

Gender-sensitive and Sex-specific Medicine at Hannover Medical School

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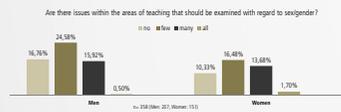
Implementation of Gender-sensitive and Sex-specific Medicine

Hannover Medical School's strategy over a period of seven years

In 2006, the project "Gender and Sex in Medicine" was initiated to support the integration of gender and sex issues in teaching and research at Hannover Medical School. Starting from a survey, various activities led to the foundation of the "Competence Centre for Gender-sensitive and Sex-specific Medicine at MHH" in 2009. Two years later, an evaluation by the Scientific Committee of Lower Saxony indicates: About 1/3 of the departments and institutes at MHH participate in gender and/or sex studies. Recently, a professorship with a gender and sex denomination has been initiated.

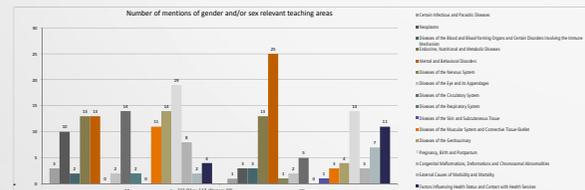
Survey in 2006

In 2006, the teaching staff at Hannover Medical School was asked about gender-sensitive and sex-specific issues in their areas of teaching with a standardized questionnaire. About a quarter of the endorsed professors and research assistants (total: 1833) replied. Just over a third of responses indicated that in learning objectives gender and sex differences were already integrated.



More than two thirds of the responses underlined however that there are gender and sex relevant issues in the teaching areas, which should be addressed as learning objectives in medical education.

The disease diagnoses "mental and behavioral disorders", "pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum", "endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases", "diseases of the circulatory system" and "diseases of the genitourinary" – according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems ICD 10 – were considered as highly gender-/sex-related and particularly relevant. Whether a diagnosis was judged as relevant from a gender-sensitive or sex-specific point of view clearly depended on the persons own gender.



Competence Centre in 2009

In 2009, the "Competence Centre for Gender-sensitive and Sex-specific Medicine at MHH" was founded. Among its short term objectives are communication, networking and terminology consolidation as well as the implementation of a gender-sensitive and sex-specific approach as a quality criterion in medicine. Long-term objectives include the involvement of all departments and institutes of Hannover Medical School in the Competence Centre's activities and cooperative research projects.

Special activities

A newsletter with information about conferences, grants and new publications is distributed quarterly (available only in German). Four conferences fully or partly dedicated to the issue of gender and sex in medicine were organized and also a series of so far 13 workshops for professors and students, e.g. in nephrology, cardiology, neurology, pharmacology or human genetics. Most of the projects have been funded by the Ministry of Science and Culture of Lower Saxony. This holds true also for the Maria-Goeppert-Mayer-Professorship in "Vascular diseases, sex and gender in medicine" initiated by the Department of Cardiology and Angiology and the Equal Opportunity Officer.

Evaluation

A baseline study within an evaluation by the Scientific Committee of Lower Saxony with regard to gender and sex studies indicates in 2011: 26 out of 76 departments and institutes participate in gender and/or sex studies, especially clinical and clinical-theoretical departments. 17 departments and institutes are members of the Competence Centre



Selected MHH Publications

Sliwa K, Forster O, Tibazarwa K, Libhaber E, Becker A, Yip A, Hilfiker-Kleiner D: Long-term outcome of peripartum cardiomyopathy in a population with high seropositivity for human immunodeficiency virus. *Int J Cardiol*; (2011) 147(2): 202-208; Sarikouch S, Koerperich H, Dubowy KO, Boethig D, Boettler P, Mir TS, Peters B, Kuehne T, Beerbaum P: Impact of gender and age on cardiovascular function late after repair of tetralogy of Fallot: percentiles based on cardiac magnetic resonance. *Circ Cardiovasc Imaging*; (2011) 4(6):703-711; Waalkes S, Rott H, Herrmann TR, Wegener G, Kramer MW, Merseburger AS, Schrader M, Hofmann R, Kuczyk MA, Schrader AJ: Does male sex influence the prognosis of patients with renal cancer? *Onkologie*; (2011) 34:24-28; Brüggemann B: Frauen und Männer in der Psychiatrischen Tagesklinik – Eine prospektive Untersuchung zu geschlechtsabhängigen Unterschieden in personen- und krankheitsbezogenen Merkmalen. *Psychiatrie-Verlag: Köln* (2010) 130S.

Miemietz, Verner, Burruano 2007; Miemietz B (ed.): forthcoming, www.mh-hannover.de/geschlechtersensible-mezizin.html, gleichstellung@mh-hannover.de

