



Guest Becomes Chair of Caucus; Voyles Elected Chair-Elect; LGBTQ Caucus Hosts Outstanding Annual Meeting Program

November 19, 2021

Washington, DC - The 2021 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Denver brought together over 10,000 participants in the first-of-its-kind hybrid Annual Meeting of APHA.

Under the direction of Dr. Madina Agénor, Program Chair, and Dr. Kristen Krause, Program Chair-Elect, the LGBTQ Health Caucus ensured the presence of LGBTQ Health through 9 scientific sessions. Of note this year were sections on Transgender and Diverse People's Health and the Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on LGBTQ+ Health. Shamir Ali, a Ph.D. Student at the NYU School of Global Public Health received the Walter J. Lear, and two students received the Grant W. Farmer Memorial Student Scholars Award.

Dr. Aaron Guest, Assistant Professor of Aging at Arizona State University, assumed a two-year term as Chair after the Annual Meeting. Guest has a distinguished track record of research among LGBTQ older adults and is internationally known as a public health leader. With an ambitious agenda, Guest will lead the Caucus in its 50th Anniversary Planning while implementing the Caucus' first new strategic plan in 6 years.

"I'm thrilled to be taking over the role of Chair of one of the oldest LGBTQ Health organizations in the nation," said Guest. "Now, more than ever, it is critical we ensure the representation of LGBTQ individuals and LGBTQ data in public health. Moving forward, I hope to identify new ways to engage public health professionals in the activities of the LGBTQ Health Caucus." Javontae Williams became Immediate Past Chair following his two-year term as Chair, which saw reinvestments in Caucus operations and infrastructure.

Caroline Voyles, a Ph.D. Student in the Department of Community Health & Prevention at Drexel University was elected Chair-Elect. She will assume the role of Chair in 2023. Since 2007, Caroline has worked to improve the social inclusion of LGBTQ individuals, in particular in sports and youth-serving organizations.

Also elected were April Ancheta (Columbia) as Student Chair and Christina Dragon as Policy Chair. Dr. Heather Tillewein was re-elected Communications Chair. They will join those continuing on the Executive Committee.

Since its founding in 1975, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) Caucus has been the foremost association of public health professionals committed to furthering LGBTQ issues both within the American Public Health Association and the field of public health at large.

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