

2024 Virtual STAR-Center Conference
May 10, 2024

Will be held virtually via ZOOM

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN CONFERENCE PROGRAM
(Please complete and return to Jamey Covaleski no later than December 4th)

Name, Credentials, Position Title	Candice Biernesser, PhD, LCSW, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry César G Escobar-Viera, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Affiliation:	University of Pittsburgh
Please Provide a Brief Bio (Also please attach a copy of your CV)	
<p>Dr. Biernesser a behavioral health scientist and licensed clinical social worker with interests in developing digital mental health interventions to reduce the impact of negative online experiences and prevent suicide risk among adolescents, particularly adolescents who are underserved within traditional mental health services. Her passion for adolescent suicide prevention was brought about by contributing to longitudinal studies of her long-time mentor, David Brent, which assessed risk factors for suicide among families, as well as experience developing digital tools to improve the detection and management of adolescent suicide risk. She has focused an independent line of research on examining ways to understand and mitigate the impact of negative social media experiences, particularly focusing on cyberbullying given its linkage to suicide risk among youth. She is currently PI of a K23 early career award focused on developing and testing a digital suicide prevention intervention for underserved youth who have experienced cyberbullying with primary mentor, Dr. Tina Goldstein. She is also PI of an Early Career Researcher Innovation Grant funded by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, focused on developing a digital suicide prevention for LGBTQ+ youth. Additionally, with Dr. Escobar-Viera she is co-leading a study as part of the ETUDES P50 ALACRITY Center at the University of Pittsburgh, that aims to reduce depression and suicide risk among adolescents who have had online victimization experiences, particularly Black/African American and LGBTQ+ youth, as well as a methods innovation project studying the feasibility and acceptability of using social media-based algorithms to detect cyberbullying and suicide risk among adolescents.</p> <p>Dr. Escobar-Viera assistant professor of Psychiatry and director of the Program for Internet Delivered Interventions on LGBTQ+ Mental Health (PRIDE iM) in the department of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He is a trained psychiatrist with a PhD in health services research, as well as a master's degree in public health. Dr. Escobar-Viera's research focus is on (1) determine the influence of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter) experiences and behaviors on depression and other mental health outcomes among SGM youth and emerging adults, and (2) develop and test an automated, social media-delivered intervention to optimize social media use, reduce social isolation and depressive symptoms among SGM youth living in rural areas. An NIMHD funded "Pathway to Independence</p>	

Award" (K99/R00) and a Pilot Award funded by the ETUDES / ALACRITY Center (P50) at the University of Pittsburgh support these goals. As part of the same center, and along with Dr. Biernesser, he co-leads a digital intervention development research project aimed at reducing depression and suicide risk among youth who have been victimized online, particularly those of minoritized background, including Black, Hispanic, and/or LGBTQ+ youth.

Skill Development Workshop (1 hr. and 15 min session (includes Q&A))

Title of Presentation (As you would like it to appear in conference program)

Supporting LGBTQ+ youth in online spaces

Description (Please describe your presentation in 50 words or less as you would like it to appear in the conference program)

While social media can afford LGBTQ+ youth access to social connections, a sense of community, and social support, it can also give way to experiences of discrimination and victimization. This presentation will offer practical guidance for supporting the needs of and responding to victimization of LGBTQ+ adolescents in online spaces.

Level of Presentation (Select one) (This applies to workshops only)

Introductory

Intermediate

Advanced

Learning Objectives: (Please list 3)

At the conclusion of this session, participants should be able to:

1. Understand current research examining both protective and risk factors for LGBTQ+ youth mental health on social media and other online spaces.
2. Gain perspective on protective and risk factors experienced online by LGBTQ+ youth
3. Identify strategies and resources for fostering a healthy and developmentally appropriate use of online spaces among LGBTQ+ youth

FOR ACCREDITATION PURPOSES PLEASE PROVIDE:

Three (3) current (within the past 10 years) peer-reviewed publications that support the evidence base for the content of your presentation. (See next page).

Publications must be listed in American Psychological Association (APA) Style (see www.apastyle.org for more information).

APA format for journal article citation:

Author last name, Author first initial. Author Second Initial. (Publication Year). Title of article. *Title of Journal*. volume(issue) (if issue numbered), pages.

1. Pellicane MJ, Cooks JA, Ciesla JA (2021) Longitudinal effects of social media experiences on depression and anxiety in LGB+ and heterosexual young adults, *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health*, 25:1, 68-93, DOI: 10.1080/19359705.2020.1776805
2. Berger MN, Taba M, Marino JL, Lim MSC, Skinner SR (2022) Social Media Use and Health and Well-being of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Youth: Systematic Review, *Journal of Medical Internet Research* 24(9):e38449. DOI: 10.2196/38449 PMID: 36129741
3. Russon J, Washington R, Machado A, Smithee L, Dellinger J. Suicide among LGBTQIA+ youth: A review of the treatment literature. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 64:101578, 1-11, DOI: 10.1016/j.avb.2021.101578

If there is more than one presenter, please complete only one form and include information for each presenter. Please send a CV, COI form and AV form for each presenter.

Please e-mail your completed form, along with your CV, to me at coaleskijj@upmc.edu by Monday, December 4, 2023