



PRESS RELEASE

European Institute of Women's Health hosts expert workshop on sex and gender in medicines regulation and medical education

As part of the FP7-funded European Gender Medicine (EUGenMed) Project, the European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH) organised a workshop on 4 March 2015, bringing together a multidisciplinary, multi-sectorial group of approximately fifty experts to discuss *Sex and Gender in Medicines Regulation and Medical Education*.

Peggy Maguire, Director General of the EIWH, opened the afternoon session and welcomed the expert participants. Dr. **Katrín Fjeldsted** of the Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) and Dr. **Petra Verdonk** of the VU University Medical Centre co-hosted the afternoon session, which explored the integration of sex and gender in medical education.

EIWH Board Member **Prof. Karen Ritchie** of INSERM, chaired a panel of speakers who outlined examples of best practice for integrating sex and gender in medical education. Dr. **Petra Verdonk** of the VU University Medical Centre presented the challenges of sex and gender mainstreaming in medical education based on her experience of integrating sex and gender issues in eight medical curricula in the Netherlands. **Prof. Dr. Margarethe Hochleitner** of the Medical University Innsbruck detailed the successful integration of sex and gender in different curricula at the Medical University, Innsbruck and gave examples of best practice.

Speakers from Charité—Universitätsmedizin presented their current efforts to integrate sex and gender in medical education. Dr. **Ute Seeland** of the Institute of Gender Medicine at Charité—Universitätsmedizin spoke on the extension of sex and gender knowledge in medical education through their online eGender educational programme. The next presentation was by **Sabine Ludwig** of Charité—Universitätsmedizin who explored how Charité Berlin integrated sex and gender throughout their new modular medical curriculum.

The second panel explored how to move forward and the opportunities to integrate sex and gender in medical education. **Prof. Dr. Hanneke de Haes** of AMC-UvA explained how communication was successfully integrated into medical education and discussed how this practice could be applied to the integration of sex and gender in medical education. **Kristina Mickeviciute** of the European Medical Students Association spoke on the identification of enhancers and barriers for implementing sex and gender as part of the medical curriculum. The presentation also addressed the sex and gender gaps in medical students' knowledge, expressing enthusiasm for student involvement in designing and implementing future reform efforts.

Dr. Katrín Fjeldsted of CPME discussed addressing the sex and gender gaps in medical professional knowledge through continuing medical education. Dr. Fjeldsted said, *“To ensure the effective implementation and application of recommendations, medical doctors and medical students must be involved in all discussions on medical education.”* **Prof. Dr. Harm Peters** outlined the role of the Association of Medical Schools in Europe (AMSE) as the European forum for medical schools, promoting and developing the co-operation between medical schools. The workshop participants also heard how the Association of Medical Schools in Europe (AMSE) sets standard and ensures quality of activities in medical education, including outlining its commitment to advancing equity and social justice. **Dr. Janusz Janczukowicz** of the International Association for Medical Education, (AMEE) presented on integrating and coordinating sex and gender into medical education cross-nationally and how medical education organisations can support and promote integration and co-ordination of sex and gender into medical education cross nationally across Europe. . He outlined the AMEE activities including their guide on gender in medical education.

Following the speakers presentations, EIWH Board **Member Sinead Hewson** of The Dendrite Group facilitated a discussion with participants on next steps, how to move forward to take action following the event. Next steps were outlined and recommendations to be incorporated in the EUGenMed Roadmap were made collaboratively by delegates. Concluding the session, **Dr. Verdonk** closed the workshop by saying that, *“There must be a commitment to mainstream an evidence-based gender perspective throughout medical curriculum, including in graduate, medical, nursing, rehabilitation, pharmacy, continuing medical education and continuing nursing education programmes.”*

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For more information:

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- European Gender Medicines Project website: <http://eugenmed.eu>