

Top 5 Historical LGBT Contributors to Medicine

Source: <https://www.touchcare.com/lgbt-in-medicine/>

In honor of Pride month, TouchCare celebrates 5 leaders who contributed to medicine and to the broader healthcare medical community throughout history.

Homosexuals and transgender people have not been treated fairly by the healthcare system historically. Until the 1970s, homosexuality was considered a psychiatric illness. Various treatments were used to change sexual orientation — with little success. In 1992, homosexuality was removed from the International Classification of Diseases. Some would argue that the AIDS crisis became an epidemic because the larger medical community viewed it as a gay disease and thus not worth aggressively researching and treating. Even President Reagan tried to prevent his Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, from speaking out about the AIDS epidemic publicly and joked about AIDS as being the “gay plague.”

Despite this discriminatory history, the LGBTQ community has made meaningful contributions to the larger medical community. Somewhat interestingly, this article was quite difficult to research, as gay history is still being written and not widely studied. In honor of Pride month, TouchCare celebrates these heroes.



Dr. Sara Josephine Baker (November 15, 1873 – February 22, 1945)

Dr. Baker was an American physician notable for making contributions to public health, especially in the immigrant communities of New York City. Her fight against the damage that widespread urban poverty and ignorance caused to children, especially newborns, is perhaps her most lasting legacy. In 1917, she noted that babies born in the United States faced a higher mortality rate than soldiers fighting in World War I, drawing a great deal of attention to her cause. Her work organizing the first child hygiene department under government control led to the lowest infant death rate in any American or European city during the 1910's.

She also is known for (twice) tracking down Mary Mallon, the infamous index case known as Typhoid Mary. Baker was in a long-term relationship with screenwriter Ida Wylie.

Dr. Alan L. Hart (October 4, 1890 – July 1, 1962)

Dr. Dr. Hart was an American physician, radiologist, tuberculosis researcher, writer and novelist. In 1918, he was one of the first trans men to undergo hysterectomy and gonadectomy in the United States and lived the rest of his life as a man.

He pioneered the use of X-Ray photography in tuberculosis detection. Dr. Hart was instrumental in developing tuberculosis screening programs at the time that TB was the largest disease killer in the US. Dr. Hart's



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June 2023 Calendar

National LGBT Pride Month
Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
Caribbean-American Heritage Month

- 1 - 7 – National CPR & AED Awareness Week (US)
- 4 - National Cancer Survivors Day (US)
- 4 - Pentecost Sunday (Orthodox Christian)
- 8 – World Brain Tumor Day
- 11 - Race Unity Day (International)
- 11 – National Cancer Thriver Day (US)
- 14 - Flag Day (US)
- 17 – Nursing Assistants Day (US)
- 18 – Father's Day (US)
- 19 – World Sickle Cell Awareness Day
- 19-25 – Learning Disability Week (US)
- 22 – Juneteenth (US)
- 27 – Day of Arafah (Islam)
- 29 – St Peters Day (Catholicism)

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efforts with screening programs saved thousands of lives. Utilizing an X-Ray system Dr. Hart developed, doctors managed to cut the tuberculosis death toll down to one-fiftieth from previous levels.

Dr. Louise Pearce (March 5, 1885 – August 10, 1959)

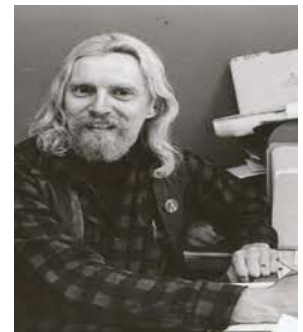


Louise Pearce, a physician and pathologist, was one of the foremost female scientists of the early 20th century. Her research led to a cure for trypanosomiasis (African Sleeping sickness) in 1919.

In 1920, when a severe outbreak of the disease broke out in the Belgian Congo, (modern day Zaire), Dr. Pearce, then 35 years old and attracted by the adventures of field research, volunteered to go alone to Leopoldville to test the new drug. The Rockefeller Institute sent Pearce, “trusting her vigorous personality to carry out an assignment none too easy for a woman physician and not without its dangers.” Studying the effect of each dose of tryparsamide on more than seventy patients, Pearce saw the parasites were completely eradicated within a few weeks of the treatment. Belgian officials, impressed and grateful for her results, awarded her the Ancient Order of the Crown and elected her a member of the Belgian Society of Tropical Medicine. For many years, Louise Pearce lived with physician Sara Josephine Baker and author Ida A. R. Wylie and is even buried alongside them. All were members of Heterodoxy, a feminist biweekly luncheon discussion club, of which many members were lesbian or bisexual.

Bruce Voeller, PhD (May 12, 1934 – February 13, 1994)

Bruce Voeller was an American biologist and AIDS researcher who pioneered the use of nonoxynol-9 as a spermicide and topical virus-transmission preventative. He won a five-year fellowship at the Rockefeller Institute to complete his doctoral studies in biochemistry, developmental biology and genetics, before becoming an associate professor there. Before the 1980s, AIDS was known by various names, including GRID (Gay Related Immune Defense Disorder). Because this term was inaccurate, Voeller coined the term “Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome.” He established the Mariposa Foundation conduct research in the field of human sexuality and to find ways to reduce the risks of diseases related to it. At the time of his death, Voeller’s research centered on the reliability of various brands of condoms in preventing the spread of diseases and on viral leakage studies for the then-recently approved female condom.



Dr. John Ercel Fryer (November 7, 1937 – February 21, 2003)



Dr. Fryer was an American psychiatrist and gay rights activist best known for his anonymous speech at the 1972 American Psychiatric Association (APA) annual conference where he appeared in disguise and under the name Dr. Henry Anonymous.

This event has been cited as a key factor in the decision to de-list homosexuality as a mental illness from the APA’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Fryer was the first gay American psychiatrist to speak publicly about his sexuality.

The Constant Innovation in Interpreting Technology

Source: <https://www.interpreterintelligence.com/the-constant-innovation-in-interpreting-technology/>



Compared to other industries, technology has made a modest impact on interpreting. There have been incremental improvements over the last decades, but claiming that technology has transformed the profession would be an exaggeration. That being said, the latest technological wave washing over the industry does seem like it’s going to leave an irreversible mark on the lives of many interpreters.

Before we get into the latest technological trends, let’s first explore at what point

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technology first started changing interpreting. The first technological breakthrough was the introduction of wired systems for speech transmission, which led to the rise of simultaneous interpreting. This technology, designed by IBM, acquired broader visibility during the Nuremberg trials after WWII, and was later adopted by all international organizations.

The second breakthrough was obvious: the internet. The internet primarily changed the way interpreters acquired information. As preparation is a fundamental part of interpreting, the internet helps interpreters effectively find translations for specialized terms, and find more background information on specific subject matters. Now, of course, the internet also allows the interpreter and the customer to get directly in touch.

Aside from obvious technological advances such as wired speech transmission and the internet, there are also many tools that have been specifically built for interpreters. CAT (Computer Aided Interpreting) tools, often terminology tools such as InterpretBank help interpreters organize their glossaries and now these terminology tools often have voice recognition so it can suggest translations in real time. Many of these tools have also integrated Google AI in an attempt to improve live translation suggestions.

The technology supporting remote interpreting has made great strides as well. Not only have video messaging applications gotten a lot better, but many interpreter management platforms such as Interpreter Intelligence now support VRI (Video Remote Interpreting) within their platforms as well. It is fair to say that all these technological advancements have made the access to interpreters much easier, which means the access to interpreters that speak rare languages has gotten easier as well. As a result, public organizations can, through this latest technological wave, boast a much more inclusive language policy, only if politics do not interfere of course.

New Staff Profile: Frances Huevo



Francisca (Frances) is one of UC Davis Health's newest Spanish-language team members. She was born in El Salvador and moved to the US when she was 18. She has a Bachelor's degree in Ministerial Studies and an MA certificate from WCC (now Carrington College).

For almost ten years, Frances worked as a Spanish translator, mainly in education, and became a medical interpreter in 2020. Interpreting for people during the pandemic showed her the difference a medical interpreter can make in the lives of patients facing complex challenges. She is very grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of a team of dedicated professionals who invest their time, talents, and knowledge to help others.

In addition to working as an interpreter, Frances works for Global Grace Ministries, producing two weekly podcasts, a Spanish/English blog, and as an ordained minister preaching in local churches to raise funds for different children's programs that GGM supports. She is an avid reader who loves to travel and to spend time with friends and family.

Welcome onboard, Frances! We are happy to have you as a part of our diverse UC Davis Health language team!