

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

Newsletter 4 – January 2023

Dear all,

We hope you are having a positive start to the new year and we are pleased to share the latest news on Sex and Gender Integration in Switzerland.

The S&G Integration project aims to guide and support the integration of sex and gender dimensions into medical and nursing teaching schools. It obtained funding from swissuniversities (P-7 call 2021-2024: Diversity, inclusion and equal opportunities in university development). It is supported by 8 medical schools (Basel, Bern, Fribourg, Geneva, Lausanne, Luzern, Neuchâtel, Zürich) and one nursing school (University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland, SUPSI-DEASS). Two main activities have been carried out: a national **reference curriculum for teaching** and the creation of **an electronic platform for sharing teaching materials**. Communication actions, involvement of different stakeholders and collection of indicators for evaluation complement the project.

The core curriculum is available!

The core curriculum represents the reference document for all collaborating partners in order to share a common denominator for the teaching of sex and gender in the different medical universities and institutions in Switzerland. This is a big step forward!

Recommendations were developed in line with the PROFILES (i.e. the learning objectives for medical students). This coordinated approach has identified 9 courses corresponding to 16 teaching periods that will progressively be introduced in the curriculum of all collaborating institutions. Additional courses may of course be offered depending on the context of each institution.

Access the core curriculum [here](#).

Thanks to all those who worked together in such a spirit of respect and cooperation!

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The GEMS platform has been launched



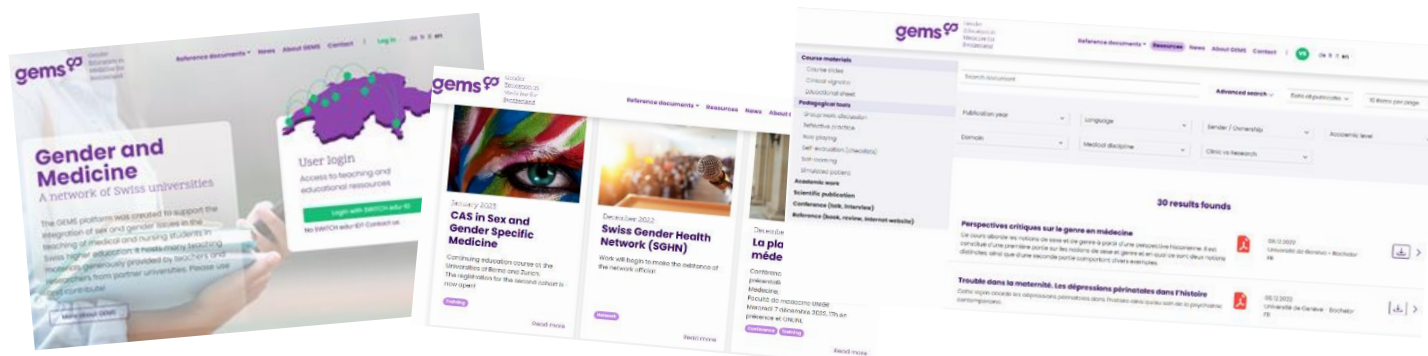
The launch of the digital platform to promote successful sex and gender integration in medical education is a first in Switzerland!

<https://www.gems-platform.ch/en>

Public pages provide information to a wide audience and access to teaching materials allows for effective and practical collaboration through sharing and downloading. Access to teaching resources is restricted to teachers working in Swiss higher education institutions.

WE NEED YOU!

Thank you for contributing to the development of this tool by sharing your course materials!
Contact: diane.auderset@unisante.ch



Collaboration

The GEMS platform will eventually host course materials dedicated to teaching in nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Contacts are underway with the project “Sex and gender integration in the bachelor curricula of nursing, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy”, funded by swissuniversities.

More: tiziana.sala@supsi.ch or Enrica.Massardi@supsi.ch

More partners are welcome to join our project. Please contact: virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

Surveys

Two surveys were conducted at the Faculty of Medicine in **Geneva**. First, among teachers in pregraduate (n=169 answers) showing that 51% of respondents were aware and taught the influence of sex and gender in health, while, among the remaining, 51% would agree to be contacted to update their teaching. Reasons for non-integration of S&G in courses were mainly because they considered it was of no relevance for their discipline (64% for sex, 60% for gender). However, 13 to 30% of teachers who did not integrate S&G in their courses thought they would change it in future.

The second survey was conducted among pregraduate students (n=267 answers balanced among 2nd and 3rd years in bachelor, 1st to 3rd years in master) and showed that 85% received some definitions for S&G, 94% were sensitized to the influence of S&G in health, and 67% to the existence of stereotypes/ biases that might influence their perceptions. However, 32% were not satisfied by the quantity and 19% by the quality of teaching received regarding S&G; 45% considered that S&G was not sufficiently taught in medicine, and 87% that it was the responsibility of the faculty to teach S&G.

More: Angele.Gayet-Ageron@hcuge.ch or Melissa.Dominice@hcuge.ch

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Sex and Gender-specific Medicine

Learn more and contribute to excellence in medicine! The CAS is organized by the Universities of Bern and Zurich. **Registration for the new cohort starting in April 2023, is open!** www.gender-medicine.ch

News from the Federal Parliament

OFSP/BAG Mandate

In August, the Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Geschlechterforschung (IZFG) in Bern received a mandate from BAG following the postulate 19.3910 by Fehlmann Rielle (Women's health: For a better taking into account their specificities). A report is being prepared, analyzing in which areas of research, prevention and medical care, women are disadvantaged. It will present what measures have been taken so far or should be introduced to ensure that the specific needs of women in medical sciences and the health care system are better taken into account. Collaboration with partners of the S&G Integration project is planned.

Motion 22.3868: Gender medicine. Women should no longer be an exception (see: [D F I](#))

The motion asked the Federal Council to encourage research in medicine integrating a gender approach via 3 measures. On the 29 September 2022, National Council adopted a. and c. but refused b. The motion will be debated at the Council of States.

- a. the creation of a national research program on gender medicine ✓
- b. the integration of gender into the FNS/SNF award criteria ✗
- c. increasing research on women's health ✓

Launch of new National Research Programmes (NRP)

78 thematic proposals were submitted to the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SEFRI), which retained 6, **one of which is Gender Medicine!** The letter of support has been a great help, thank you to all of you who signed it! The FNS/SNSF is currently preparing a feasibility report on each proposal and in spring 2023 the Federal Council will announce the winners (2 to 3 projects). The call for projects will be launched in autumn 2023. Till then, we keep our fingers crossed!

More: [here](#)

PROFILES

Taking advantage of the 2022 revision of the learning objectives for medical students ([PROFILES](#)), we sent two requests to the Commission of the Swiss Medical Schools.

1. Include physical examination of the female genitalia
2. Include prevention of sexism and sexual harassment in teaching

The requests were accepted but the exact wording is under discussion.

Think Tank Gender and Diversity /FORUM

Within the framework of the [P-7 projects](#) funded by swissuniversities, a FORUM has been created to inform about ongoing projects. Subscribe to the Think Tank newsletter to get information on the events: info@thinktank-gender-diversity.ch

Swiss gender health network

Currently, the network has more than 100 members from different institutions and hospitals across Switzerland. The members voted to formalize the network. The constitution of the new association will be prepared this year. More information will follow.

If you wish to be added to the members list or to take part in the formalization process, contact virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

Press, media

Several press requests are regularly received by the different institutions taking part into the project. This shows how much S&G -related topics are gaining visibility and interest in our society.

- **University of Zurich's** media interventions, can be accessed [here](#)
- **Health and Gender Unit, Unisanté**, Lausanne [here](#)
- **University of Geneva** [here](#)
- **University of Luzern** [here](#)

Awards and congratulations !

Credit Suisse Award for Best Teaching 2022

The prize was awarded to the course on prevention of sexism and sexual harassment in clinical settings at the Faculty of Medicine in Geneva, congratulation! More information: [here](#)

SGIM/SSMIG/SSGIM Prize

The Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) has awarded one of its five prestigious prizes to Elodie Huber, CHUV, Lausanne, for her work on "Sex-related disparities in management and prognosis of acute ischemic heart events in Switzerland". See the reference of the published article below.

Selection of scientific publications from the project partners

Sex related inequalities in the management and prognosis of acute coronary syndrome in Switzerland: cross sectional study. Huber E, Le Pogam M, Clair C. *BMJ Medicine* 2022;1:e000300. doi: 10.1136/bmjmed-2022-000300

Reflexivity as a tool for medical students to identify and address gender bias in clinical practice: A qualitative study. Geiser E, Schilter LV, Carrier JM, Clair C, Schwarz J. *Patient Educ Couns.* 2022 Aug 30:S0738-3991(22)00397-4. doi: 10.1016/j.pec.2022.08.017. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36075808.

Preventing sexism and sexual harassment in medical schools by using Theater of the Oppressed as an interactive and reflexive tool. Lüthi E, Pichonnaz L, Schwarz J, Morier-Genoud P, Dayer C, Rrustemi I, Schilter L, Berney A, John C, Dubois J, Rodondi PY, Clair C. *BMC Res Notes.* 2022 Jun 3;15(1):192. doi: 10.1186/s13104-022-06084-2. PMID: 35659342; PMCID: PMC9166485.

If you have questions or wish to contribute to the newsletter, please contact
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Wishing you a happy and wonderful New Year!