

intact 2022

August 27-28, 2022 Atlanta, GA

16th International Symposium
on Child Genital Cutting

Sponsored by the Law Office of David J. Llewellyn and Intact America



Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center, Atlanta, Georgia

The issue of genital cutting/mutilation of newborns and children was brought to the forefront of discussion in 1989 in Anaheim, California. Since then, these symposia have convened biennially (when possible). This two-day event addresses child genital cutting. Experts from many disciplines including history, religion, medicine, anthropology, psychology, law, and ethics, will present their observations and findings.

Sponsors

Law Office of David J. Llewellyn
Atlanta, Georgia

Intact America
Tarrytown, New York



Schedule

All sessions will be held in the large conference hall except as noted.

Friday, August 26		
7:00-9:00 pm	Meet & Greet in Hotel Lobby	
Saturday, August 27		
7:00-8:45	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
8:45-9:00	Opening remarks, David Llewellyn	
9:00-9:30	Andrew Little, MGM Litigation	
9:30-10:00	Eliyahu Ungar-Sargon, Bruchim: New Horizons and Challenges	
10:00-10:30	John Geisheker, Septic Genital Tampering	
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-11:30	Steven Svoboda, Equal Protection and the Law	
11:30-12:00	Jeffrey Cartwright-Smith, Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics	
12:00-12:30	Kelly Floyd, Scarring Innocence	
12:30-2:00	Lunch	
2:00-2:30	Leif Thompson, Genital Cutting: Enhancement or Mutilation?	
2:30-3:00	Lena Nyhus, American Gov't. Interfered with Danish Initiative	
3:00-3:30	Norm Cohen, Circumcision as Totem for Jewish Continuity	
3:30-4:00	Break	
4:00-4:30	Steve Scott, The War Against the Genitals	
4:30-5:00	Travis Wisdom, Best Interests Principles for Intersex Children	
5:00-5:30	Trish Causey, What's in a Name? Canceled	
5:30-7:30	Dinner on your own	
7:30-7:45	Greeting from Marilyn Milos, from Forest Knolls, CA	
7:45-8:30	"The Circumcision Movie"	
Sunday, August 28		
7:00-8:45	Continental Breakfast	
8:45-9:00	Opening remarks, Georganne Chapin	
	Conference Hall	Breakout Room
9:00-9:30	Herman Bruyndonckx, Cut in an Intact World	Peter Adler, Indefensible to Circumcise Healthy Children
9:30-10:00	Ulf Dunkel, 10 Years of Debate in Germany	Tim Hammond, GALDEF
10:00-10:30	Break	
	Conference Hall	Breakout Room
10:30-11:00	Harry Guiremand, Taking It to the Streets	Greg Markman, Masturbation & Circumcision in America
11:00-11:30	Mathew Goodwin, Review of Circumcision Consent Forms	Carl Augustsson, Conservative Case for Intactivism
11:30-12:00	Anthony Losquadro, Don't Be a Bystander	
12:00-1:30	Lunch	
1:30-3:00	Panel Discussion: Race/Ethnicity & Intactivism Shelton Walden, Moderator	
3:00-3:30	Break	
3:30-5:00	Intactivism, Religion, and Culture Townhall Meeting	

A note to you from Marilyn Milos

I first witnessed a circumcision in 1979. I was horrified and immediately began researching the subject. Our local libraries, including those at the hospital and universities, had little or no relevant information. Then in 1980, Edward Wallerstein sent me a copy of his book, "Circumcision: An American Health Fallacy." This book became the foundation of my work. I told everyone what I was learning and appeared on local radio and television shows. I was contacted by an attorney who wanted to file a lawsuit asking if parents have a right to consent to a child's circumcision, or if the baby's body belonged to the baby. I found a plaintiff, and our lawsuit got publicity.

The publicity likely prompted a couple of local doctors—urologist Aaron Fink and Edgar Schoen, a pediatrician—to join forces and begin their campaign to validate both cultural and religious circumcision, in the form of a pro-circumcision resolution that Fink introduced to the California Medical Association (CMA) and Schoen took to the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Fink introduced his resolution to the CMA at its yearly convention in 1987, but the Scientific Committee voted it down. Fink came back in 1988 with Arthur Dick, a urologist, who circumcised a banana in front of the CMA membership, and the resolution passed. This was followed by a counter-resolution from Dr. John Hardebeck, who planned to present it at the CMA convention the following year. I knew that meeting was being held at the Disneyland Hotel. So I booked a hotel across the street for our First International Symposium on Circumcision.

I invited Dr. Michel Odent, a French obstetrician and childbirth specialist, to give the keynote presentation. He asked if there would be other international presenters and, when I told him I didn't have any, he said, "Well then, you need me." I invited Fink and Schoen, but neither came or even responded to my invitation. But those who did were eager to share their work or their experiences. This was the first time that experts from various disciplines—religion, anthropology, psychology, medicine, law, and ethics—gathered around the subject of circumcision. We were all thrilled by what had transpired. Dr. Paul Fleiss, a popular Los Angeles pediatrician who was both a breastfeeding and anti-circumcision advocate, also attended, and—at the end of the symposium—declared: "Marilyn, now we need to take this show on the road."

The second symposium was held in 1991 in San Francisco, and Dr. Ashley Montagu, anthropologist and humanist, gave the keynote address. Presenters and attendees alike were amazed at the quality, breadth, and depth of the presentations on this crucial human rights issue.

The joy of each symposium is the new material that has been presented, the medical research that has been done, and the focus on how we treat children at the beginning of life and how this affects society. Those who have attended our symposia have been enriched with important information about the issue and what's being done to end an anachronistic blood ritual. By coming together, we learn from one another, and become secure in knowing we're not alone. We have become Intactivists together and we have become a family.

In the following years, we held 13 more symposia around the world including Switzerland, England, Australia, Italy, and Finland; six books of the proceedings were published by Springer—the same company that published Wallerstein's groundbreaking book decades earlier. Our books are now in universities worldwide and being used in classrooms.

The Atlanta symposium (August 2022) will be the first I will not attend in person. While I'm sorry for that, that's life! And I'm thrilled to know these gatherings will continue—this time because of David Llewellyn and Georganne Chapin—as will the movement I initiated all those years ago just because I couldn't keep my mouth shut. As you can see, I still can't. Please, carry on...

—Marilyn Milos, RN

Presenters & Panelists

Peter W. Adler

It is Indefensible to Circumcise a Healthy Child and Grounds for Judgment Without a Trial

Genital cutting violates a child's right to bodily integrity, the right to be left alone, regardless of gender. Therefore, those who perform the practice bear the burden of justifying it. That will never be possible on religious or other non-medical grounds as there is no religious or other parental right to intrude into a child's body. Medical professionals will never be able to justify unnecessary genital cutting on medical grounds either as there is no medical need for it; it is harmful with little prospect of benefiting anyone; and any potential medical benefits that it might have can be achieved without it. Regardless, unnecessary genital cutting violates a minor's right to self-determination. Genital cutting is only justified during childhood, then, in the rare instance that it is medically necessary and the last resort, and when it cannot be deferred until adulthood.



Cutting a healthy child's genitals is criminal child abuse and it gives rise to civil lawsuits for battery, breach of fiduciary duty, constructive fraud (where fraud is imputed), and intentional fraud. Importantly, circumcised children have the right to prevail on the first three civil counts and to compensation without a trial as there are no material facts in dispute on those claims.

Peter W. Adler graduated from Dartmouth College (B.A.), Cambridge University (M.A.), and Virginia Law School (J.D., Law Review). He is a Professor of International Law at University of Massachusetts.

Carl Augustsson

The Conservative Case for Intactivism

The majority of intactivists lean left politically. As a result, the movement is often associated with the political left and with hippies. This is unfortunate as intactivism is for everyone. After all, no one's genitals should be cut, regardless of political background. We therefore need to make the case to conservatives that intactivism is for conservatives as well, as it is for everyone. I have been a lifelong Republican and I am myself intact. I am therefore a good person to make this point. I will be showing how intactivism is not only combatable with conservative thinking, it is actually the most logical position based on the values that conservatives champion. I will mention issues like cultural heritage, the Christian faith, personal autonomy, and free market economics, among other things.



Carl Augustsson. I was born in 1977 in the United States to a father from Sweden and a mother from the U.S. As a result of having a Swedish father, I am very lucky to be intact. I now have a wife from the Republic of Georgia. I spend the bulk of the year in Georgia, and I have citizenship in all three of my countries. I teach English and Political Science in Tbilisi and I have two children. I have 4 Master's degrees and a PhD and my favorite hobbies are world travel and learning languages.

Herman Bruyndonckx

Cut in an Intact World

When the issue of the adverse consequences of circumcision is raised, most people think in the first place about the sexual aspects of it. But it affects life in many more ways, it is so much filled with shame that the affected will do anything possible to keep it secret. No surprise that the general public remains unaware of it.



This is especially true when a cut one realizes being different of all of his peers; it leads to lots of confusion. There are similarities but also clear differences between growing up circumcised in Europe and growing up intact in the USA.

Although the presentation is not about narcissism there are many references to it since it played a deterrent role on several levels in the background. All together it leads to concluding remarks about the relation between personality and respect for someone else's body.

Herman Bruyndonckx, after his studies of Industrial Engineering electro-mechanics (minor automation) he continued with a MSc. in biomedical engineering and a postgraduate in medical biotechnology at the University of Leuven, Belgium. He has been involved in automation projects for the car-industry, environment, etc. but most of the time for the pharmaceutical sector. Member of the French organization 'Droit-au-Corps', one of the aspects of circumcision that keeps fascinating him is that it doesn't follow the normal rules of society. More insight in society comes from his social project in Guatemala. A project at home is keeping and breeding snakes being currently the worldwide most successful breeder of the endangered San Francisco Gartersnake. Snakes and foreskins have in common that the less they occur the more they are feared and give rise to misconceptions!

Jeffrey Cartwright-Smith

Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics

From acne to wetting the bed, there are few human ailments that American physicians have NOT confidently ascribed to the foreskin in an effort to justify their advice for its immediate amputation. After 150 years, most American physicians today still reference a laundry list of circumcision's purported "benefits", usually with little or no evidence. What's a parent to believe? What does science really say about this? And with



obstetricians, pediatricians, clergy, guidebook authors and ethicists all weighing in, I will address the proper role scientific research should play in health decision-making. We will confront the frustrating barriers that complicate research on this topic, and why there is so much controversy.

Jeff Cartwright-Smith received a B.A. from Amherst College and a Ph.D. in psychology and psychophysiology from Dartmouth College. He taught research in psychology at Vassar College before a business career in consulting on marketing, research methodology and advanced ("Big Data") statistical analysis issues for the medical/pharmaceutical industry. He is a grandfather.

Trish Causey

What's in a Name? How Phimosis, Smegma, & Other Terms Hinder the Foreskin Education Process

When speaking about the benefits of leaving boys & intersex children intact, foreskin educators often encounter the problem of terms such as phimosis or smegma, which have confusing or repulsive connotations in the minds of the general public. As an example, "phimosis" is both a physiologically normal state – in infants – but also a pathologically serious medical condition – in adult intact men. Also, the convoluted etymology of "smegma", combined with the cultural ignorance of internal foreskin microbiology, hinders any conversation concerning the foreskin's natural fluid production to keep the glans moist & to assist the normal gliding action. Even the term "foreskin" itself is problematic as it suggests the "pre-skin" at the penis' tip is the precursor to the "real" skin of the penile shaft. The purpose of this presentation is to provide updated terminology & definitions as well as offer support dialogue that other foreskin educators can utilize when discussing the benefits of leaving boys & intersex children intact at birth & through adolescence.



Trish Causey. Trish Causey is a fearless trailblazer on the Ascension path of raising humanity's consciousness toward sovereignty, freedom, & love. As The SacredSex Shaman®, Trish guides clients through transmutive experiences that transform their relationships and sex. Her philosophy, "Orgasm is the key to everything you want in life," is woven throughout her courses and modern mystery-school teachings. Trish has a particular focus on healing sexual trauma and ending all forms of sexual abuse. Her books include "INTACT: Men as They Were Born to Be" and her children's book, "The Foreskin Faery Teaches You About Your Intact Body."

Georganne Chapin

(panelist)

Georganne Chapin, founding executive director of Intact America, has fought for humane, cost-effective health care for nearly four decades. A lifelong opponent of child genital cutting, Georganne became involved in the formal intactivist movement after studying bioethics and human rights law in an evening law school program, and meeting (among others) Marilyn Milos, Steven Svoboda, John Geisheker, Amber Craig, and Dan Bollinger at a Washington, DC gathering in 2003. Georganne holds a BA in anthropology from Barnard College, an MA in Sociomedical Sciences from Columbia University, and a JD from Pace University School of Law. Georganne lives near Woodstock in New York's Hudson Valley.



Norm Cohen

Circumcision as a Totem for Jewish Continuity

This presentation will explore how the practice of ritual circumcision has served as a major force in the continuity of the Jewish people throughout history. I will analyze some of the theological, sociological, and psychological narratives offered in support of the ritual to help us



understand brit milah as a totemic phenomenon. I will forecast some developments that are likely as external and internal forces continue to grow against it.

I will explain the unique ways that the ritual creates a shared visceral experience of being Jewish that binds people together. It is this binding that perpetuates collective inertia against change in the Jewish community and transforms individual responsibility and choice into innocence and inevitability. The paradoxical claims made in defense of brit milah will be deconstructed to illustrate its underlying contradictions as well as the roots of its decline. The ritual has long been an unconscious source of shame among Jews, which explains their reflexive resistance to external challenges to the practice. I will propose how this shame, along with litigation, will lead to postponing the practice until the age of consent or to its abandonment altogether.

Norm Cohen grew up as the oldest son of a rabbi in a Conservative Jewish household. He has been an Intactivist for 28 years. Throughout that time, he has served as the director of NOCIRC of Michigan, with a focus on local activism and direct-outreach projects. He is currently writing a book for "Jews of no religion" who are interested in questioning Jewish identity, significance, and continuity. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of California, Berkeley and works as a software engineer.

Ulf Dunkel

10 Years of Circumcision Debate in Germany

In 2012, Germany came under the spotlight of human rights activists when a district court in Cologne ruled that the circumcision of a Muslim boy was physical harm. Since there was a so-called error of prohibition at that time, the doctor who carried out the circumcision could not be convicted. However, the court's decision could have resulted in circumcisions of boys that are not medically indicated being punishable in future in



Germany. The conservative government under Chancellor Angela Merkel reacted promptly and passed a law in record time that allows parents to have their underage boys circumcised without any particular reason. In an extra passage, Jewish circumcisers are granted a special right to circumcise boys up to the age of 6 months without medical legitimation. The law was intended to put an end to the heated German (and European) circumcision debate and to create so-called "legal peace". But the debate is no longer silent.

Ulf Dunkel (born 27 August 1962 in Löningen, Germany) is a German salesman, politician, author, composer and intactivist who engages since Summer 2012 to outlaw the medically not indicated circumcision of boys. He is father of five children and Greens politician. Through a poem against the German circumcision law, he became known worldwide in 2012 because he was unfoundedly accused of anti-Semitism. He has been running the IntactiWiki since 2014. Since 2015 he has translated important books on intactivism into German and is the editor of the completely revised standard work "Circumcision: The Painful Dilemma" by the late Rosemary Romberg.

Kelly Floyd

Scarring Innocence

In my presentation I will beg the question of what happens when the long held parental virtue of protecting a child's innocence is lost on society's collective desire to conform. If we are to remain vigilant in protecting children from harm, we must be able to define what constitutes harm, and we must not waver or compromise on any other front in which harm to a child is being normalized or accepted under medical intervention. When the religious reasons for circumcision were no longer as persuasive, medical reasons were created, so when does protecting children from unnecessary mutilation and harm become more important than following advice from medical institutions?



I will present what protecting a child's innocence means, what can be constituted as harm to a child, how to objectively assess harm, and how conformity to the collective culture may lead us down a path of compromising on our own virtues and making excuses for why some harm is okay. I will discuss how medicalizing circumcision became conflated with moralizing circumcision, and how we must detach ourselves from the notion that modern money-driven medicine holds the same virtue of protecting our children's innocence.

Kelly Floyd is a recent graduate from Georgia State University where she completed a B.A. in Journalism with a minor in Marketing. After graduating, she worked as a Marketing Intern for FAIR, the Foundation Against Intolerance & Racism, an organization advocating for the preservation of civil liberties afforded to all American people. She is an artist, writer, mediator, and passionate advocate for bodily autonomy and intellectual integrity. An aunt to 3 nephews and 1 niece, she is a resolute inactivist and protector of childhood innocence.

John Geisheker

Septic Genital Tampering: How the New ICD-10 Diagnostic Codes Make this Practice Irresistible

Changes to medical diagnosis and billing codes in late 2015 have enabled a widespread 'new,' tempting avenue for Medicaid fraud. International Classification of Disease codes, at ICD-10 CM N47.xx et seq., detail entirely normal infant anatomy, (or invented 'problems') and thus provide a presumption that the conditions listed require medical attention for healthy boys and deserve reimbursement for providers.



This means medical providers in the 16 states which do NOT subsidize circumcision, can --and do-- claim Medicaid funds for both post-natal and infant procedures on healthy children which are unnecessary and harmful.

John Geisheker, JD, LL.M., has practiced medico-legal law as an arbitrator, mediator, litigator, and law lecturer, for over 30 years. He is currently the full-time pro bono Director and General Counsel for Doctors Opposing Circumcision, an international physicians' charity based in Seattle, Washington. D.O.C.'s members and supporters oppose merely cultural, non-therapeutic, genital cutting of children —male, female, or intersex— on human rights' grounds.

John is a native of New Zealand, a country that fully abandoned medicalized male circumcision in the 1960's. He hopes his adopted U.S.A. will someday follow that principled example."

Alexandro José Gradilla

(panelist)

Alexandro José Gradilla is Associate Professor of Chicano and Chicana Studies at California State University, Fullerton. He holds undergraduate degrees in both Anthropology and Chicano/Chicana studies from UC Berkeley, an MA in Anthropology from the University of Michigan, and a PhD in ethnic studies, also from UC Berkeley. His areas of expertise include medical anthropology, bioethics, political theory (Marxist, Foucaultian), decolonial theory, institutional racism, racialization, cultural competency, gender, men's studies, migration processes and families. Among his other areas of interest are the macro and micro politics of motherhood among Chicana/Latina mothers, reproductive politics, the medicalization of pregnancy and childbirth, and Latino male attitudes toward circumcision and non-circumcision.



Mathew Goodwin

A Systematic Review of Neonatal Circumcision Consent Forms from Major Hospitals in Massachusetts and New York

To achieve informed consent, medical providers must explain the condition to be treated, provide an accurate description of the procedure, list all inherent risks, list potential benefits, and explain alternatives or non-treatment options. This study aims to assess the quality of neonatal circumcision consent forms at the major hospitals in the state of Massachusetts. We identified the top hospitals based on 2019 revenue and included other regional hospitals to supplement the dataset. Multiple methodologies were used to acquire copies of the consent forms since they are not publicly available. This presentation will discuss our findings in what is now the largest state-wide collection of neonatal circumcision consent forms to date. We will systematically examine the claims, risks, diagnosis, and research citations, and whether neonatal circumcision consent forms in Massachusetts reach the threshold of informed consent. We hope this study will further educate the public and serve as a catalyst for establishing new state regulations regarding neonatal circumcision.



Mathew Goodwin is the co-founder and Vice President of the Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund (GALDEF) and the Director of New England Advocacy for Intaction Inc. He holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology from Providence College and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Public Health at Southern New Hampshire University. His work experience includes 8 years of biology research and 8 years in biotechnology sales and business development. Mathew hopes to use his research knowledge and education to conduct independent studies to help enact meaningful health policy changes.

Harry Guiremand

Taking It to the Streets

Bloodstained Men and their Friends brings the Intactivist message to the streets of America. We do that through protests at busy intersections, campuses, and events across the country and increasingly with billboards. We generate mass media and social media buzz everywhere we go. The everincreasing willingness of print and broadcast media to cover us gives us an objective measure of our success. Thousands of people have joined our protests and the willingness of local people to join us in standing up for the fundamental human right of bodily integrity is also an objective measure of success.



Our greatest strength is our hardworking volunteers who have enabled us to consistently punch above our weight. Volunteers do everything from planning strategy, planning tours and logistics, producing and buying outdoor advertising, interfacing with media and local authorities, and maintaining a vigorous social media presence.

Harry Guiremand is a retired engineer who has for many years struggled to find better ways to do what should be the easiest thing imaginable: convincing people not to injure their own children. He joined his first Bloodstained Men protest in 2014 and decided then that the on-street and online actions of the organization can be an effective way to raise awareness and protect kids from genital mutilation. Harry joined the Bloodstained Men Board of Directors in October of 2018.

Tim Hammond

Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund (GALDEF)

Many communities of individuals seeking justice under the legal system for harm or injustice done to them have established legal defense and education funds. They do so to not only to educate the legal community and the general public about their concerns, but they also raise the funds necessary to support litigation they believe will correct the injustice done to them and/or prevent future harm to others. Several attorneys in the genital autonomy movement have endorsed the concept of such a Fund to raise a “warchest” for cases involving non-therapeutic male genital cutting. GALDEF is in the early stages of development and this session will share its vision, mission, and programmatic goals and explain what is still needed for its success.



Tim Hammond's pioneering contributions to the genital autonomy movement began in 1989 with the co-founding of the National Organization of Restoring Men and includes founding NOHARMM, producing 'Whose Body, Whose Rights?', publishing two large scale circumcision harm documentation surveys and a soon-to-be-published survey of 1,800 foreskin restorers, webmaster for the Global Survey of Circumcision Harm, co-founding the Children's Health & Human Rights Partnership, and establishing the Genital Autonomy Advocacy archives at UMass/Amherst. Tim is an Honorary Member of the Brussels Collaboration on Bodily Integrity and co-founder/Board President of the Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Andrew Little

A Current Perspective of Infant MGM Litigation and Regulatory Body Complaints

I am a 21-year-old Canadian intactivist and self-represented litigant who is taking action against the doctor and hospital responsible for my genital mutilation. My current proceedings are within the Superior Court of Ontario (civil lawsuit) and the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board (regulatory body for doctors).



I aim to push for change through directly confronting the individuals and institutions complicit in the persistent pattern of infant male genital mutilation. The issue has not yet had its day in court in North America, but continues to survive due to the aversion, ignorance, conflicted interests, and bureaucratic inertia of medical professionals and regulatory bodies. With my legal proceedings I hope to expose the problem to the Superior Court, raise public awareness, and set a precedent case that can protect others and inspire more similar cases. It will be incredibly valuable to achieve judicial enforcement of the rights that should protect all from genital mutilation.

Andrew Little is a twenty-two-year-old Canadian who studies in Québec as a graduate student in science. He uses regulatory body complaints and legal proceedings as opportunities to raise the issue of non-therapeutic genital cutting within the medical community and justice system. He is a self-represented plaintiff in an ongoing civil lawsuit against the obstetrician and hospital involved in his personal story. By confronting establishments that allow non-consensual infant genital cutting to persist, Andrew challenges its inappropriate privileged immunity. Andrew serves as a founding member of GALDEF—the Genital Autonomy Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Anthony Losquadro

Don't Be a Bystander. Lobbying and Advocacy to Influence Public Policy for Intactivism

How can lobbying help fulfill your mission as an intactivist? It's time to compete against the hospital and doctor interest groups for influence over state health care policy. Our issues are deeply affected by government decisions every day. How can we educate government officials on the harm of genital cutting and to take us seriously? Learn how we can expand our horizons to become leaders of change.



Anthony Losquadro is a native New Yorker and graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Currently involved with real estate development, his business experience includes solving real world challenges in marketing, legal, and regulatory areas. Anthony formed Intaction in 2010 as a 501c3 non-profit organization to apply his life's experience to achieve real impact for the cause of genital autonomy. He operates Advanced Devices Inc. a manufacturer of restoration equipment, and has a U.S. patent pending on methods and devices for foreskin restoration and reconstruction. He is married with two children.

Greg Markman

“Self-Pollution:” How Americans’ Historical Evaluation of Masturbation Contributed to the Rise of Male Circumcision

Early Americans, such as the New England Puritans, believed that masturbation caused moral, spiritual, and societal degeneration and therefore damaged not only the actor but also his relationship with God and his community. However, Boston’s publications of Onania, which was originally published in Europe in 1724, 1726, and 1742, popularized the idea that masturbation also caused physical and mental diseases, ranging from paralysis to insanity. Onania contributed to the start of over two centuries’ worth of publications about the insidious effects of masturbation, the culprit for countless diseases that, by the late 19th century, doctors tried to prevent or treat via genital operations, particularly male circumcision. People came to believe that genital stimulation was, at best, dangerous—and probably harmful. Instead of using a positive term such as titillation or the neutral term stimulation, they called it irritation. They believed that the natural penis is inherently defective and therefore pathologized and misdiagnosed its natural, normal, and typically only prepubescent condition as (always pathological) congenital phimosis. Americans’ historical disdain for masturbation and rejection of normal male anatomy and functionality predisposed Americans to accept male circumcision as a prophylaxis.



Greg Markman. Bachelor's Degree in History from SUNY New Paltz. After reading my essays on circumcision, Dr. Leonard B. Glick recommended I get a Master's degree in medical history and said I have potential to become a professional historian.

Lena Nyhus

How the American Government Interfered with the Danish Citizen’s Initiative for Genital Autonomy

In 2018 Intact Denmark launched a Citizen’s Initiative to secure genital integrity and subsequently autonomy for all children. The initiative immediately inspired Icelandic politicians to follow suit and two days later a legislative initiative to end non-therapeutic male circumcision was launched in Iceland.



As expected, the debate instantly flared up in Denmark as well as Iceland. A situation which leading politicians in Denmark as well as Iceland has described as the “greatest foreign policy crisis in national history” and the “most complicated issue to ever have been debated in this Parliament”.

In the process the American Embassy to Denmark tried to influence Intact Denmark to withdraw the Citizen’s Initiative. Of course, they failed. Several other American attempts were made to sway the parliaments of Denmark and Iceland on this issue. Some of them we can document. Some of them we know of from the grapevine.

Lena Nyhus founded the independent NGO Intact Denmark in 2013 and has chaired the organisation since. The organisation now has more than 650 members. Intact Denmark holds a seat in the Danish National Council of Human Rights. Intact Denmark is in running dialogue with the Danish national parliament, Folketinget, and with

the national media. Lena Nyhus has appeared before parliamentary committees multiple times.

Steve Scott

The War Against the Genitals - Notes from the Frontline.

This presentation includes anecdotes from my 40 years of research into neonatal circumcision. Gleaned from conversations with thousands of parents, academic scholars, and interviews with over one hundred circumcisors, a story emerges of the misinformation and lack of information that keeps the practice of neonatal circumcision alive.



From the irrational, often absurdly comical statements from members of the circumcision industry, to the heart-wrenching stories of parents who will forever regret their decision to surgically alter their child’s body, this presentation identifies the myths and cognitive dissonance that must remain intact in order for circumcision to continue as a routine part of neonatal care.

Steve Scott. As Education Outreach Coordinator for NOCIRC, Steve produced multimedia educational tools for parents and physicians, including the first detailed overview of the anatomy, innervation and physiology of the foreskin. As director of NOCIRC of Utah he presented at public education forums, nursing and midwifery conferences, and appeared on local TV and radio programs. He was a regular guest speaker for the Department of Ethics at Utah Valley University and the Department of Human Sexuality at the University of Utah and was influential in ending Medicaid funding for neonatal circumcision in the State of Utah.

Tora Spigner

(Panelist)

Since 1998, Tora Spigner has worked as a Labor & Delivery nurse, specializing in patient advocacy and education. Her current position is at an acute care hospital in Berkeley, CA, with a maternity population of 400 births/month. She is also a trained doula, promoting non-medicated birth, intactivism, and lactivism. Other activities include her role as adjunct professor in maternity nursing at Los Medanos Community College; serving on the Berkeley (CA) City Health Commission; and Treasurer for Mothers4Mothers Postpartum Justice group, which provides nutritional support, restaurant meals and supplies to Black mothers of newborns in Oakland and San Francisco. Tora received her RN/MSN degrees from San Francisco State University. She also holds a MLS in Interdisciplinary Technology from Eastern Michigan University, and BS in Medical Technology from Michigan State University



J. Steven Svoboda

Genital Autonomy, Equal Protection, and the Law: A Story of Two Judicial Decisions Seventeen Years Apart

An overview of the genital autonomy movement's progress toward genuine gender equity in our treatment of genital cutting practices, as well as signs of optimism and potential barriers to our making further progress. He will also discuss in detail two very different court decisions relating to the laws against female genital cutting in the US and in the UK. He discovered that the same judge was involved in a federal class action circumcision case in which he was a lawyer in New York and then, seventeen years later, was the judge in the case ruling that the federal law against female genital cutting (FGC) had to be invalidated because it was a matter reserved to the states by the federal Constitution. We can glean some interesting insights from comparing these two cases. He will also mention some recent European court decisions which are believed to be unknown, which his organization translated to English and then recently released the translations online.



J. Steven Svoboda graduated with honors from Harvard Law School and has a master's degree in Physics from UC Berkeley. Steven founded Attorneys for the Rights of the Child in 1997. ARC received the NOCIRC Human Rights Award in 2002. In 2002, for the first time, he presented male circumcision as a human rights issue before the United Nations. Steven unofficially defeated world-famous epidemiologist James Brady in a 2013 debate on the ethics of male circumcision. He has published over forty articles regarding genital autonomy in journals such as the Medical Anthropology Quarterly and the Journal of Medical Ethics.

Leif Thompson

Genital Cutting: Enhancement or Mutilation

My presentation would be a synopsis my experience teaching a four-part lecture series exploring genital cutting from a wide perspective, and in all its varied forms including: MGC-circumcision, FGC, cosmetic cutting, fetish cutting, intersex and transgender cutting, as well as penectomy/castration and sub incision. The theses proposed is that humans have an obsession with the genitals, and have repeatedly demonstrated a compulsion to cut the genitals, particularly those of others, and this may also manifest through societal pressures to submit to the cutting of the self voluntarily for the sake of genital conformity. It also explores the interface between medicalized cutting and cultural pressures within medical practice.



The class explores anatomy and function of the genitals, as well as sexual physiology, in detail. It makes explicit comparisons between male and female losses of sensation and function as a result of cutting, and forces direct moral and ethical comparisons.

The class also attempts to draw the distinction between voluntary, coerced and involuntary cutting as the salient moral distinction between practices, and not the gender of the one being cut. Finally it proposes an expansion of the ISSM

Leif Thompson was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he currently resides, practicing medicine serving Alaska Natives. He is also a man damaged by circumcision, searching for a meaningful narrative for his genital wounding. He has maintained an interest in issues of bodily autonomy, but is only recently becoming active in issues of involuntary genital cutting. He is a member of the International Society of Sexual Medicine and is interested in developing a theoretical framework for all forms of genital cutting (FGC, MGC, intersex, gender conformation, cosmetic, and fetish), and is specifically interested reframing the medical discussions over MGC.

Eliyahu Ungar-Sargon

Bruchim: New Horizons and Challenges

In this era of unprecedented disruption and upheaval, a series of subtle but profound shifts have been taking place in Jewish-American communities around the issue of circumcision. In some ways, the pandemic merely accelerated pre-existing trends. A new generation of Jewish-Americans has come of age, many of whom have rejected the religious identity of their parents and grandparents. But Covid has forced all Jewish-Americans to rethink the concept of religious community. This is the context in which Bruchim was born. Bruchim (the Hebrew word for blessed, but also part of the modern Hebrew phrase for welcome), started as a monthly Zoom meeting of Jews who think differently about circumcision and it has now blossomed into a full-blown non-profit that serves Jews the world over. In pursuit of our mission to make Jewish spaces more welcoming to circumcision objectors and their intact children, Bruchim has broken new ground by having conversations about circumcision in mainstream Jewish spaces that would have been unimaginable a few short years ago. This presentation will cover the successes we've enjoyed so far as well as the challenges that we face going forward.



Eliyahu Ungar-Sargon grew up in an Orthodox Jewish family in Brookline, MA. At age 13, his family moved to Israel, where he lived until the age of 19 when he moved to the UK to pursue a career in medicine. Three years into his medical degree, Eliyahu left medicine to become a filmmaker. After earning two degrees from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, he completed his first feature-length documentary, *Cut: Slicing Through the Myths of Circumcision*. In 2020, Eliyahu co-founded Bruchim, a non-profit that advocates on behalf of Jews who think differently about circumcision.

Shelton Walden

(panel moderator)

In 1994, Shelton Walden was a radio host and producer of Walden's Pond, a weekly public affairs program on WBAI, a Pacifica radio station in New York City, when a friend recommended he tackle the topic of male circumcision. One year later, Shelton interviewed Marilyn Milos, founder of the National Organization of Circumcision Resource Centers, live on the air. From that point on, fighting for the rights of boys to be free from genital cutting has been his life's work. Shelton also operates Walden's Pond Media, a video production company, and serves as a consultant to Intact America,



focusing on social media and the Intact America You Tube account. Shelton is a native of New York City and holds a BA in political science from Fordham University.

LAW OFFICE OF DAVID J. LLEWELLYN

Travis Wisdom

The Development of ‘Best Interests Principles for Intersex Children’ for Intersex Cases in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia

The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia does not adopt a human rights framework in its case law concerning medical interventions on intersex children. This paper presents current PhD research on my development of ten human rights-based best interests principles for intersex children. The Court can utilize my construction of these principles in order to find solutions to intersex cases that combine both children’s rights and best interests.



Travis Wisdom is a PhD candidate at the University of Adelaide, Australia. He completed a BA in Women’s Studies from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; MA in Human Rights, Globalisation and Justice at Keele University (UK); and a LLM in International Law and Human Rights at the University of Birmingham (UK). His research interests relate to bodily modification practices and human rights law, including genital cutting of children with typical sex characteristics, interventions on intersex children, and gender affirmation procedures for transgender children.

David J. Llewellyn is an attorney at law in Atlanta, Georgia. He holds B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Virginia. Since 1995 he has been actively involved in litigating cases involving genital injury throughout the United States. During this period, he has been involved in over 60 cases involving forced foreskin retraction of infants, botched circumcisions of both infants and adults, and botched “circumcision revisions” of adults. He has tried or settled 21 cases of wrongful circumcision of infants and has been involved in at least 7 cases that sought an injunction against the circumcision of a boy. He was co-counsel in the William Stowell case in New York during which he appeared on Good Morning America. He has appeared *pro hac vice* in state or federal court in 26 states. Active in the genital integrity movement, he has presented papers at several of the previous International Symposia and has appeared numerous times on radio and television. His firm’s website is



www.thecircumcisionlawyer.com.



About Intact America

Male child genital cutting (aka circumcision) is a hotly debated issue. Your support for Intact America will help us to spread the message that circumcision of baby boys—and the men they will become—is harmful, unnecessary, and wrong.

Intact America® is the largest group working to end child genital cutting and to ensure healthy sexual futures for all people. We do this by challenging social and sexual norms, and empowering our supporters and volunteers through creative messaging, advocacy, and education.