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Education, Training and Health Literacy

Sex and Gender in Medical Education

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Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health



Background



- Medicine is a field that is constantly changing. Diversity issues, which include gender/sex and sexual orientation, represent an important area of change in knowledge and also have a great influence on health, disease, health behaviour and medicine in general. Sex and gender medicine is a novel field that is rapidly growing in knowledge and importance.
- This raises the question on how this should be implemented in medical education?

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Central Issues



1. Current education on gender medicine at medical faculties is not sufficient to prepare medical students for future practice.
2. Insufficient published research or clinical studies into sex and gender difference.
3. The regulation of medical education in Europe is the responsibility of individual Member States not the European Union (EU)

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Recommendations



1. Raise awareness and increase knowledge on gender medicine and related topics from the very beginning of medical school by making it part of the core curriculum of medical school, nursing and pharmacy.
2. Incorporate these actions in already existing subjects within the core curriculum without developing a new subject. This can be done in highlighting symptoms, treatment and special diagnostic features regarding the concept of a diverse society in current subjects.
3. Educate teachers on the importance of integrating sex and gender medicine into medical education and medical training.
4. Encourage student organizations to train future healthcare professionals on the importance sex and gender medicine in future practice.

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