

Dear Allies in Medicine for LGBTQ+ and the greater RowanSOM community,

The month of June marks the advent of Pride Month as is celebrated by the LGBTQ+ community every year.

While the fight for LGBTQ+ rights had been ongoing for decades, the movement was very scattered. Tiny pockets of activists were trying and failing to gain any traction for pro-LGBTQ+ legislation and policies. However, a watershed moment in the push for LGBTQ+ rights and liberation occurred on June 28, 1969, at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, and lasted for 6 days.

The NYPD had a history of entering gay bars, some of the only safe spaces for LGBTQ+ people at that time, and actively harassing and abusing queer patrons for their own amusement and without cause. After years of this occurring repeatedly, the patrons of the Stonewall Inn, most notably black trans women, finally fought back in a large-scale violent riot against the NYPD that was widely publicized and gave birth to the modern LGBTQ+ rights movement.

Thus, the month of June is celebrated as Pride Month, in celebration of living an authentic and meaningful life, in memory of the endless battles that have been fought and won to afford the community the rights and privileges it has today, and as a reminder of the work that still needs to be done to ensure all members of the community are recognized, valued, and are afforded those same rights.

As members of the RowanSOM community, we hope you will join us in celebrating Pride, and that you will take time to reflect on what Pride means in your own life and the lives of those around you.

If you would like to read more about the history of the Stonewall riots here is a link to more information:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-48643756>

AIM club events to keep in mind for the upcoming year:

- *Meet and greet events with Rowan SOM LGBTQ+ faculty and students in the fall*
- *September 12th South Jersey Pride Parade- let us know if you want to get involved with organizing!*
- *Diversity Week LBGTQ+ health care panel in October, final date TBD*
- *Brave Space Training in November/December*

Sincerely,

Allies in Medicine E-board (Jessie Horoschak, Mark Conforti, Madhav Patel, Tara Young, Sam Durham, Tracy Tauro, Lisa Shah, John Johnson)