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MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION



April 2, 2024

GLOBAL RESEARCH ON THE STATUS OF SEX AND GENDER MEDICAL EDUCATION

To: Presidents of MWIA Affiliated National Associations

**Cc: Members of MWIA Executive Committee
Chair of MWIA SRHR Special Interest Group, Dr. Claudia Morrissey Conlon**

Dear Colleagues,

As you well know, MWIA Affiliated National Associations and Individual Members in different regions have been on the front-line of promoting sex- and gender-based medical education, and the area remains among the top strategic priorities of MWIA for the current 2022-2025 Triennium.

Let us hereby bring to your attention that MWIA members from the United States, Canada, and Germany have initiated a critically important research project to document and analyze the current status of sex- and gender-based medical education globally.

We are especially grateful to Prof. Kim Templeton, AMWA Past-President for her leadership in this research initiative in coordination with Dr. Claudia Morrissey Conlon, Chair of MWIA SRHR SIG and Dr. Jan Werbinski, Immediate Past President of AMWA

For successful completion of this global survey, we cordially ask for your usual support.

Specifically, we kindly request you to read the enclosed introductory letter from Prof. Kim Templeton (Annex A) and to complete the questionnaire <https://redcap.kumc.edu/surveys/?s=T89CYENEKJMA4778> before May 10, 2024 in coordination with national agencies responsible for quality assurance of medical education programmes in your countries.

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We trust that based on your experience you already have information on the above-mentioned national agencies in your respective countries. However, should you need support in contacting relevant counter-parts, please kindly use the following links:

1. List of higher education quality assurance agencies with the Recognition Status from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) <https://wfme.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/List-of-Agencies-with-Recognition-Status-and-applying-1.pdf>
2. List of higher education quality assurance agencies, that are currently the members of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) <https://www.enqa.eu/membership-database/>, or
3. Inquire the requested information from the Education Ministries or other relevant national education authorities in your countries.

We thank you in advance for your support and participation in this ground-breaking research initiative.

Respectfully,



Dr. Eleanor Nwadinobi
MWIA President



Dr. Mariam Jashi
MWIA Secretary-General

Cc:

Dr. Elizabeth Lichtenstein
Chair of the MWIA Gender Medicine group
MWIA VP Northern Europe

Dr. Claudia Morrissey Conlon
Chair of MWIA SRHR Special Interest Group

Dr. Jan Werbinski
AMWA Past President

Dr. Kim Templeton
AMWA Past President

Annex A

The Status of Sex and Gender Medical Education: what we can learn from global experiences

Dear Medical Women's International Association Colleague,

We invite you, in your role as an MWIA affiliate National Association President, to complete this 20-question survey looking at the inclusion of sex- and gender-based medical findings into the curricula of medical schools in your country, and at the status of proficiency testing. This research has been cleared by the MWIA Scientific and Research Committee and the MWIA EXCO. Participation in this study is voluntary, and there is no anticipated benefit or risk for participating.

By “sex- and gender-based medicine,” we mean the science of the similarities and differences in health and illness between women and men, girls and boys, across the lifespan. We define “sex and gender medical education” as education that incorporates (1) biological sex-based factors such as genetics, sex hormones, physiology, and immunology, (2) measures of gender such as identity, roles, relationships, institutionalized norms, and (3) interactions between the two, into medical school curricula. Sex and gender medical education is distinct from, but intersects with medical education on women's and LGBTQ health, and on the social determinants of health. Although growing attention is being paid to sex- and gender-based medicine worldwide and curricular resources are increasingly available, sex and gender medical education courses, if offered at all, are often elective, or they focus on a limited number of clinical conditions, e.g., cardiac disease. The optimum goal is to have sex and gender informed evidence-based content incorporated throughout the required medical school curricula with accompanying national proficiency requirements and testing.

This study aims to better understand the current reach and depth of sex and gender medical education globally by surveying its scope in the 38 countries where there are MWIA affiliated National Associations. Once data from the survey are available, analyzed, and reported out, this information can help guide MWIA efforts to normalize the use of sex and gender medical education—ensuring that scientific evidence, rather than outdated clinical practice, becomes the foundation upon which we educate the next generation of physicians.


We kindly suggest that you or the designated representative of your National Association, familiar with the medical education system, complete the survey questionnaire in coordination with relevant agencies in your country that are responsible for the quality assurance and accreditation of medical education programs. Engagement of relevant national authorities/agencies in the research process may facilitate collection of data that best reflects both the existing regulations and the actual status of integration of the sex- and gender-based medical education among the medical schools/universities in your countries.

The RedCap link for the questionnaire can be accessed here: <https://redcap.kumc.edu/surveys/?s=T89CYENEKJMA4778> The survey should take no more than 12 minutes to finish. By participating in this survey, you consent to the inclusion of your responses in the final report and any resulting publication. While the study is not anonymous, answers and comments will not be attributed to any respondent.

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And, a final request. Even if there is NO discussion of or momentum towards sex and gender medical education in your country, we ask that you apprise us of that situation by going ahead and responding to the survey. There are no 'right or wrong' answers. We simply wish to capture the current status on the ground in all 36 MWIA affiliates. Thank you!

With Warm Regards,



Kim Templeton, MD, FAAOS, FAMWA

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AMWA Past-President
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