

LGBTQ+ Inclusive Communication and Cancer Care

VIRTUAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

Complimentary for Accepted Applicants

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Overview

LGBTQ+ patients with cancer and their families consistently experience poor health outcomes, discrimination, bias, stigma, and mistreatment.

This **two-day, virtual communication skills training (Comskil) program** provides didactic education and experiential role play opportunities to equip oncology clinicians with evidence-based skills to improve the quality of care and communication with patients who identify as LGBTQ+ and their families and caregivers.

In addition, presentations will provide information on the unique health needs of LGBTQ+ populations and how health disparities impact cancer outcomes for LGBTQ+ patients and their families. Faculty panels will provide in-depth discussions with patient advocates, organizational leaders, and ethics consultants. Our faculty are nationally recognized leaders in LGBTQ+ health, oncology, palliative and supportive care, psycho-oncology, and communication.

Learners will have the opportunity to identify specific communication strategies and skills they can immediately apply to their clinical practice at every stage of the cancer continuum, including end of life and bereavement. Our Comskil approach supports learners to practice skills and receive real-time feedback from colleagues and faculty in a supportive and constructive learning environment. **Registration is complimentary for accepted applicants.**

Target Audience

This educational training is intended for physicians and advanced practice providers who care for LBGTQ+patients with cancer. It is designed for clinicians who wish to develop inclusive, affirming communication skills, address health inequities, and provide high-quality person-centered care throughout the cancer continuum.

Format & Training Dates

This two-day program will be delivered virtually via Zoom in a highly interactive format. Participants will engage in experiential role-play exercises designed to strengthen communication skills, with opportunities to practice and receive real-time, constructive feedback from faculty and peers. Active participation and engagement are expected throughout the program.

> **Upcoming Training Sessions**
>
> January 14–15, 2027
> May 20–21, 2027

Registration

Registration is complimentary for accepted applicants and includes the two-day virtual training program (January 14–15 or May 20–21, 2027), course materials, access to the program website, follow-up training calls and activities, and additional educational resources.

Participation is determined through a competitive application process, with 20–25 applicants selected for each training session. Selected applicants will be contacted with additional workshop details and next steps.

For more information and to apply, visit:
msk.org/InclusiveCommunication

Course Director



Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN
Assistant Attending Behavioral Scientist,
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center;
2021 Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar;
2024 RWJF Harold Amos Scholar;
Editor-in-Chief, Psycho-Oncology;
Co-Chair, The *Lancet Respiratory Medicine Commission* on Palliative Care Integration in Serious Respiratory Illness

Course Faculty

Kimberly D. Acquaviva, PhD
University of Virginia School of Nursing

Koshy Alexander, MD, MBA
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Smita Banerjee, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Liz Blackler, MBE, LCSW-R
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Paula Chambers
Patient Advocate

Alexis Drutchas, MD
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute;
Harvard Medical School

Charles Kamen, PhD, MPH
University of Rochester

Patricia A. Parker, PhD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Kailey Roberts, PhD
Yeshiva University

Nelson Sanchez, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

NFN Scout, PhD, MA
National LGBTQI+ Cancer Network

Chasity Burrows Walters, PhD, RN
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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Schedule

DAY 1 · VIRTUAL TRAINING

9:00 a.m.	**Welcome and Program Overview** Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN
9:15 a.m.	**LGBTQIA+ Health Needs, Disparities, and Best Practices Across the Cancer Continuum** Charles Kamen, PhD, MPH
10:15 a.m.	**Interactive Discussion and Q&A**
10:45 a.m.	**LGBTQIA+ Experiences in Palliative and End-of-Life Care** Kimberly D. Acquaviva, PhD
11:15 a.m.	**Navigating Ethical Challenges: A Case-Based Discussion** Liz Blackler, MBE, LCSW-R
12:00 p.m.	**Interactive Discussion and Q&A**
12:15 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 p.m.	**National Leaders Panel: Perspectives on LGBTQIA+ Cancer Care** NFN Scout, PhD, MA Chasity Burrows Walters, PhD, RN Paula Chambers — *Patient Advocate*
2:00 p.m.	**Introduction to the Comskil Model and Communication Skills Training** Patricia A. Parker, PhD
2:30 p.m.	**LGBTIA+ Inclusive Communication: The Basics (101)** Smita Banerjee, PhD
3:15 p.m.	Break
3:30 p.m.	**Group Role Play: LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Communication 101**
4:45 p.m.	**Reflection, Debrief, and Group Discussion**
5:30 p.m.	Adjourn

DAY 2 · VIRTUAL TRAINING

8:15 a.m.	**Welcome and Day 2 Overview** Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN
8:30 a.m.	**Family (102)** Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN
9:00 a.m.	**Experiential Small-Group Role-Play: Family (102)**
10:15 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	**End-of-Life (103)** Alexis Drutchas, MD
11:00 a.m.	**Experiential Small-Group Role-Play: End-of-Life (103)**
12:30 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:15 p.m.	**Grief (104)** Kailey Roberts, PhD
1:45 p.m.	**Experiential Small-Group Role-Play: Grief (104)**
3:15 p.m.	Break
3:30 p.m.	**Interactive Small-Group Rotations** FACILITATORS Billy Rosa, PhD, MBE, APRN, FAANP, FPCN, FAAN Smita Banerjee, PhD Patricia A. Parker, PhD **Round 1 |** 3:30 p.m.4:10 p.m. GROUP A Communication Challenges & Strategies for Clinical Practice GROUP B Standardized Patient & Knowledge Assessments **Round 2 |** 4:20–5:00 p.m. Groups switch activities to complete the second rotation.
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Accreditation

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA Credit Designation Statement
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center designates this live activity for a maximum of **15.00 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™***. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Mitigation of Relevant Financial Relationships
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center adheres to the ACCME's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education. In accordance with the ACCME's Standards, identification, mitigation and/or disclosure of financial relationships is not needed for non-clinical accredited education.
The content of this activity is non-clinical.

For more information and to apply, visit:
msk.org/InclusiveCommunication



Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Continuing Medical Education

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