

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

## Newsletter 5 – July 2023

Dear all,

We are delighted to share with you the latest developments in the S&G Integration project, which continues to progress well!

As a reminder, 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 and is supported by **10 institutions** (SUPSI, UniBasel, UniBern, UniFribourg, UniGeneva, UniLausanne, UniLuzern, UniNeuchâtel, UniZurich, ETHZurich). The project consists of two main activities: **developing a national reference curriculum for teaching** and **creating an electronic platform for sharing teaching materials**.

## NEWS FROM THE CORE CURRICULUM

The core curriculum serves as the reference document for all collaborating partners involved in the teaching of sex and gender in the medical university faculties and institutions in Switzerland. It also represents the common goal towards a unified teaching of S&G within the different curricula of the different institutions.

**So far, it has been signed by seven institutions and others are working on it.**

**→ Implementation will be the focus of the next period.**

### We have welcomed new partners!

**ETH Zurich** has signed up to the core curriculum and has become a partner on the GEMS platform. ETH offers a Bachelor's degree in medicine, so we are thrilled to welcome them on board!

We are also in close contact with the **Università della Svizzera italiana (USI)** which has joined us as a GEMS partner. USI offers a Master's degree in medicine for students mainly from the ETH and the University of Basel and Zurich. In 2022-2023, 4 courses on gender medicine were introduced, which is wonderful news!

As a reminder, the core curriculum aligns with [PROFILES](#) and lists 9 courses. While some specific courses are considered essential (e.g. introduction to sex and gender; prevention of sexism and sexual harassment), most courses can be integrated within the existing curriculum (e.g. gender in pharmacology, sex and gender in clinical settings) allowing for a transversal integration throughout the university studies. Depending on the context of each institution, additional courses may of course be offered.

You can access the core curriculum [here](#).

More information can be obtained by contacting: [vera.regitz-zagrosek@charite.de](mailto:vera.regitz-zagrosek@charite.de) or [virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch](mailto:virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch)

## THE GEMS PLATFORM IS GRADUALLY BEING ENRICHED

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



Gender  
Education for  
Medicine in  
Switzerland

The publicly accessible web pages provide information for a wider audience, while access to the teaching resources is restricted to people teaching in Swiss higher education institutions. So far, 32 teaching materials have been uploaded to the GEMS platform.



**We extend a special thank you to all the teachers who have already contributed to the platform!**

**WE NEED YOU!**  
**WHY NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE PLATFORM  
AND SHARE YOUR TEACHING MATERIAL?**  
Contact your [moderator](#) or [virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch](mailto:virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch)



## NEWS FROM THE FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

### ➤ **Launch of a new National Research Program (NRP)**

Out of 78 projects submitted to the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SEFRI), “Gender Medicine and Health” is one of the four projects selected!

With a budget of 11.1 million Swiss francs over four years, it aims to create a knowledge base for the inclusion of sex and gender aspects in medical research, medicine and healthcare in Switzerland.

Calls for project proposals will be launched on behalf of the SNF/FNS between now and December 2023. To find out more, visit the website [here](#).

The letter of support has been a great help, a big thank you to those of you who signed it!

### ➤ **OFSP/BAG Mandate**

In response to postulate [19.3910](#) from Fehlmann Rielle (Women's health: For a better taking into account their specificities), the Interdisziplinäres Zentrum für Geschlechterforschung (IZFG) in Bern and the Berner Fachhochschule (BFH) received a mandate from the BAG/OFSP in August 2022 to prepare a scientific report.

The report was prepared in two steps: (1) an analysis of the current situation in Switzerland based on a literature review and interviews with experts; and (2) stakeholders meetings to develop measures to be implemented in 6 domains (research, drug development and treatment; detection and diagnosis; prevention; rehabilitation, aftercare and long-term care; education, training and continuing education of health professionals; and the health care workforce). The report has been submitted to the OFSP/BAG and we will inform you when it becomes available.

### ➤ **[Motion 22.3868](#): Gender medicine. Women should no longer be an exception**

The motion was rejected on June 14<sup>th</sup> (!) on the grounds that a report is expected following the Fehlmann Rielle motion and that a new NRP on health and gender has been accepted.

However, the minority of the Social Security and Health commission pointed out that the integration of gender into the SNSF/SNF award criteria has still not been achieved.

## PROFILES



We were invited to present the core curriculum and the GEMS platform to the SMIFK-CIMS (in charge of the PROFILES) on 21<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and we were commended for our work.

Our project provides input for reflection on gender integration into the continuing medical education program.

## THINK TANK GENDER AND DIVERSITY /FORUM

As part of the [P-7 projects](#) funded by swissuniversities, a FORUM has been created to provide information about ongoing projects. You can access it [here](#) and discover all the supported projects.

## SWISS GENDER HEALTH NETWORK

SAVE THE DATE !

The next hybrid meeting will take place on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November from 1pm to 5pm in Bern**. A remote connection will also be offered. The program is currently being finalized, and further details will follow soon.

The network has over 120 members from various universities, institutions and hospitals in Switzerland, and is in the process of being officially established.

If you wish to be added to the members list, contact [virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch](mailto:virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch)

## SELECTION OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS FROM THE PROJECT PARTNERS

[Analysis of peer reviewers' response to invitations by gender and geographical region: cohort study of manuscripts reviewed at 21 biomedical journals before and during covid-19 pandemic.](#) Ben

Messaoud K, Schroter S, Richards M, [Gayet-Ageron A](#). BMJ. 2023 Jun 13;381:e075719. doi: 10.1136/bmj-2023-075719

[Exposure of medical students to sexism and sexual harassment and their association with mental health: a cross-sectional study at a Swiss medical school.](#) Barbier JM, Carrard V, Schwarz J, Berney S, Clair C, Berney A. BMJ Open. 2023 Apr 27;13(4):e069001. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2022-069001. PMID: 37105707; PMCID: PMC10151891.

[The influence of patient gender on medical students' care: Evaluation during an objective structured clinical examination.](#) Le Boudec J, Félix S, Gachoud D, Monti M, Schuler Barazzoni M, Clair C. 2023/02. Patient Education and Counseling p. 107655. Peer-reviewed. doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2023.107655

## PRESS, MEDIA

Press requests are regularly received by the different institutions taking part into the project. This reflects on how S&G -related topics are gaining in 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](#)

## CURRENT LEGISLATIVE PROJECT: REVISION OF ORDINANCES

BAG/OFSP are revising the implementing provisions for the Human Research Act in order to align them with national and international developments in human research. This is an opportunity to add aspects related to sex and gender.

The health and gender Unit at Unisanté - Lausanne has worked with several actors (lead by Dominique Sprumont) on a revision and is happy to share it with you. Two themes were combined: sustainability and gender. In order to ease the process, you can access the document on a [Google drive](#). **Please do not modify the online version!** You can copy it into a new form for your institution or in your name and choose whether or not to modify it. You can address both themes or just one, depending on your preference. Please provide bilingual comments in German and French. **Deadline for submission is August 16.**

For further information, please contact [Joelle.schwarz@unisante.ch](mailto:Joelle.schwarz@unisante.ch) or [Carole.clair@unisante.ch](mailto:Carole.clair@unisante.ch) or [Dominique.Sprumont@unine.ch](mailto:Dominique.Sprumont@unine.ch)

More information [here](#)

## NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON GOOD GOVERNANCE PRACTICE FOR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

The guidelines were drafted by a working group of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS). They offer research institutions detailed and specific advice on how to implement existing ethical and professional standards. As the issue of sex and gender in research is addressed, we invited you to send your comments. Circulation is now over and we will let you know when the final draft is available.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION: CERTIFICATE OF ADVANCED STUDIES (CAS)

### ➤ CAS Santé et diversités: comprendre et pratiquer les approches transculturelles

This CAS is organized by the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne and is given in French. The next edition starts in January 2024.

For more information, visit the page: <https://www.unige.ch/formcont/cours/sante-divers>

### ➤ CAS in Sex and Gender-specific Medicine

If you are interested in the CAS organized by the Universities of Bern and Zurich, visit the page: [www.gender-medicine.ch](http://www.gender-medicine.ch)

You can also book modules individually!

Thank you for your interest in the S&G Integration project. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us! [virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch](mailto:virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch)

Access to the previous newsletter [here](#)

**Best wishes for an inspiring and relaxing summer!**