguese institutions and scholars, our research spotlighted the crucial roles played by public health agencies, LGBTQ advocacy organizations, and digital platforms in crafting inclusive, culturally responsive messaging. My co-investigators presented our findings at the MediaTrust.Lab Internacional Conference in Portugal and published them in a book chapter in [Building Media Trust](#) (Eds. Pedro Jeronimo & Inês Amaral), contributing critical insights on inclusive health communication and the role of public relations in combating stigma during communicable disease outbreaks.

— **E. Cizek, PhD, Moody College of Communication**

Joining TISGMHR has allowed me to connect with and learn from the work of faculty across campus conducting research on gender and sexual diversity. Even from distinct disciplines, we share interests, concerns, and goals. Rather than being siloed at the College of Education, I am now part of this diverse yet cohesive UT community, and I can engage in interdisciplinary research collaborations.

— **Carolina Snaider, PhD, College of Education**

Support I received from TISGMHR was critical for my work exploring the lived experience and identifying pathways that Black lesbians and nonbinary individuals with uterine cancer use when navigating their diagnosis and care. Funding went toward ethnographic research in multiple cities, involving conversations and assessments of the social conditions, family support, and other issues impacting this community across different regions. Focus groups brought participants together, who had rarely, if ever, been given a space to explore deeper issues related to isolation, quality of their queer living with cancer, and their-own personal assessment of their healthcare experiences and what constitutes success.

— **Nessette Falu, PhD, College of Liberal Arts, African and African Diaspora Studies**

Support from TISGMHR allowed a team from the Institute to investigate ways that other research institutes on campus and around the country collect and store data on and from current study participants and develop a model database for future research participants. We also identified common measures in SGM research, with an eye toward upcoming and trending topics, included in an archive of measures for future studies. This work will facilitate future collaborations and data harmonization across studies.

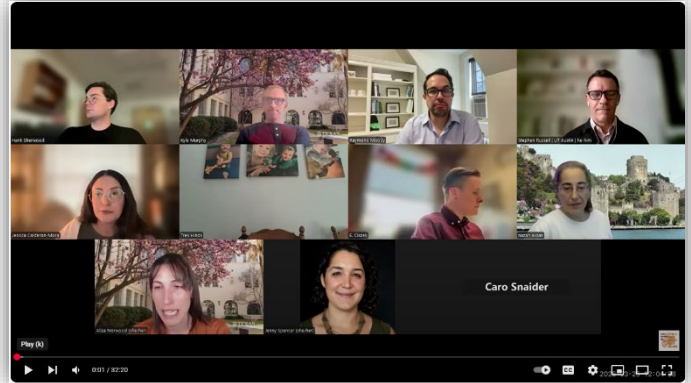
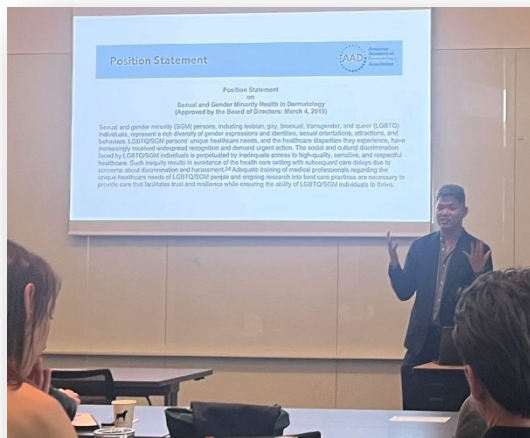
— **Stephen T. Russell, PhD, College of Natural Sciences, School of Human Ecology**

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

TISGMHR remains committed to fostering dialogue and expanding access to knowledge around SGM health research. During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, the Institute hosted four public seminars featuring prominent scholars in the field.

FOUR SPONSORED SEMINARS:

- **Two Remote via zoom** – These were recorded and made publicly available through our YouTube channel and website to promote accessibility and reach a broader audience.
- **Two In-Person at UT Austin** – These high-profile events, hosted at the medical school and supported by the School of Human Ecology, created unique opportunities for direct engagement, especially among undergraduates and early-career researchers.



FEATURED PRESENTERS:

- **Dr. Howa Yeung, Emory University** – Presented recent dermatological and epidemiological research on minority stress and skin health disparities in LGBTQ+ populations.
- **Dr. Salvatore Ioverno, Roma Tre University** – Former UT postdoctoral scholar and current professor of clinical psychology in Italy, Dr. Ioverno shared findings from cross-national studies on school climate and adolescent well-being among SGM youth.

LOOKING AHEAD

The continued work of the Texas Institute for Sexual & Gender Minority Health Research reflects our deepening commitment to equity, health justice, and academic excellence. We thank our grantees, partners, and especially our funders for helping us move this mission forward.

For more information, including access to seminar recordings and upcoming opportunities, please visit our website [sgmhealth.institute](https://www.sgmhealth.institute)

RESEARCH/PILOT PROJECT GRANTEES, 2024-2025

Anton L.V. Avanceña, PhD, Assistant Professor of Health Outcomes, College of Pharmacy

Daniel Callahan, MS, Medical Student & Researcher, Dell Medical School

Erica Ciszek, PhD, Associate Professor, Stan Richards School of Advertising & PR, Moody College of Communication

Nessette Falu, PhD, Assistant Professor, African and African Diaspora Studies, College of Liberal Arts

Elizabeth Lippard, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Dell Medical School

Stephen T. Russell, PhD, *Priscilla Pond Flawn Regents' Professor of Child Development, Department of Human Development and Family Sciences*

AFFILIATED FACULTY BY COLLEGE/SCHOOL/UNIT

College of Natural Sciences

Stephen T. Russel, PhD, *School of Human Ecology*
Hank Sherwood, PhD, *School of Human Ecology*

College of Pharmacy

Anton L.V. Avanceña, PhD, *Health Outcomes*

Moody College of Communications

E. Ciszek, PhD, *Advertising & Public Relations*

College of Education

Josephine Hinds, PhD, *Kinesiology & Health Education*
Carolina Snaider, PhD, *Curriculum & Instruction*

Dell Medical School

Aliza Norwood, MD, *Internal Medicine & Population Health*
Nazan Aksan, PhD, *Population Health*
Jessica Calderón-Mora, DrPH, *Population Health*
Jenny Spencer, PhD, *Internal Medicine & Population Health*
Mark Townsend, MD, *Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences*

College of Liberal Arts

Nessette A. Falu, PhD, *African & African Diaspora Studies*

School of Nursing

Julie Zuñiga, PhD, RN, FAAN

2024-2025 RESEARCH ARTICLES (LISTED BY FACULTY AUTHOR)

ANTON L.V. AVANCEÑA, PHD

Alcohol Use Disorder Diagnoses Among Individuals Who Take HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis**

ALV Avanceña, G Okoye, R Yokananth, A Norwood... - *JAMA Network Open*, Apr. 2025

Primer on Health Equity Research in Health Economics and Outcomes Research: An ISPOR Special Interest Group Report

MJS Griffiths, R Cookson, ALV Avanceña, MA Espinoza... - *Value in Health*, Apr. 2025

E. CISZEK, PHD

Performativity in Transgender Inclusive Advertising: An Analysis of Consumer Perceptions of the Bud Light/Dylan Mulvaney Partnership

E Ciszek, HS Lim - *Journal of Current Issues & Research in Advertising*, May 2025

Effects of Perceived Fit and Authenticity in Transgender Influencer Endorsement: An Analysis of the Bud Light and Dylan Mulvaney's Partnership

HS Lim, E Ciszek - *International Journal of Strategic Communication*, Sep. 2024

Special issue of Public Relations Inquiry PR and Social Justice: Interdisciplinary Reflections and Future Directions on the Impact of Public Relations and Promotional Communication on Human Rights and Social Inequalities

L Edwards, E Ciszek, J Hou, K Fitch - *Public Relations Inquiry*, Sep. 2024

JOSEPHINE (TRES) HINDS, PHD

Tobacco and Cannabis Co-Use by Sexual Minority Adults in the United States, 2022

J Lee, JT Hinds, HD Dai, AH Weinberger - *American journal of preventive medicine*, Apr. 2025

Heterogeneity in Protective Factors as a Buffer for Unique Risk Factors and Daily Smoking among Transgender Adults

KJ Perry, MY Ivanova, M Masum, D Rahal, VL Richards... - *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, Mar. 2025

Practicing Inclusive Language Related to People Who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and Other Sexual and Gender Identities in Nicotine and Tobacco Research

J Lee, PY Wein, JL Heffner, AH Weinberger, JT Hinds - *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, Dec. 2024

Smoking Cessation Among Sexual Minority Women: Differences in Cigarette Quit Ratios across Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Sexual Orientation

JT Hinds, ST Russell, AH Weinberger - *Preventive Medicine*, Nov. 2024

Structural Stigma and Inequities in Tobacco Use Among Sexual and Gender Minoritized People: Accounting for Context and Intersectionality

T Antin, F Cartujano-Barrera, NM De Genna, JT Hinds... - *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, Nov. 2024

ALIZA NORWOOD, MD, FACP

Alcohol Use Disorder Diagnoses Among Individuals Who Take HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis

ALV Avanceña, G Okoye, R Yokananth, A Norwood, PW Schnarrs - *JAMA Network Open* 8 (4), e257295-e257295, 2025

Preferences For Longer Acting Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis in Transgender and Gender Expansive Texans: Centering Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy

JA Zuñiga, JE Mellin, G Benitez, P Fliedner, A Norwood, M Croll, ... - *AIDS care*, 1-10, 2025

The Relationship Between Anticipated Gender Dysphoria and Intention to Use Longer-Acting Formulations of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV in Transgender and Gender Expansive Texans

PW Schnarrs, J Zuñiga, G Benitez, P Fliedner, A Norwood, M Croll, ... - *Transgender Health*, 2024

STEPHEN T. RUSSELL, PHD

Suicidal Ideation among Youth: Examining the Intersections of Multiple Social Positions and Bias-Based Bullying

H Meng, AG Real, AL Gower, HM Eadeh, JJ Koechell, PA Morris-Perez, ... - *Journal of Affective Disorders* 381, 61-68, 2025

Linking Inclusive School Practices and Mental Health in Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Europe

S Ioverno, SH Sherwood, S Costa, M Van Houtte, A Dewaele, ... - *European child & adolescent psychiatry*, 1-11, 2025

Cis-Heterosexism as Childhood Adversity: Implications for Sexual and Gender Minority Health

KS Kennedy, MM Johns, PW Schnarrs, ST Russell - *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 68 (4), 824-827, 2025

HIV Prevention Behaviors among LGBTQ+ Adolescents: The Protective Role of LGBTQ+-Inclusive School Resources

SE Lawrence, RJ Watson, AL Gower, G Rider, K Macapagal, ST Russell, ... - *Prevention Science*, 1-11, 2025

Risk and Protective Factors for School Absence Among Youth with Minoritized Social Identities

AL Gower, L Houghtaling, SE Lawrence, HM Eadeh, AL McCurdy, ... - *Journal of School Violence*, 1-14, 2025

Demographic Characteristics and Parenthood Across Three Cohorts of Sexual Minority Adults

KA Simon, G Meslay, RH Farr, ST Russell - *Family Process* 64 (1), e70012, 2025

Transitions in Gender Identity Among Youth: Trajectories of Perceptions of Family Acceptance

AG Real, ST Russell - *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 2025

Disparities in Sleep among Diverse Adolescents in Two Large Statewide Samples: A Need for Intersectional Interventions

AG Real, BT Gillis, AL Gower, ME Eisenberg, B Parchem, SE Lawrence, ... - *Sleep Health* 11 (1), 40-47, 2025

An Intersectional Perspective on Cyberbullying: Victimization Experiences Among Marginalized Youth

A Amadori, AG Real, A Brighi, ST Russell - *Journal of Adolescence*, 2025

Outness, Acceptance, and Victimization: A Longitudinal Study of Depressive Symptoms and Suicidality of Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual and Transgender and Gender Diverse Youth

AG Real, ST Russell - *Journal of Adolescent Health* 76 (1), 29-36, 2025

How Do State Policies Impact Access and Pathways to Parenthood for Sexual Minority Adults?

G Meslay, ST Russell - *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, 1-12, 2024

Empowering Teacher Intention to Intervene: The Role of Self-Efficacy in Addressing Homophobic Bullying

S Ioverno, MR Nappa, A McCurdy, I James, J Pistella, R Baiocco, ... - *School Mental Health* 16 (4), 1293-1310, 2024

Strategies to Promote Safety for Sexual and Gender Minority Youth in Secondary Schools: A Longitudinal Analysis

AG Real, SH Sherwood, S Ioverno, ST Russell - *Journal of Research on Adolescence* 34 (4), 1642-1652, 2024

Smoking Cessation Among Sexual Minority Women: Differences in Cigarette Quit Ratios across Age, Race/Ethnicity, and Sexual Orientation

JT Hinds, ST Russell, AH Weinberger - *Preventive Medicine* 188, 108035, 2024

Adverse Childhood Experiences, Perceived Discrimination, and Mental Health in Sexual and Gender Minoritized Adults: Comparing Stress Accumulation and Stress Sensitization Models

PW Schnarrs, AA Dorri, ST Russell, TJ Grigsby, R Charak, H Dawes, ... - *LGBT health*, 2024

Geographical Variation in the Associations Between School Characteristics and Homophobic Bullying: a Contextual Analysis

S Ioverno, A McCurdy, ST Russell - *Prevention Science* 25 (7), 1164-1176, 2024

Why Do Adolescents and Young Adults Discontinue Gender-Affirming Medical Treatments? There Is No Simple Answer

AG Real, ST Russell - *Journal of Adolescent Health* 75 (4), 525-527, 2024

The Developmental Collision Hypothesis: An Empirical Test with Three Generations of Sexual Minority Youth

MD Bishop, JN Fish, ST Russell - *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 1-15, 2024

Binge Drinking Disparities by Grade, Race and Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity

MD Bishop, SA Moran, RE Turpin, EM Aparicio, EH Mereish, ST Russell, ... - *Pediatrics* 154 (3), 2024

CAROLINA SNAIDER, PHD

'You Don't Want to Say Anything Wrong:' Teachers Fearing Uncertainties and Trans Parents (in)Visibility in Early Childhood Education

C Snaider, T Reese - *Gender and Education*, Jan 2025 - Taylor & Francis

#Protecttranskids? The (Im) Possibilities of Advocating for Trans-Inclusive Policies and Practices While Protecting Children

C Snaider - *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood*, Nov. 2024 - journals.sagepub.com

JENNIFER SPENCER, PHD

Cervical Cancer Screening and Risk Factor Prevalence by Sexual Identity: A Comparison Across Three National Surveys in the United States

JC Spencer, H Zhang, BM Charlton, PW Schnarrs, F Kuehne, U Siebert, ... - *Preventive Medicine* 194, May 2025

Methodological Approaches for Incorporating Marginalized Populations into HPV Vaccine Modeling: A Systematic Review

JC Spencer, J Yanguela, LP Spees, OO Odeunmi, AA Ilyasova,... - *Medical Decision Making* 45 (4), 358-369, Mar. 2025

Mammography Screening and Risk Factor Prevalence by Sexual Identity: A Comparison of Two National Surveys

H Zhang, BM Charlton, PW Schnarrs, A Trentham-Dietz, F Kuehne, ... - *Cancer*. 131 (10), e35852. June 2025

JULIE ZUÑIGA, PHD, RN, FAAN

Preferences for Longer Acting Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis in Transgender and Gender Expansive Texans: Centering Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy

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The Relationship Between Anticipated Gender Dysphoria and Intention to Use Longer-Acting Formulations of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV in Transgender and Gender Expansive Texans

PW Schnarrs, J Zuñiga, G Benitez, P Fliedner... - *Transgender Health*, Dec. 2024



Support for the Texas Institute for Sexual & Gender Minority Health Research 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.

