

12th International Conference on
Neurology and Neurophysiology
&
2nd International Conference and Exhibition on
Dual Diagnosis May 18-20, 2017 Munich, Germany

Listen Without Labels: An Effective Engagement Strategy to Address Health Disparities

Adam D Swanson

Suicide Prevention Resource Center in Washington DC, USA

For more than a decade, studies have shown that Americans of minority status face remarkable disparities when it comes to preventable illnesses, mental health and addiction conditions, and overall mortality. The statistics speak for themselves: Black babies are almost 5 times more likely to die before reaching their first birthday than white babies; suicide attempts for high school-aged Hispanic girls are 70 percent higher than for white girls in the same age group; lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) adults are about 5 times more likely than heterosexual men and women to have a mental illness in their lifetime such as those related to mood, anxiety or substance use; and nearly 40 percent of all transgender people report that they have faced harassment or discrimination when seeking routine health care. Explanations of this phenomenon from researchers and policymakers varies across issues of access, poverty, and biology. But the less talked about root cause of health disparities—discrimination—is all too often glossed over. Adam D. Swanson, a nationally awarded public speaker and health equity advocate, will share his harrowing life story about crisis health care interactions to help demonstrate the impact of discrimination as a major root cause of systemic health disparities within clinical care settings. His story and supporting data about the vulnerabilities facing minority populations will help providers of all levels and researchers think more broadly about how to improve health outcomes, eliminate health disparities, and achieve health equity.

Biography

Adam D. Swanson is a nationally awarded public speaker dedicated to equity in public and health care systems. He assists state governments, universities and other organizations improve quality of care for people in crisis at the Suicide Prevention Resource Center in Washington, DC. He has served on national and international expert panels to advise organizations in addressing minority health disparities. He previously led LGBTQ initiatives and oversaw national efforts to implement innovative first-episode psychosis treatment services at the National Council for Behavioral Health. In the U.S. Senate, he helped advance anti-bullying legislation and Ryan White HIV/AIDS Care Act reforms. He is a former Mental Health America fellow.

adamswanson@gmail.com

Notes: