

## Belong | Include | Empower

*Content warning: In support of trauma-informed communications, please be aware that this message contains topics that may be activating for survivors of gun violence and those who have been impacted by gun violence. The [Confidential Advocacy Program](#) can be reached 24/7 by calling 833-495-2277. Additional resources for OHSU members are available [here](#).*



Dear OHSU School of Medicine Community:

It has been a gut-wrenching couple of weeks, among the hardest. The families of Buffalo, Uvalde, Portland, and many other cities across this nation have been in our minds and hearts. The desire to help but now knowing exactly what to do, reminded me of October of 2016, when we joined hands at the [OHSU Stand Together](#) event displaying unity against gun violence and affirming it as a [public health issue](#).

On that rainy day we pinned orange ribbons on our jackets to honor individuals who had lost their lives. The friends of [Hadiya Pendleton](#) started this tradition to honor her memory. They selected the color orange which is worn by hunters in the woods to increase visibility and protection from harm.

Dr. [Kathleen Carlson](#) leads OHSU's research center on gun violence. Let's wear the color orange to remember all who are no longer with us on June 3-5 recognizing National Gun Violence Awareness Month. You can find resources and opportunities to take action via the [American Public Health Association](#). I invite you to find a way to amplify your voice, raise awareness, and stop gun violence.

This month let's dedicate ourselves to finding peace, resolutions, and solutions for the good of all. Please support National Violence Awareness Month. Let's change the course of action. June is also Pride Month, Juneteenth and Graduation. Let's recognize, honor and support each other. Much appreciation to our faculty, staff and students who are serving as change agents in our communities.

Best,

Leslie Garcia, M.P.A.  
Assistant Dean for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion  
OHSU School of Medicine

## Thankfully, so much has changed in the LGBTQ+ community



When Dr. Blaschke was in med school, “closeted,” and cared for people ill and dying of newly identified HIV/AIDS, the hardest were those of his own age. Most younger community members didn’t experience these dark days thanks to treatment and prevention. Still many communities remain vulnerable.

## June Health Observances

### [Pride Month](#)

This year's Portland Pride theme is "Pride is Universal." Ensuring that LGBTQIA+ people are fully incorporated in local, state and federal data collection efforts carries life-saving potential, [learn more](#).

### [National PTSD Awareness Month](#)

About 6 of every 10 men and 5 of every 10 women experience at least one trauma in their lives. Women are more likely to experience sexual assault and child sexual abuse. Men are more likely to experience accidents, physical assault, combat, disaster, or to witness death or injury.

### [National Safety Month](#)

Do what you can to increase public awareness of safety risks and decrease injuries and deaths. Two OHSU's SoM faculty members, Drs. George Keepers and Ajit Jetmalani, offer [advice for parents](#). The National Association of School Psychologists offer advice on [how to talk to children about violence and safety](#), also available in [Spanish](#), [Vietnamese](#), [Chinese](#), [Somali](#) and [Arabic](#).

### [June 27 | HIV Testing Day](#)

The disproportionate impact of HIV on Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino communities shows that effective prevention and treatment are not adequately reaching them. Black women are

disproportionately affected by HIV as compared to women of other races/ethnicities. OHSU offers [HIV treatment and prevention services](#).

## Pride Month



*[WATCH](#) how members of the LGBTQ community came together to protest exploitation and police harassment.*

June is Pride Month and celebrates the lives, stories, and triumphs of the LGBTQIA+ community. It is another opportunity to promote dignity, equality and visibility for LGBTQIA+ people. At the School of Medicine, we are honored to celebrate and support our LGBTQIA+ members. June also honors the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots that sparked a movement - a three-day protest in New York City against unfair police discrimination and harassment.

In 2016, President Obama unveiled the [Stonewall National Monument](#) to recognize and stand with the LGBTQIA+ community, the first U.S. President to do so. This Pride Month, let's all stand up to recognize the valuable contributions of LGBTQIA+ students, staff, and faculty, and reaffirm our commitment to standing in solidarity to mitigate and eliminate discrimination and injustice. Please come cheer on OHSU's PRIDE Employee resource group who will walk in the [Portland Pride Parade](#). Questions, [pride@ohsu.edu](mailto:pride@ohsu.edu).

Resources: [About LGBTQIA+ health](#), [20 LGBTQIA+ Healthcare resources you should know about](#), [mental health resources in the LGBTQIA+ community](#), [OHSU's Transgender Health Program](#) and [Oregon's Equity Profile](#) (sponsored by Movement Advancement Project that provides research information about LGBTQIA+ policy, data, and quick facts).

## End HIV Oregon

# We all have an HIV STA+US

## WHAT'S YOURS?



About 6 in 10 Oregonians have never been tested for HIV. Oregon's testing rate is 53.8% which is higher than the national average of 41.5% but lower than the goal we set for ourselves of 70%. Once on treatment, 76% of Oregonians living with HIV are virally suppressed, which is lower than our goal of 90%.

When people learn of their HIV status, they are likely to seek care and begin taking medication to achieve viral suppression, rendering their HIV status is not recognizable by a blood test and untransmissible to their sexual partners. This is called Undetectable=Untransmissible (U=U).

## Juneteenth





[WATCH:](#) Juneteenth commemorates the day in June 1865—two and a half years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation—when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War was over and enslaved people were free.

Juneteenth is observed in June. Listen to Dr. Marcia Chatelain, a professor of African American Life & Culture from Georgetown University who gives an overview of [Juneteenth History](#). Learn about the true meaning of the Juneteenth flag and why the colors of Juneteenth are red, black and green. To honor Juneteenth, you can attend Juneteenth events taking place [throughout Oregon](#), support Black owned businesses, support Black/African American community organizations and continue to learn and respond to [healthcare disparities](#) impacting the Black/African American community.

Also, learn of the Oregon [House Bill 2168](#), declaring June 19th as the Juneteenth official state holiday. “This holiday will serve to honor the freedom of enslaved people in the United States,” said [state Sen. Lew Frederick](#). Read “[Oregon Senate approves making Juneteenth official state holiday](#).” Here at OHSU, let’s support our Black & African American School of Medicine members to increase Belonging, Including, and Empowering as described in the [School of Medicine's Strategic Diversity Plan](#).

In 2022, OHSU will again provide an extra day of [paid leave to all employees to honor Juneteenth](#).

## Enrichment

*All events are listed in Pacific Time, even those hosted in other time zones.*

[Thursday, June 2, 12-1 p.m. | Advancing Health Equity through Telehealth: AAMC Learning Series](#)

Understand the impact of telehealth on equity and access to care, the role data can play in improving telehealth access.

[Wednesday, June 8, 11 a.m.- Noon | Transgender Medicine & Pathology](#)

Catch the first in this virtual (WebEx) four-part series: Transgender Medicine & Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Grand Rounds, featuring the OHSU Transgender Health Program's Amy Penkin and Tobin Cox.

[Thursday, June 9, 12 p.m. | Men, Why Should You Get Screened for Cancer?](#)

Guest speakers and patient advocates will help health care professionals and the Latino public understand the cultural and other barriers to screening tests and share stories of Latino men who are cancer survivors.

[Friday, June 10, 8 a.m. | Suicide Prevention in Indigenous Communities](#)

Indigenous communities experience higher risks for suicide and self-harm. The workshop will feature subject matter experts examining risk and protective factors in Indigenous populations.

[Saturday - Sunday, June 18-19 | Portland PRIDE Waterfront Festival and Parade](#)

Pride Northwest, Inc., has organized this event since 1994. Is the single, largest visibility avenue for the region's LGBTQIA+ community. OHSU's PRIDE Employee Resource Group will participate.

[Saturday - Sunday, June 25-26 | Good in the Neighborhood Parade and Festival](#)

Join OHSU's BERG on June 25 or sign up to be in the parade representing Black resilience and OHSU. The parade will start at 11am at Legacy Emmanuel and will end at King School Park. OHSU will also have an informational booth on both Saturday and Sunday. Questions, [blackerg@ohsu.edu](mailto:blackerg@ohsu.edu). Come cheer them on!

[Monday, June 27, 12-2 p.m. | Affirming diverse gender identities in the classroom](#)

The session is grounded in critically examining and uprooting systemic oppression and incorporates an intersectional and anti-racist framing throughout. The content focuses on affirming trans, nonbinary, genderqueer and other diverse gender identities.

## On the pulse

- [Surgeon-scientist centers patients in research to improve transgender care](#)
- [OHSU's Queer Health Alliance earns Chapter of the Year honorable mention](#)
- [Helping more Native Americans become physicians to improve health care for all](#)

## Meet the school's 2022 DEI Awardees



The awardees have created and fostered a learning environment that welcomes and supports all learners and that are representative of the increasingly diverse population of Oregon and the nation.

[Religious Holiday Calendar 2022](#) | [AAEO Religious Accommodations and Disability Accommodations](#)

*The SoM Belong, Include, Empower e-newsletter is sent monthly to members of the OHSU School of Medicine. This space is dedicated to the valuable role of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-racism (DEI&A) practices in promoting trust, engagement and well being. Have an idea, resource or an event to share? Questions and comments? [somdiversity@ohsu.edu](mailto:somdiversity@ohsu.edu)*