Implementation of Gender-sensitive and Sex-specific Medicine

In 2006, the project “Gender and Sex in Medicine” was initiated to support the integration of gender and sex issues in teaching at Hannover Medical School. Starting from a survey in 2006, various activities led to the implementation 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 was conducted. About 1/3 of the departments or 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 (n = 1833) replied. Just over a third of responses indicated that in learning objectives gender and sex differences were already integrated.

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 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-Gasquet-Mayer-Professorship in “Vascular diseases, sex and gender in medicine” initiated by the Department of Cardiology and Angiology and the Equal Opportunity Officer.

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.

Selected MHH Publications

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