PII-36: Experiences Of Aging Among Gay Men

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Abstract:
Introduction: The purpose of this qualitative study is to explore the experiences of aging among an older cohort of self-identified gay men with the intent of constructing a theoretical conceptualization that builds on contemporary philosophical views of aging specific to this population. This enhanced and updated understanding of a gay men's unique perspective on aging will provide health care professionals with information and insights that will assist them, as nurses and other health care workers, to transcend the ideology of heterosexism and provide care that is more individualized and culturally competent.

Method(s): A Grounded Theory approach to inquiry is being proposed because of its ability to provide useful, explanatory theoretical analyses of data that is conceptually dense and durable over time. While there have been past studies on gay aging, conducted both qualitatively as well as quantitatively, a Grounded Theory approach is ideal for further explanation and exploration of emerging themes and categories in more contemporary terms.

Results: This study is still in the proposal phase. IRB approval not yet obtained. Data have not yet been collected.

Discussion & Conclusions: The invisibility of older gay men within the professional literature and relevant social policy indicate that their specific care needs are not being acknowledged. The difficulty rests in identifying the exact nature of the specific care needs of older gay men and how they differ from those of the broader population of older people. While some needs are experienced universally, others will be expressed in a way that reflects the culture of older gay men. Expanding the knowledge base to include groups who have been overlooked not only
provides nursing with a keener awareness of the challenges encountered by select cultural and sub-cultural populations, but is foundational to nursing education and practice within the discourse of cultural sensitivity, cultural competence, and cultural brokering.

Abstract History:
This abstract has been presented or accepted for presentation in whole or in part at the SNRS or other scientific meeting.
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Financial Disclosure:
No, I (or a member of my immediate family) have not received something of value* from or own stock (or stock options) in a commercial company or institution related directly or indirectly to the subject of my presentation.

FDA Disclosure:
I will not be describing any pharmaceutical and/or medical device.

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