

Loren Schechter, MD, is Professor of Surgery and Urology and Chief of Gender Affirmation Surgery at Rush University. He serves on the Executive Committee of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH), co-authored the 7th Edition of The Standards of Care and served as co-lead for the Surgery and Post-Operative Care section of the 8th Edition of The Standards of Care. He authored the first surgical atlas concerning Surgical Management of Transgender Individuals and is a founding member and president of The Society for Gender Surgeons. Dr. Schechter is recognized by Castle Conolly and Chicago Magazine as a “Top Doctor.” Dr. Schechter has been performing gender-affirming surgery for over 24 years, including both primary and revision genital surgery.

Dr. Schechter is a past president of both the Illinois Society of Plastic Surgeons and the Chicago Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. He was the recipient of the 2013 Illinois State Bar Association Community Service Award for his advocacy efforts on behalf of the transgender community, was an invited discussant to the Pentagon in 2017 to discuss military service by transgender individuals and was a recipient of the University of Minnesota Program in Human Sexuality award as a Distinguished Sexual and Gender Health Revolutionary. Dr. Schechter serves on the Committee on Sex and Gender Identification and Implications for Disability Evaluation convened by the National Academies for Science, Engineering and Medicine and sponsored by the Social Security Administration. Dr. Schechter leads the team at Rush University who received funding support by PCORI for the multi-institutional study Support for Transgender and Nonbinary Individuals Seeking Vaginoplasty (STRIVE) Study, seeking to further understand outcomes in gender-affirming surgery.

Dr. Schechter received his medical degree, with honors, from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and completed his residency in general and plastic surgery, as well as a fellowship in reconstructive microsurgery at the University of Chicago Hospitals. While at the University of Chicago, Dr. Schechter was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society and graduated as the Outstanding Student in Surgery.