

FEATURED PROFILE

Jane McElroy

**University of Missouri researcher
Dr. Jane McElroy is uncovering
clues to better health.**

McElroy studies health issues, both in the general population and among LGBTQ individuals. She co-created Project LOLA (Living Out and Living Actively) to help lesbian and bisexual women better understand health matters and to provide more access to resources.

Much of McElroy's work relates to individuals with cancer. She has documented that a growing number of patients receive a breast cancer diagnosis over the telephone. Additionally, she has investigated ways in which queer-identifying individuals may experience greater stress during breast cancer treatment. She has also highlighted the fact that queer Black women experience unique struggles when diagnosed with cancer, yet little research exists on the topic.

In addition, McElroy found that, due in part to health inequalities, demographic trends indicate an increase in chronic conditions among gender and sexual minorities. She has examined causes of endometrial cancer and has worked with geographical information systems. And, in collaboration with physician Shamita Misra, she discovered that daily practice of Pranayama yoga could significantly lower blood pressure.

McElroy's findings have appeared in *Women's Health Issues*, *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, *Environmental Health Perspectives* and other leading publications.

Dr. Jane McElroy is an associate professor of family and community medicine with appointments in the schools of medicine and health professions.

