THE RESONANCE PROJECT: How Canadian Service Providers Understand and Incorporate Biomedical Knowledge of HIV into their Prevention Work and their Own Sexual Practices

S. Patten, M.A. LeBlanc, E. Jackson, B. Adam, G. Girard

**FINDINGS**

**Educational Challenges** – Service providers face complex challenges in providing HIV prevention information, advice and counseling to their gay men clients/patients. They must handle basic knowledge levels of HIV among some gay men, prevention in the context of the coming out process, dealing with difficult questions, feeling the need to err on the side of caution in prevention messages, diverse needs within ethnocultural communities, the complexity of research translation, the silence around HIV in the community, and the variety of physical and virtual spaces within which gay men connect.

**Risk Counseling Strategies** – Service providers described strategies that work for them in translating biomedical information to their clients/patients or to colleagues, to convey prevention messages to gay men, to explain risk, or to help balance various prevention options.

**Dual Role** – Service providers describe their experience of insider subjectivity - being both service providers to gay men, as well as gay men themselves. This dual role influences the type/tone of information conveyed to their friends/lovers versus their clients/patients, and has an impact on their personal lives.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Service providers are playing a critical role in implementing HIV prevention interventions that are reflective of gay men’s lives and new biomedical understandings of HIV. Special attention is required to recognize and mobilize the dual position of service providers who are gay men in shaping HIV prevention responses.


For more info: san.patten@gmail.com