



Division of HIV expands to become Division of Gender, Sexuality, & Health
HIV Center remains an integral component of the expanded Division

New York, NY (July 22, 2012) – The Division of HIV at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and Columbia Psychiatry has expanded to become the Division of Gender, Sexuality, and Health.

“In 1987, Columbia Psychiatry and NYSPI made a bold and visionary commitment to the then-emerging HIV/AIDS epidemic. As a result, the Columbia Psychiatry Division of HIV has emerged as a global leader in behavioral research into the causes and consequences of HIV infection,” noted Division Chief Anke A. Ehrhardt, Ph.D. “Our work has long included a focus on gender, sexuality, and mental health, both in the context of HIV and in other domains across the lifespan. To further broaden the scope of the Division's work in these areas, we are now expanding and reframing its mission under the new name Division of Gender, Sexuality, and Health.”

The long-term success of the Division of HIV is reflected by its dramatic growth and expansion to currently include the following components:

► approximately 40 publicly and privately funded studies focusing on gender, sexuality, and mental health as they relate to HIV;

▶ 27 investigators from diverse disciplines who hold Columbia faculty and/or research appointments, as well as 7 postdoctoral fellows and over 90 affiliated faculty in the US and abroad;

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▶ an administrative and research support staff of 41 employees;

▶ an NIMH P-30 Center grant (The HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies) providing an infrastructure of six Cores that support our research;

▶ another major Center (the NY/NJ AIDS Education and Training Center), which serves HIV care providers throughout the tri-state area;

▶ the only NIMH T32 postdoctoral fellowship program focused on HIV behavioral research in the context of human sexuality;

▶ affiliations with 10 Columbia schools/departments, 33 outside institutions in the US, and 15 institutions in 9 countries;

▶ a global impact through training and international capacity building programs, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa region and in South Africa; and

▶ a budget of over \$11 million per year, 17% of which is provided by the NIMH Center grant.

The reframed Division will launch several important new programs, including a major “Initiative for LGBT Health” that will comprise research, clinical care, education, and policy as related to the physical and mental health needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population. The Division of Gender, Sexuality, and Health will also serve as a much-needed coordinating mechanism for all Columbia Psychiatry faculty engaged with the study of gender and sexuality, while providing critically needed training support to residents, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, professional staff, and community members.

“HIV will remain as a critical component of our work, and the HIV Center will remain a key element of the Division,” noted Dr. Ehrhardt. “The expansion and reframing of the Division of Gender, Sexuality, and Health provides an opportunity for NYSPI and Columbia Psychiatry to take a major new step into an arena of health promotion in the context of gender and sexuality that includes the HIV epidemic but also extends far beyond.”

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