em dash podcast
Episode 1 Show Notes   Guest: Charlie Blotner

Podcast available at: www.em-dash-podcast.com

Show Notes

(00:00) Show Opener

[Intro Music]

Welcome to em dash, the healthcare podcast that gives you pause. My name's Kim Acquaviva and I'm your host. This season, we're exploring people's lived experiences of diversity and difference in the healthcare arena. We're on this journey together so let us know where you're tuning in from today. Take a selfie and tweet it using the hashtag #emdashpodcast. We'll do the same!

[Fade out Intro Music]

(00:20) Charlie and I talk about using Twitter to connect with people at conferences.

(01:14) Charlie answers these questions: "Tell me a little about your identities. How do you identify yourself, what identities do you have, and what words do you use to describe yourself?"

- Transgender
- Trans
- Trans-masculine
- Non-binary
- "I use They/Them pronouns, I'm also OK if people use He/Him pronouns."

(1:48) Charlie and I talk about gender and identity.

- "A big part of my identity has to do with just being comfortable with myself and just expressing my gender how I feel it is."
- "I think for a lot of other people that can be kind of a strange concept or thing to understand because gender, for most people – for most cisgender people – is something that isn't really thought about most of the time. But for me it's something that I think about all the time."
- " 'OK, I have to go to the bathroom, am I going to be safe going to the bathroom?'"
- "In a healthcare setting, 'what medications are you taking?,' well, I'm also taking testosterone but do I mention that during that interaction because that outs me as trans?"

(02:24) Charlie answers these questions: "Earlier today you mentioned that you began taking hormones while you were in [social work] school. How has that changed the way that you've been perceived – or has it? How do people read you, and what is that like for you going through social work school during this really important transitional time?"

(04:14) Charlie answers the question, "Does it feel strange being 'read' as a young gay man?"

(05:12) Charlie answers the question, "So as you think about embarking on a social work career, [it sounds like] this idea that you may be 'read' as a gay man is somewhat worrisome…How do you *want* to be 'read'"?

(06:14) Charlie talks about the experience of being misread as a gay man.

(07:00) Charlie talks about the challenges of trying to flirt with a girl who thinks you just want to be her new gay best friend.

(08:06) Charlie and I talk about the many layers of "identity" and about Charlie's reluctance to lose their connection to their "queer" identity.

(08:45) Charlie answers the question, "How do you think your experiences as someone who identifies as transmasculine…will influence the way that you work with clients?

(10:30) Charlie answers the question, "What do you wish other healthcare professionals understood about gender and sex and identity?"

(15:29) Charlie talks about putting a call out on twitter asking trans people what research gaps they wish healthcare providers and researchers would address.

(20:44) Charlie and I talk about body image issues in the transmasculine community.

(26:34) Show Outro

[Fade in Outro Music]

You've been listening to em dash, the healthcare podcast that gives you pause. Tweet your questions, comments, and suggestions to @em_dash_podcast. Music used in this episode of em dash came Jon Wright, who provided both the intro and outro music. Titles and links to songs used are available in the notes for this show.

[Fade out Outro Music]

Audio Used:

Guest Bio: Charlie Blotner

Charlie is a senior at Arizona State University finishing a B.S. in Family and Human Development before pursuing a master's degree in Social Work with a health specialization. Charlie is also a member of the Student Advisory Panel for Stanford Medicine X, helping to direct the new challenges facing health care education and shifting the culture of medical education to be more patient-centered, participatory, and patient safety-focused. Charlie believes that the focus of trans health research needs to shift so that patients can receive care responsibly and with as much information as possible, not just the bare minimum of the only information available. If there's one thing that Charlie understands and values more than anything, it's the power of the patient voice.

Follow Charlie on Twitter: @Cblotner_

Tags: Charlie Blotner, social work, trans masculine, diversity, difference, healthcare, LGBTQ