



Published on The Well Project (<https://www.thewellproject.org>)
<https://www.thewellproject.org/hiv-information/fall-wri-virtual-2021-research-intersection-hiv-and-womens-sexual-and-reproductive>

Fall WRI Virtual 2021 - Research at the Intersection of HIV and Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health

Submitted on Feb 10, 2022

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The Women's Research Initiative on HIV/AIDS (WRI), a program of The Well Project, convened *Fall WRI Virtual 2021: Research at the Intersection of HIV and Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Best Practices, Gaps, and Barriers* on October 7-8, 2021. The meeting sought to comprehensively examine the intersection of HIV and women's sexual and reproductive health, a relatively underexplored area of HIV research. ([Click here](#) or below to view the Issue Brief.)

Highlights from the meeting include:

- **Research and policy around this topic must be grounded in its historical context**, including the ways in which women have been marginalized and Black people (Black women in particular) and other people of color have been abused by the medical establishment.
- Despite playing a fundamental role in women's health and well-being, **sexual and reproductive health remains disconnected from HIV prevention, care, research, and policy**, which has contributed to failures in reaching and serving women.
- Appropriate, relevant, and holistic sexual and reproductive health care for women living with and vulnerable to HIV **must acknowledge and address women's lives in all of their complexities** (including race, socioeconomics, gender identity, motherhood/care provision, geography, etc.).
- To optimize reproductive and sexual health among women living with HIV, HIV treatment success must no longer be measured exclusively by viral suppression. Rather, **metrics of treatment success, including those driving federal strategies, must center the well-being of women living with HIV**, including their sexual health and pleasure
- HIV prevention efforts require an **urgent reframing of the language of "risk" around vulnerability to HIV and shifting to a framework that prioritizes resilience and strength** in order to be successful among women.

While the meeting elicited a number of important recommendations, on an overarching level, the group again asserted the need to consider any recommendations around the health of women living with and vulnerable within the full context of their lives. This is particularly true in developing holistic sexual and reproductive health care for women living with and vulnerable to HIV.

View the Fall WRI Virtual 2021 Issue Brief: [Interrogating the Intersection of HIV and Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health](#)

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WOMEN'S
RESEARCH
INITIATIVE
ON HIV/AIDS

Fall WRI Virtual 2021: *Research at the Intersection of HIV and Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health: Best Practices, Gaps, and Barriers*

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| | <p>A program of</p> <p>the well project</p> | | | |

Fall WRI Virtual 2021 Meeting Participants

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University of California San Francisco (UCSF) **Dawn Averitt***

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Transgender Law Center **Jenna Conley***

The Well Project **Elizabeth Connick, MD**

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The Well Project **Neha Gahlawat, PharmD, MBA, RPh**

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**Fall 2021 Advisory Board Member*

The Fall WRI Virtual 2021 convening received sponsorship support or grants from Gilead, Janssen, Merck, and ViiV Healthcare.



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