



## Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER** | **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

# Biography

Carey Candrian is an assistant professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine (UCSOM) and a Cambia Health Foundation Sojourns Scholar. She received her MA in organizational communication and PhD in health communication from the University of Colorado and received post-doctoral training in health literacy from the Institute of Communication and Health at the University of Lugano Switzerland.

She co-developed and co-directs the communication curriculum for the Master of Science in Palliative Care at the UCSOM. Her research explores how communication shapes -- and is shaped by -- perceptions, attitudes, and biases in the community. Race, gender, economics, language, sexual orientation, age, illness, and/or power dynamics can constrain people from having meaningful interactions.

This is particularly important in the context of serious illness care. How well do people understand their illness? How well do they understand their options? Do they feel comfortable disclosing their sexual orientation or gender identity when entering hospice or an assisted living community, what happens if they do, and what happens if they don't? How well are people able to talk openly and freely about what matters most to them? All these issues are inherently related to communication and interaction.

Carey's focus is on using her research and communication expertise to improve health equity for older adults who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) and those who care for them. It all boils down to this: If patients feel they can safely and openly be who they are -- and tell us who and what matters most to them -- we can offer them the support they and their loved ones want... when they need it most.

Her work has been funded by the National Institute on Aging, The Colorado Health Foundation, NextFifty Initiative, The Lesbian Health Fund, and the Cambia Health Foundation.

Originally from Tucson, Carey now resides in Denver.