This challenging year has brought many surprises, but it wasn’t unpredictable.

A dangerous rejection of science by those in power left the country unprepared for a devastating pandemic. Cities erupted in uprisings for justice in response to the racism that has plagued our country for centuries.

While we have continued to move forward with our wide-ranging work in reproductive health, our members have responded quickly to prioritize responses to these dual crises. We’re studying the impacts of the pandemic on reproductive health and making sure people can get safe, compassionate care. We’re focusing on equity in the care we provide, the research we do, and the environment we create to support our community internally. We’re highlighting our work relevant to these major historical moments in this year’s report.

While this year has been difficult, it has also been clarifying. We’ve seen that solutions that were once deemed unrealistic are possible under the urgent demands of this pandemic. Our commitment to anti-racism must and will deepen and permeate every aspect of our work.

With your support, this transformative year can feed our work toward a more just, equitable future.

“A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Jody Steinauer, MD, PhD

Cover Photo: Victoria Pickering  (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)
Family AIDS Care & Education Services developed a comprehensive approach to mitigating COVID-19 risk and spread, including reducing congestion at their clinics in Kenya by half during the pandemic by providing most of their patients with multiple months of antiretroviral treatment.

Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) researchers and partners created a protocol for no-test medication abortion to keep abortion care safe and accessible during the pandemic and beyond.

Zuckerberg San Francisco General continued to deepen equity work, investing in a Perinatal and Pediatric Equity Taskforce, an interdisciplinary group trained by the National Birth Equity Collaborative, tasked with making concrete improvements to the care environment via training and the development of tools for anti-racism.

The New Generation Health Center and Women’s Options Centers offered more telemedicine appointments, continuing to provide quality and accessible health care during the pandemic.

HIVE helped develop and disseminate best practices to provide gender-affirming health care to pregnant transgender and gender-diverse patients.

“Access to no-cost birth control is one tool that helps the people I care for determine their own future paths. Taking away that choice is an injustice that will have huge repercussions for my patients and my community.”

DR. KATIE BROWN in Truthout
IERH and course director Dr. Zoë Julian produced the learner-led and justice-informed “Structures & Self: Advancing Equity and Justice in Sexual and Reproductive Health,” helping clinical learners see how systems of power and legacies of oppression impact patients.

The California Prevention Training Center is leading a national, virtual COVID-19 training program to develop a contact tracing workforce with CDC funding. Seventy trainers completed the Training of Trainer program and have already trained more than 600 Case Investigators and Contact Tracers.

Innovating Education in Reproductive Health (IERH) released new videos to keep providers up-to-date on best practices for telehealth abortion and contraceptive care.

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““This isn’t about providing care that’s just as good as what pregnant people get now. It’s about elevating the standard of care we provide and giving patients across the state what they need and deserve.””

Dr. Biftu Mengesha on expanding access to midwifery care in CalMatters
Bixby members responded quickly to measure the impacts of COVID-19 on sexual health. Studies are exploring:

- Changes in access to birth control, abortion care, and pregnancy care, and how providers are developing new models to deliver this care across the US.
- How economic hardship and burdens of the pandemic change people’s attitudes toward pregnancy in the US and India.
- The impacts of the pandemic on birth experiences and outcomes in the US, with a focus on Black, Indigenous, and other people of color.
- Providers’ experiences of stress and anxiety in the US, Kenya, and Ghana.

“Sharing results with the people who are most affected by them makes us better researchers and ensures that our work can be used to improve people’s lives.”

**DR. JERRY NUTOR in The Conversation**

Dr. Brittany Chambers found that in Oakland, California, Black women in poor neighborhoods were more likely to experience racial discrimination at school, when getting medical care, or through the police or courts compared to Black women in wealthier neighborhoods, showing the link between racism and socioeconomic status at the community and personal levels.

Dr. Sarah Roberts showed that about a quarter of Medicaid-eligible Louisiana women gave birth instead of having an abortion due to the Hyde amendment.

**OTHER RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS**

- The first ever female-controlled HIV prevention method, a vaginal ring tested by Bixby partners at the University of Zimbabwe, got one step closer to market in areas hardest hit by HIV.
- The East Africa Preterm Birth Initiative’s package of quality improvement interventions for health care providers in Kenya and Uganda reduced stillbirth and newborn deaths among preterm infants.
- A clinical trial led by Drs. Craig Cohen and Anke Hemmerling found that the biotherapeutic LACTIN-V following antibiotic treatment was more effective in reducing bacterial vaginosis recurrence than typical antibiotic treatment alone.
Drs. Monica Hahn and Deborah Cohan led a letter to the FDA urging them to end the discriminatory policy of banning blood donations from men who have sex with men.

After a multi-year effort, California removed the unnecessary requirement for a physician to supervise certified nurse-midwives, a victory that will increase access to care. Bixby members spoke at hearings, met with legislators, testified at the California Medical Board and advocated in the media for the change.

California became the first state in the nation to require medication abortion care be available from state university health centers. ANSIRH research showed the need for care and capacity of student health centers to provide care, and researchers were expert witnesses at the state legislature.

Dr. Jody Steinauer testified before the legislature in her home state of Nebraska to oppose a ban on a common, safe, second-trimester abortion procedure.

Drs. Jody Steinauer, Christine Dehlendorf, Eleanor Drey, Jennifer Kerns and Nika Seidman participated in the Stop the Bans video campaign with ACLU of Georgia, discussing the potential impacts of the state’s draconian abortion ban.

We launched the Bixby Advocacy and Communications Fellowship, a new program to provide Bixby members with the training and support to share their research and expertise in the media and policymaking.

In June Medical Services v. Russo, the US Supreme Court struck down Louisiana’s requirement that abortion providers have admitting privileges at a local hospital.

ANSIRH led a social science research brief, highlighting their work showing that admitting privileges requirements do not benefit patients.


“These harms aren’t hypothetical: They’re real, deep, painful, dangerous, and likely to fall on the most vulnerable people in our communities.”

DR. JODY STEINAUER on common Catholic health care restrictions in Conscience Magazine
The UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health believes that all people have the right to dignity in their sexual and reproductive lives. Every day, we work to ensure that all people have access to birth control, abortion, sex education, pregnancy and birth care, and HIV/STI treatment – regardless of their age, race, ethnicity, income, or where they live. Your contributions make it possible for us to achieve these goals through offering compassionate clinical care, training health care professionals, conducting cutting edge, multidisciplinary research, and sharing our expertise in the public debate.

To give, visit makeagift.ucsf.edu/bixby