Ask an ACHA Peer Mentor:  
LGBTQ+ and the ACHD Experience  

Wednesday, June 30, 2021, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. EST 

Presenters: Stephen Cook, MD, FACC, and ACHA Peer Mentors Ken W. and Kim E.

About the Webinar
As part of ACHA’s ongoing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, it is important to create opportunities to discuss topics pertinent to every patient in the CHD community. To conclude Pride Month, join Dr. Stephen Cook and ACHA Peer Mentors Ken W. and Kim E., both adults living with CHD, as they discuss their own personal experiences as part of the CHD and LGBTQ+ communities.

While CHD affects 1 in 100 individuals regardless of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, or gender, each person’s journey with CHD is different. In addition to type of defect and surgery, personal experiences and attributes, such as race, sexual orientation and gender identity can also influence how someone accesses and receives healthcare.

According to the latest Gallup poll, around 5.6% of U.S. adults identify as LGBTQ+. Underrepresented minorities, including not only sexual and gender minorities, but also adults with CHD, often face disparities and bias in healthcare resulting in additional stressors that may impact patient well-being and health outcomes.

Register for this webinar today to learn more from our speakers and for the opportunity to ask them questions.

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About the Presenters
Stephen Cook, MD, FACC, (he/him) is the Director of the IU Health Adult Congenital Heart Disease Program in Indianapolis, IN. Dr. Cook served on ACHA’s Task Force on ACHD Health Disparities and Diversity and has also been selected by the American College of Cardiology to serve on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The goal of this committee is to harness the power of diversity to advance patient care and improve health equity among unique patient populations.

Ken W. (he/him) is a CHD survivor and advocate and a Peer Mentor with ACHA. He has undergone two open heart surgeries for tetralogy of Fallot, but he refuses to let his CHD hold him back. He is an avid cyclist and hiker, having completed multiple long-distance treks both in the saddle and on foot. Professionally, Ken works full-time in philanthropy; he is also a certified life coach and personal trainer.

Kim E. (she/her) is a CHD survivor and longtime advocate and Peer Mentor with ACHA. Born with transposition of the great vessels, pulmonary stenosis and ventricular septal defect, Kim underwent her fourth open-heart surgery in 2019. She stays busy running her childcare business, raising her three daughters with her wife Karen and enjoying hikes with their two crazy dogs.

About the Adult Congenital Heart Association
The Adult Congenital Heart Association (ACHA) is a national not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and extending the lives of adults with congenital heart disease (CHD). ACHA serves and supports the more than one million adults with CHD, their families, and the medical community—working with them to address the unmet needs of the long-term survivors of congenital heart defects through education, outreach, advocacy, and research. For more information about ACHA, contact (888) 921-ACHA or visit www.achaheart.org.

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