

Introduction to LGBTQ+ Section meeting, from chair, Jason Schneider, MD

So, as we move through our personal stages of grief, where do we go from here? I've been giving this some thought. Some key words came to mind that fit nicely in a mnemonic (we are physicians after all)—“BCA” rather than “ABC”.

- “B” for “Bravery”—I intentionally wore my pink inclusive rainbow “Everyone” HRC shirt to the airport Wednesday morning. For a short period of time, I felt people in the airport were glaring at me, but quickly moved beyond the haze of self-consciousness. I, for one, am committed to being brave and creating brave spaces in advocating for our communities and using my privilege to give voice for those that have none. I encourage you to do the same and to let your colors shine.
- “C” for “Creativity”—Our communities have always been known for their creativity, despite adversity. We will likely need to rely heavily on those creative juices to push our important collective work forward rethinking our approaches, rebranding them in some cases, to ensure continued incremental progress.
- “A” for “Authenticity”—One small glimmer of hope (of several, actually) from last night was the victory of Sarah McBride, the first openly transgender person elected to Congress. Similar to how I remember Dr. Allison, Representative-Elect McBride truly embodies authenticity. In living her truth, she has been embraced by her community and elevated to federal office because of her commitment to her constituents and political prowess. Let her be an inspiration and beacon for us in these next years. Let us find our collective power in embracing our true selves, living authentically, and putting that on full display for the world to see.

Finally, check in regularly with your loved ones, your students and trainees, and your colleagues. Be kind to each other and yourselves.

Our work continues...