

Sex and Gender integration in the Swiss Medical Curriculum (S&G integration)

Newsletter 2 - December 2021

The S&G Integration project aims to guide and support the integration of sex and gender dimensions into medical and nursing teaching schools. It has obtained funding from swissuniversities (P-7 call 2021-2024: Diversity, inclusion and equal opportunities in university development). Initially developed by 6 medical schools (Lausanne, Zürich, Geneva, Fribourg, Bern, Basel) and one nursing school (University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland, SUPSI-DEASS), it has been joined by the medical faculties of Luzern and Neuchâtel. Two main activities are currently realized: the development of a reference core curriculum and the creation of a platform for sharing resources. Communication actions, involvement of different stakeholders and collection of indicators for evaluation complement the project.

The core curriculum is progressing

Establishing a reference document for gender mainstreaming is a good driver for exploring the ongoing courses at the various universities. Thus, even before reaching a consensus, this project encourages curiosity and exchanges: links are created, networks are formed, collaborations emerge. These are all positive spin-offs that will facilitate the implementation of the core curriculum. Each university has identified a contact person and is processing through working groups. The reference document will be finalised in the first half of 2022 and will be implemented gradually throughout the project. More: vera.regitz-zagrosek@charite.de virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

The platform is building its identity

Name, logo and layout were voted.



The platform will host teaching materials generously provided by teachers and researchers from the member institutions. The gathering of teaching materials is underway as well as their categorization in order to allow quick identification and sharing. The platform will promote general information about sex and gender to all and restricted access to persons affiliated to a Swiss university. Authorization and copyright processes are underway. The launch is scheduled for next semester. More: diane.auderset@unisante.ch

Collaboration

Contacts were made with students from the **swimsa** (swiss medical students' association). Two representatives are following the project and are very welcome: Matias Jacomet (Vice-President for Medical Education) and Emilie Luinda Kabasa (National Officer on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights including HIV & AIDS). Collaboration will be intensified to work on the role of the students in sex and gender integration.

Evaluation

In Basel, the curriculum is currently being revised: in this context, the needs of the students regarding sex and gender education are being evaluated. The survey has been developed in collaboration with students and questions address knowledge, skills and expectations. It will take place in December and will provide baseline information. Contributions of other universities are

welcome and modifications of some part of the survey according to local needs are possible. More: sonja.merten@swisstph.ch

Frauensession

For two days, 246 women from all regions of Switzerland took their seats in the National Council and discussed the most urgent measures to achieve equality. Motions were proposed by committees specially set up for the event. At the end of the session, petitions were formulated to be presented to Parliament and Federal Council. There has been a great interest regarding sex & gender and health dimensions and colleagues from Lausanne and Zürich were invited to present suggestions. The initial focus was to ask for the creation of a National Research Program (PNR) on gender and health and to support the inclusion of sex and gender criteria in public research funding applications to the National Science Foundation (FNS/SFN). Unfortunately, the final text of the petition has been rearranged and focuses on non binary sex and discrimination. In order to explain why this is not sufficient and why the original focus should be restored, we are working on an argumentation document to reintegrate the focus on sex&gender and health. Once ready it will be circulated. There is a need for approaching influential politicians to provide argued reasons and we kindly ask for your contribution. More: joelle.schwarz@unisante.ch

More information about the Frauensession: Deutsch-[here](#); Français-[here](#); Italiano-[here](#)
Link to the petition (see page 16): D-[here](#); F-[here](#).

Swissuniversities: 2nd round of call P-7

SUPSI submitted a project together with HES-SO and ZHAW: Sex and gender integration in the bachelor curricula of nursing, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy and it has been accepted. The project is starting in January and will contribute greatly to collaboration and co-construction of the S&G Integration project. It is a fantastic opportunity to progress in an interdisciplinary manner and we congratulate our colleagues! More information: tiziana.sala@supsi.ch

Think Tank Gender and Diversity /FORUM

While waiting for the gems platform to start, you are kindly invited to subscribe to the Think Tank newsletter to get information on the events: info@thinktank-gender-diversity.ch

Within the frame of the P-7 projects funded by swissuniversities, a Forum is being developed. It is intended to share information from the different projects and is a nice opportunity to communicate and exchange more widely.

PROFILES

“Médecine, Genre et Equité “working group in Geneva wrote a letter to Prof. Zimmermann, President SMIFK/CIMS asking to add two specific missing items into the PROFILES:

- One specific EPA: "Examination of female vulva (clitoris, labia, vestibule, hymen)"
- One specific SSP: "Physiologic, pathologic and post-surgical variations in female genitalia, including intersex and transgender individuals after hormonal or surgical treatment, and women after female genital mutilation".

Profiles committee found the request pertinent; each change in the Profile should go through a legal procedure that is currently being defined.

Press, media

Several press requests are regularly received by the different institutions. This illustrates the extent to which this topic is gaining visibility and interest in our society.

University of Zurich's media interventions, can be accessed [here](#).

Health and Gender Unit, Unisanté, Lausanne can be accessed [here](#).

University of Geneva:

- Angèle Gayet Ageron, [avis d'expert](#). 21.10.2021, 24.22.2021
- La disparition des femmes chercheuses en période de pandémie. 20.10.2021. Communiqué de presse [_F](#). Press release [_EN](#).
- De l'importance d'enseigner le genre en médecine. [le Temps](#), 17.08.2021:
- Campagne Clash: des [témoignages](#) contre le harcèlement. 22.03.2021

Selected scientific publications 2021

A. Gayet-Ageron, K. Ben Messaoud, M. Richards, S. Schroter. **Female authorship of covid-19 research in manuscripts submitted to 11 biomedical journals: cross sectional study.** *BMJ* 2021;375:n2288

C. E. Gebhard at al. **Sex- and Gender-specific Risk Factors of Post-COVID-19 Syndrome: A Population-based Cohort Study in Switzerland.** medRxiv 2021.06.30.21259757; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.06.30.21259757>

C. Clair, J. Schwarz. **Notre approche est scientifique et engagée.** [Rev Med Suisse 2021; 17:1243-4.](#)

A. Fauvel, L. Begert, I. Demirbas. **Quand la Suisse était «féministe»: une petite histoire de la féminisation de la médecine à la Belle Époque.** [Rev Med Suisse 2021; 17: 1246-9](#)

L. Aubry, R. Delacrétaz, E. Piccand, L. Rufener, I. Rrustemi. **« Le problème, c'est qu'elle est mal baisée »: la lutte contre le sexisme en milieu médical menée par les étudiant·e·s en médecine.** [Rev Med Suisse 2021; 17: 1250-3.](#)

J. Le Boudec, V. Schlüter, C. Barras, C. Clair, J. Schwarz. **Le genre en médecine : quels apports pour la pratique? Huit témoignages choisis.** [Rev Med Suisse 2021; 17: 1254-6.](#)

A. Legros-Lefevre, V. Schlüter, C. Clair. **Intégrer le genre dans l'enseignement médical prégradué : actualités et perspectives pédagogiques.** [Rev Med Suisse 2021; 17: 1257-1261.](#)

T. Buclin, L. E. Rothuizen, F. Livio. **Médicaments, sexe et genre.** [Rev Med Suisse 2021; 17: 1262-4.](#)

L. Michaud, S. Brovelli, C. Bourquin. **Le paradoxe du genre dans le suicide : des pistes explicatives et pas mal d'incertitudes.** [Rev Med Suisse 2021; 17: 1265-7.](#)

Atanas Todorov at al. **Gender differences in the provision of intensive care: a Bayesian approach.** *Intensive Care Med.* 2021 May; 47(5):577-587. <https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s00134-021-06393-3.pdf>

C. Clair, M. Dominicé Dao, A. Gayet Ageron, V. Schlüter. **Covid-19 : dans le genre on peut faire mieux!** [Rev Med Suisse 2021 ; 17 : 881-4](#)

Next meetings

- Working group workpackage I/II: Wednesday 26 January 2022, 2-5 pm, by zoom.
- Swiss gender health network: June 2022 (to be fixed), Ticino

If you wish to contribute to the newsletter, please contact virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

Our best wishes for the end of the year and
may 2022 be happy and healthy!