The Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership Presents

the 2017 Helen I. Moorehead-Laurencin, MD

Sex and Gender RESEARCH FORUM

Highlighting Drexel's Interdisciplinary Sex and Gender Research in a Local, National, and Global Context

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

Gerri C. LeBow Hall,
Grand Meeting Room (Room 220)
Drexel University Main Campus
drexel.edu/medicine/sgrf
Welcome to the 2017 Helen I. Moorehead–Laurencin, MD
Sex and Gender Research Forum

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2017 Helen I. Moorehead-Laurencin, M.D., Sex and Gender Research Forum at Drexel University (SGRF). Scheduled to coincide with International Women's Day, our program showcases the wide array of sex and gender research being conducted by numerous members of the Drexel community. Our program title, "Highlighting Drexel's Interdisciplinary Sex and Gender Research in a Local, National and Global Context," reflects the broad focus of the work you will hear about today in the featured research talks, flash presentations and virtual poster presentations. We also welcome two prominent guest speakers who are leaders in their respective fields.

We express our sincere gratitude to the co-sponsors who helped make today's event feasible, as well as to the members of the SGRF Steering Committee who contributed their time to help shape this program. We also are grateful to Alexa Bonacquisti and Janine Barber for their hard work, consistent attention to detail and sincere commitment to the program.

Thank you for joining us!

Pamela A. Geller, Ph.D.  
Chair, SGRF Steering Committee  
Associate Professor of Psychology  
College of Arts and Sciences

Lynn H. Yeakel, MSM  
Director, Institute for Women's Health and Leadership;  
Betty A. Cohen Chair in Women's Health  
Drexel University College of Medicine

Thank you to all of our co-sponsors:

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Board Member
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Honored Guests

Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD
Son of Helen I. Moorehead-Laurencin, MD*

Andrew Balder, MD
Son of Doris Willig, MD*

University Professor, Albert and Wilda Van
Dusen Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic
Surgery; Director, The Raymond and Beverly
Sackler Center for Biomedical, Biological,
Physical and Engineering Sciences; Director,
The Institute for Regenerative Engineering;
Chief Executive Officer, Connecticut Institute
for Clinical and Translational Science; The
University of Connecticut

Medical Director, Baystate Mason Square
Neighborhood Health Center; Chief Medical
Officer, City of Springfield Health Services for
the Homeless; Chair, Project Baby Springfield

*Bio for Dr. Helen I. Moorehead-Laurencin on page 12 and Dr. Doris Willig on page 13
**Bios for keynote speakers Harper Jean Tobin and Dr. Jean Lau Chin on page 14
Schedule of Events

8:15am  Registration, Continental Breakfast, Viewing of Virtual Posters

8:45am  Welcoming Remarks
        Pamela A. Geller, PhD
        Lynn H. Yeakel, MSM
        Cato T. Laurencin, MD, PhD

9:00am  Keynote Talk
        “Looking at Gender through Trans Experiences”
        Harper Jean Tobin, Esq.
        Director of Policy, National Center for Transgender Equality

10:00am Multidisciplinary Panel: The Current State of Sex and Gender Research

11:15am Flash Talk Session 1

11:45am Break; Pick up lunch in lobby

12:00pm The Doris Willig, MD Lecture
        Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Andrew Balder, MD, son of Doris Willig, MD
        “Why Aren’t There More Women and Diverse Leaders?”
        Jean Lau Chin, EdD
        Professor, Adelphi University

1:00pm  Research Talks

2:00pm  Break; Afternoon snack in Lobby

2:15pm  Flash Talk Session 2

3:15pm  Presentation of Student Poster Award Winners
        Closing Remarks

3:30pm  Conclusion of Program
Presentation Details

10:00am  **Multidisciplinary Panel: The Current State of Sex and Gender Research**

*Moderated by:*
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

*Panelists:*
Kristy Kelly, PhD; School of Education
Owen Montgomery, MD; Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medicine
Julie Mostov, PhD; Vice Provost for Global Initiatives
Ana Núñez, MD; Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Jaime Slaughter-Acey, PhD, MPH; Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Professions; Dornsife School of Public Health

11:15am  **Flash Talk Session 1**

“Sex and Menstrual Cycle Phase Modulate the Prefrontal Cortex Response to Active Eating as Measured by fNIRS”

*Presenter:*
Jennifer Nasser, PhD; Nutrition Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions

*Co-authors:*
Eram Albajri, MS, RD; Nutrition Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Samantha Mogil, MS; Nutrition Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Lisa Lanza, MPH, RD; Nutrition Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Angelo Del Parigi, MD; Nutrition Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Hasan Ayaz, PhD; School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems

“In the “Hole” and Needing Help: Solitary Confinement of Women and Mental Health Treatment in Prison”

*Presenter:*
Mina Ratkalkar, LCSW, MS; Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

*Co-author:*
Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, PhD; College for Design and Social Inquiry, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida Atlantic University

“Electrospun Poly(μ-caprolactone) Nanofiber Shish Kebabs Mimicking Mineralized Collagen Fibrils in Bone”

*Presenter:*
Tony Yu, MS; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

*Co-authors:*
Michele Marcolongo, PhD; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering
Christopher Li, PhD; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

“Health Outcomes of Visual Expression: Differences by Gender”

*Presenter:*
Girija Kaimal, EdD; Creative Arts Therapies, College of Nursing and Health Professions

*Co-authors:*
“Occupational Physical Activity and the Risk of Coronary Heart Disease in Older Women”

**Presenter:**
Conglong Wang, MPH; Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Dornsife School of Public Health

**Co-author:**
Yvonne L. Michael, ScD, SM; Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Dornsife School of Public Health

“Breast Cancer Screening in the Transgender Community”

**Presenter:**
Lynsey Daniels-Iannucci, MD; Department of Surgery, College of Medicine

**Co-authors:**
Amanda Woodworth, MD; Department of Surgery, College of Medicine
Amanda Zeiger, BS; College of Medicine

1:00pm  
**Research Talks**

**Moderated by:**
Kenny J. Simansky, PhD; Vice Dean for Research
Drexel University College of Medicine

“Have College Sports Declared a War on Women?”

**Presenter:**
Ellen J. Staurowsky, EdD; Sport Management, Center for Hospitality and Sport Management

“Cross-National Comparisons of Gestational Diabetes Prevalence and Community-Based Interventions among Diverse Ethnic Populations”

**Presenter:**
Joan Bloch, PhD; Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Professions

**Co-authors:**
Dana Zilberman-Kravits, PhD, RN; Ben Gurion University
Vered Delbar, PhD, RN; Ben Gurion University
Tsvia Yarden, MSN, RN; Ministry of Health, Southern Division, Israel
Irma Yehuda, DNP, CRNP; Department of OB/GYN, University of Pennsylvania
Judith Faust, DNP, MBA, RN; Women & Children’s Division, Albert Einstein Medical Center

“Sex Differences: Insights from Brain Development”

**Presenter:**
Karol Osipowicz, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

**Co-authors:**
Mark Barrow, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Daniel Panfili; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Michael Williams, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

“HIV Continuum Outcomes among Women with and without Depression in the Perinatal Period”

**Presenter:**
Florence Momplaisir, MD; Department of Medicine; College of Medicine

**Co-authors:**
Lisa Bossert, MPH; Dornsife School of Public Health
Erika Aaron, MSN, CRNP; Department of Medicine, College of Medicine
Mom Tatahmentan, MPH; Dornsife School of Public Health
Vivienne Okafor, MPH; University of Pennsylvania
Ashley Kemembin, MPH; Temple University
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Kathleen Brady, MD; Philadelphia Department of Public Health

“Abortion Barriers: The Struggle to Get an Abortion in the United States...And How to Make It Better”

Presenter: David S. Cohen, JD; Law, Thomas R. Kline School of Law

2:15pm  Flash Talk Session 2

“Feminist Judgments: Rewritten Trusts & Estates Opinions”
Presenter: Deborah Gordon, JD; Law, Thomas R. Kline School of Law

“Sex Differences in Hypocretin/Orexin Modulation of Mesolimbic Dopamine Signaling”
Presenter: Jessica Shaw, BS; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine
Co-author: Rodrigo España, PhD; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine

“Multivariable Analysis of Risk and Resilience Factors for NICU Family Adjustment”
Presenter: Victoria Grunberg, MS; Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Co-authors: Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Chavis A. Patterson, PhD; Division of Neonatology, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Department of Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine

“Operationalizing Gender in the Context of Indian Fisheries”
Presenter: Julia Novak Colwell, PhD; Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry, Pennoni Honors College

“Beyond the Shock Value: An Analysis of LGBT Character Deaths on Primetime Dramatic Television”
Presenter: Alyssa Schaber; Communication, College of Arts and Sciences

“Sex and Gender In Sports: The Last Great Divide”
Presenter: Stephen Gambescia, PhD; Health Services Administration, College of Nursing and Health Professions

“Working Together with Women (WTW): Baseline Predictors of Retention in a Recovery Program at 3 months for Women Returning from Incarceration”
Presenter: Katherine Mai, BA; Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine
Co-authors: David Bennett, PhD; Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine
Barbara Schindler, MD; Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine

Presenter:
Erika Aaron, MSN, CRNP; Department of Medicine, College of Medicine
Co-authors:
Ashley Ann Leech, PhD; Tufts Medical Center
Mari-Lynn Drainoni, PhD, M.Ed; Boston University School of Public Health
Emily Stinnett Miller, MD, MPH; Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
Jennell Coleman, MD, MPH; John Hopkins University School of Medicine
Peter Anderson, Pharm.D; University of Colorado
Howard Cabral, PhD, MPH; Boston University School of Public Health
Meg Sullivan, MD; Boston University School of Medicine

“Attachment-Based Family Therapy for Suicidal LGBTQI Youth: An Implementation Study”
Presenter:
Jody Russon, PhD; Couple and Family Therapy – Center for Family Intervention Science, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Co-author:
Guy Diamond, PhD; Couple and Family Therapy – Center for Family Intervention Science, College of Nursing and Health Professions

“The Nobody’s Patient: A Qualitative Study of Barriers to Accessing Healthcare for Pregnant Drug-dependent Women in Russia”
Presenter:
Janna Ataiants, MPA; Community Health and Prevention, Dornsife School of Public Health

“It Keeps Me Up at Night: Understanding the Trauma Experienced by Title IX Coordinators in the United States Education System”
Presenter:
Kathleen Watson, EdM; Health Management and Policy, Dornsife School of Public Health

“Let’s Talk about Sext, Baby! Development of an Intervention to Improve Sexual Satisfaction during Infertility Treatment”
Presenter:
Emily Stasko, MS, MPH; Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Co-author:
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

Virtual Poster Session

Posters are on display on a rotating basis on the projectors in the lobby.

Posters are available for electronic viewing during/after the Forum at: padlet.com/alexa_bonacquisti/SGRF
We encourage you to contact authors with questions or comments!

“Using GIS to Compare Social Determinants and Perinatal Health Between Two Close–by Cities in Two Different States, Camden and Philadelphia”
Joan Rosen Bloch, PhD, CRNP; Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Patricia D. Suplee, PhD, RN, RNC-OB; Rutgers School of Nursing – Camden
Steven Melly, MS, MA; Urban Health Collaborative, Dornsife School of Public Health

“Opioid Dependence in Pregnant Women”
Jenna L. Damico; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
“Inhibiting sotIFN is Therapeutic for Neuropathic Pain in Male but not Female Mice”
Tania Del Rivero, BS; Biology, College of Arts and Sciences
Kayla Murphy, BA; Biology, College of Arts and Sciences
John R. Bethea, PhD; Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

“Creation of a Mindfulness Program for NICU Parents”
Christina DiSanza, MA; Psychology; College of Arts and Sciences
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Chavis A. Patterson, PhD; Division of Neonatology, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Department of Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine

“Caring for N/IICU Parents: Results from a New Intervention for Parental Stress”
Mona Elgohail, MS; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Chavis A. Patterson, PhD; Division of Neonatology, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; Department of Psychiatry, Perelman School of Medicine
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

“Impact of Infertility: Psychological, Sexual, and Social Concerns Among Women”
Mona Elgohail, MS; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

“Enhancing Mental Health Care Access for Low-Income Pregnant Women: Coordination of Perinatal Health Care and Mental Health Services”
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Alexa Bonacquisti, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Bobbie Posmontier, PhD, CNM, PMHNP-BC; Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Sandra M. Wolf, MD; Obstetrics & Gynecology, College of Medicine
Damien J. Croft, MD, MPH; Obstetrics & Gynecology, College of Medicine

“New Interdisciplinary Intensive Outpatient Perinatal Mental Health Program at Drexel University”
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Bobbie Posmontier, PhD, CNM, PMHNP-BC; Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Professions
June Andrews Horowitz, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN; University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
Lisa Chiarello, PT, PhD, PCS, FAPTA; Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Alexa Bonacquisti, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

“Maternal Mental Health: Implications for Mother–Infant Bonding and Emotion Recognition”
Victoria A. Grunberg, MS; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Karen Blanc Friedman, PhD; Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Mary V. Spiers, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

“Relationship of Social Networking Sites and Sex Life”
Megan Hartz, BS; Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Karol Osipowicz, PhD; Department of Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

“Depression–like Behavior following Mild Traumatic Brain Injury in Adolescent Rats is Dependent on Sex and Estrous Phase and Can Be Reversed by the D2 Receptor Agonist Quinpirole”
Laura L. Krafjack, BS; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine
Ramesh Raghupathi, PhD; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine

“In Vivo Molecular Engineering of Urethra for Treatment of Stress Incontinence using Novel Biomimetic Proteoglycans”
   Alicia Kriete, BS; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering
   Natasha Ginzburg, MD; College of Medicine
   Nima Shah, MD; College of Medicine
   Richard Huneke, DVM; College of Medicine
   Katsiaryna Prudnikova, PhD; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering
   Owen Montgomery, MD; College of Medicine
   Michele Marcolongo, PhD; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

“Blocking Hypocretin Receptor 1 Reverses Acute Cognitive Deficits and Chronic Depression–like Behavior following Mild TBI in Adolescent Female Rats”
   Dana Lengel, MS; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine
   Laura L. Krafjack, BS; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine
   Rodrigo España, PhD; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine
   Ramesh Raghupathi, PhD; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine

“Suicidal Behavior in Perinatal Women”
   Allison I. Liu; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

“African–born Women Seeking HIV Primary Care in Philadelphia: Enhanced Care Access through Community Support”
   Kimberly McClellan, MSN, WHNP-BC, FNP-BC, CRNP; College of Nursing and Health Professions, NP Program & School of Education, EdD Program
   Kristy Kelly, PhD; School of Education

“WLW” and “Sapphic” Spaces: Categorizing the Lesbian Experience in the 21st Century”
   Caitlin Mclaughlin; English and Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences

“Asessing the Feasibility and Acceptability of a Community-Based Intervention to Improve the Care and Outcomes of HIV+ Pregnant and Postpartum Women”
   Florence Momplaisir, MD; Department of Medicine, College of Medicine
   Erika Aaron, MSN, CRNP; Department of Medicine, College of Medicine
   Hervette Nkwihoreze, MPH; Department of Medicine, College of Medicine
   Allison Groves, PhD; Department of Community Health & Prevention, Dornsife School of Public Health
   Yetunde Akinde, Dornsife School of Public Health

“Investigation of Effect of Biomimetic Proteoglycans on Type I Collagen Fibrillogenesis via Electron Microscopy”
   Carli Moorehead; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering
   Tao Yang, MS; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering
   Kate Wofford; Biomedical Engineering; School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems
   Katsiaryna Prudnikova, PhD; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering
   Michele Marcolongo, PhD; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

“Articular Cartilage Molecular Engineering using Biomimetic Proteoglycans for the Treatment of Osteoarthritis”
   Evan Phillips, BS; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering
   Nicholas Bertha, BS; College of Medicine
   Brandon Shallop, MD; Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, College of Medicine
Maria Lefchak; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering
Diego Galindo, BS; Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Mickey Bui, MD; Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, College of Medicine
Adam Taylor, BS; College of Medicine
Richard Huneke, DVM; Department of Microbiology and Immunology, College of Medicine
Emily Reimold, MLAS; College of Medicine
Steve Hou, MD; College of Medicine
Katsiaryna Prudnikova, PhD; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Medicine
Mary Mulcahey, MD; College of Medicine
Michele Marcolongo, PhD; Materials Science and Engineering, College of Engineering

“Using fNIRS to Assess Maternal–Infant Interaction in the Postpartum Period”
Bobbie Posmontier, PhD, CNM, PMHNP-BC; Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
June Andrews Horowitz, PhD, RN, PMHCNS-BC, FAAN; University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
Mehmet Izzetoglu, PhD; School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems
Jaime Slaughter-Acey, PhD, MPH; Nursing, College of Nursing and Health Professions
Victoria A. Grunberg, MS; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Gabriela Hernandez-Meza; School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems

“Mild Traumatic Brain injury in Adolescent Rats Results in Sex–specific Cognitive Deficits that is Reversed by the Dopamine Receptor Antagonist SCH233390”
Ramesh Raghupathi, PhD; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine
Laura L. Krafjack, BS; Neurobiology & Anatomy, College of Medicine

“Anonymous Self Perception Survey of Sexuality and Body Image in Inflammatory Bowel Disease”
Shefali N. Shah, MD; Hahnemann University Hospital Department of Medicine
Matthew J. Urban; College of Medicine
Edward Gracely, PhD; Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Dornsife School of Public Health
Neilanjan Nandi, MD; Hahnemann University Hospital, Division of Gastroenterology

“Sexting and Satisfaction among Women”
Emily Stasko, MS, MPH; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Pamela A. Geller, PhD; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences

“Looking Back: Exploring Supportive K–12 Experiences in the Lives of Transgender People”
Amy R. Summa, MS; School of Education
Ken Mawritz, PhD; School of Education

“Does Sex Affect the Readmission Rate in Patients Undergoing Total Joint Replacement Surgery?”
Nader Toossi, MD; Department of Orthopaedics, College of Medicine
Matthew A. Varacallo, MD; Department of Orthopaedics, College of Medicine
Lea Hertzog, MD; Medical University of South Carolina
Norman A. Johanson, MD; Department of Orthopaedics, College of Medicine

“Mentoring Women: Identifying, Developing and Retaining STEM Stars”
Alexandra Viscosi, EdD; College of Education
Kristy Kelly, PhD; College of Education

“Single Sex Environments and Gender Stereotyped Attitudes”
Suraji Wagage; Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences; Law; Thomas R. Kline School of Law
David S. Cohen, JD; Law, Thomas R. Kline School of Law
Bio of Helen I. Moorehead-Laurencin, MD

Helen Isabella Moorehead-Laurencin, MD, practiced medicine from offices on the ground floor of her North Philadelphia row home for almost 45 years. She served as the strength of her community, helping five generations of individuals around her.

After graduating from Girls’ High at age 15 with a straight A average, Dr. Moorehead-Laurencin went on to graduate from Cheney University at age 19 with a bachelor of science in education. She had a deep longing to help people by practicing medicine and attended the University of Pennsylvania and Meharry Medical College, where she was one of the few women to receive a medical degree at that time.

Dr. Moorehead-Laurencin led an extremely busy and rewarding life. In addition to running her practice, serving on the staff of Nazareth Hospital and the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hospital, and serving as a medical consultant for the Philadelphia Board of Education, she served as an advisor to City Hall in the area of community health as a member of the Mayor’s Health Commission in the 1980s. Dr. Moorehead-Laurencin saw her dreams come true when all three of her children graduated from Ivy League universities and became medical doctors.

Patients, friends and medical colleagues of Dr. Moorehead-Laurencin felt that she was North Philadelphia’s “matriarch.” She was a treasured resource, who guided and supported those in her community to take the extra step toward success. What made her life so remarkable was the unremarkable way she lived it. “She exemplified the best of what altruism and a thrill for knowledge and science can accomplish. She didn’t simply practice medicine, she lived it,” said her son, Dr. Cato Laurencin.

References: Philadelphia Inquirer (April 8, 1994) and the Philadelphia Tribune (April 8, 1994)
Bio of Doris Willig, MD

Doris Willig was born in Philadelphia and raised in the Wynnfield section of the city. She was the oldest of three children (only daughter) born to a Philadelphia attorney and his wife. Between the ages of 10 and 15, Doris won awards for her piano playing, was involved in presenting play readings, and danced at a concert given at the Metropolitan Opera House of Philadelphia on Broad and Popular Streets.

In 1929, at the age of 16, Doris Willig graduated from Philadelphia High School for Girls and then attended the University of Pennsylvania where she majored in Zoology. Doris graduated *cum laude* at age 23 from the Woman’s Medical College in June 1936. At that time, she was the youngest student ever who had graduated from the oldest medical college for women in the United States. Dr. Willig interned at Albert Einstein Medical Center, and in 1938 she began a practice of general medicine, obstetrics, and gynecology in Wynnfield. Sometimes she treated three generations within a family, and she even delivered her own future daughter-in-law! Ten years later, Dr. Willig decided to transition from general medicine into adult psychiatry. She became a resident at the Philadelphia Psychiatric Center, and then did a fellowship in child psychiatry at the Institute of Pennsylvania Hospital Child Study Center.

Between 1952 and 1971 Dr. Willig led a busy center city psychiatric practice; she was on the staff of the Philadelphia Psychiatric Center and Graduate Hospital and was a psychiatric consultant for The Association for Jewish Children (Jewish Family and Children’s Services). For ten years she was on the faculty at Jefferson Medical College, prior to moving to Miami in 1972 where she became a staff psychiatrist at the Veteran’s Administration Hospital. Dr. Willig was clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of Miami Medical School. Other accomplishments during this period include becoming vice president of the South Florida Psychiatric Society and being elected the federal “physician of the year” for her outstanding service. In 1983 she returned to Philadelphia, and work briefly for the J.F.K. Community Mental Health and as a psychiatric consultant to HealthPass.

While fulfilling her many professional commitments, Dr. Willig found time to give lunchtime concerts with her chamber music group, “The Leisure Time Quartet.” Upon retirement, she devoted much of her time to the arts and social activist causes.

Dr. Willig was a pioneer of the women’s movement, demonstrating through quiet accomplishment that there is no area of activity in which a woman couldn’t compete on an equal basis with men.
Bios of Keynote Speakers

Harper Jean Tobin, Esq.

As Director of Policy, Harper Jean coordinates all aspects of advocacy on federal administrative policies and regulations for NCTE and works to provide information for the public about laws and policies that affect transgender people. She also serves on the board of HIPS, an organization that promotes rights, health and safety for those involved in sex work, sex trade, or drug use in the DC area. Harper Jean previously worked at the National Senior Citizens Law Center’s Federal Rights Project. Harper Jean’s writing on transgender equality and other issues has appeared in numerous publications. A Kentucky native, she received degrees in law and social work from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and is an alumna of Oberlin College.

Jean Lau Chin, EdD

Dr. Jean Lau Chin is professor at Adelphi University in New York. Chin is distinguished as an educator, administrator, clinician and scholar. She has held senior management positions as: Dean, Derner Institute for Advanced Psychological Studies, Adelphi University; Systemwide Dean, California School of Professional Psychology, Alliant International University; President, CEO Services; Regional Director, Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership; Executive Director, South Cove Community Health Center; and Co-director, Thom Child Guidance Clinic.

Her work on leadership, diversity and women’s issues has led to a number of invitational talks and publications in these areas. During the past year, she was invited to the Oxford Roundtable to talk on women and leadership, and was designated as a Fulbright Specialist in this area. She has authored a chapter on women and leadership for the Oxford Handbook of Leadership and Organizations and the prologue for Women of Color in Higher Education. As president, Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues (Div. 45, APA), her presidential initiative was examining leadership styles and identity of women and diverse leaders.
For more information, please contact

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