JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY GENETICS

TITLE

Transgender and gender-diverse (TGD) individuals' perspectives on research seeking genetic variants associated with TGD identities: A qualitative study

AUTHORS

Antoine Rajkovic¹, Allison L. Cirino¹, Tala Berro², Diane R. Koeller³, and Kimberly Zayhowski⁴

¹Genetic Counseling Program, MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA, USA

²Division of Genetics, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, USA

³Division of Cancer Genetics and Prevention, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA

⁴Department of Medical Oncology, Boston Medical Center, Boston, MA, USA

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

Kimberly Zayhowski kzayhows@bu.edu

Supplemental Material II: Semi-structured interview guide

General questions about thoughts on genetic research:

- What are your experiences related to genetics?
 - Have you worked or been involved in work related to genetics?
 - Have you done genetic testing before?
 - Have you ever met with a genetic counselor for any reason?
- As someone in the TGD community, do you have any comments on the ethics of genetics research in general?

Questions relating to thoughts on this specific type of research:

- How do you feel about genetic research specifically related to transgender identities?
- Do you think this type of research could affect you on a personal level?
- On a larger scale, how do you think this could affect the broader TGD community itself?
 - o In your opinion, what could be some ethical or societal implications associated with trying to find or finding an 'explanation/cause' for trans identities?
- (These next two questions will be alternatingly ordered for every other participant, to limit bias with participants.)
- Can you think of any benefits, either on a personal or community level, from this research for transgender individuals?
- Can you think of any harms, either on a personal or community level, from this research for transgender individuals?
- Do you think this research would affect how you perceive your identity?
 - IF YES: How so?
- Do you think there are any differences in searching for a genetic cause for transgender identities as compared to sexual identities? If so, what?
- Do you personally believe that genes influence gender identity?
- Do you personally believe that genes influence sexual orientation?

Questions relating to recommendations for researchers:

- What information do you think researchers should be aware of when thinking about doing research with genetic differences in transgender or gender-diverse individuals?
- What do you think is important that researchers know before conducting this kind of research?
- Do you think genetic research is needed for the TGD community?
- If so, what kind of research specifically?

IF YES:

- What goals and/or motivations do you think researchers should have from this research?
- How can researchers use this research to better care for trans people?

IF NO:

- Could you expand on why not?

FOR ALL

- Do you have recommendations for researchers doing this type of research?
- Who should evaluate and determine which research should be pursued within this area?

Wrap-up/Conclusion

- Are there any additional comments you would like to share that you have not already mentioned or that I have not yet asked about?
- Do you have any questions for me before we end the interview?