

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

Newsletter 6 – February 2024

Dear project partners,

Dear members of the Swiss Gender Health Network,

We are entering the fourth year of the sex and gender integration project, which is also the last one funded by swissuniversities. It's the perfect time to review the work we have achieved and to look into the future with confidence! We are motivated and driven by the excellent and supportive relationships we have built up between colleagues and universities. We are in the process of clarifying strategies to keep advancing the project as there is still a lot to be done to achieve equality of care and fight discrimination, whether it is linked to sex, gender or other intersectional factors!

The S&G Integration project aims to guide and support the integration of sex and gender dimensions into medical and nursing teaching schools. Three years after its implementation, **11 institutions** across Switzerland are on board : ETH, SUPSI, UniBasel, UniBern, UniFribourg, UniGeneva, UniLausanne, UniLuzern, UniNeuchâtel, UniZurich, USI. Partner expansion is underway, encompassing nursing, physiotherapy and occupational therapy schools and we are thrilled about this development.

The future is promising, and we hope you enjoy our latest update!

The GEMS platform is increasing its visibility



Gender
Education for
Medicine in
Switzerland



For those unfamiliar with the platform, visit <https://www.gems-platform.ch/en>. The GEMS platform is the communication tool for the S&G integration project and the reference tool for inspiration in the preparation of teaching resources. Currently, 35 teaching materials are accessible exclusively to educators in Swiss higher education institutions via the GEMS platform.

At its launch on 9 November 2022, the platform recorded 153 visits. This number has risen to 2409 visits in 2023. Of these, 83.5% (n=1735) originated from Switzerland, 141 from France, and 63 from Germany.

Check out the [NEWS](#) page to find out about ongoing conferences, congresses and relevant gender news and let us know if you want to contribute further information to our news page.

Would you like to contribute? Please contact the [moderator](#) at your university or virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

NEWS FROM A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

National Research Program on Gender Medicine and Health (NRP 83)

Boasting a budget of 11.1 million Swiss francs over four years, NRP 83 aims to establish a knowledge base for the implementation of sex and gender aspects in health research, medicine and public health in Switzerland.



A call for proposals is now open, with a submission deadline of March 14th, 2024.

Three dimensions will be considered:

1. Sex/gender as a determinant of health
2. Sex/gender in health care and clinical practice
3. Sex/gender at the public health and policy levels

We are proud to announce that Prof. Carole Clair and Dr. Tanja Volm, both partners in the S&G integration project, are in the NRP83 Steering Committee, with Carole Clair as Chair.

Find all information about the NRP83 and the call [here](#)

Good to know!

Sex and gender are gaining in recognition within the Federal administration.

- NRP83 is cited as one of the health research priorities 2025-2028 at the Federal Office of Public Health. More information, can be found here: [DE / F / I](#)
- The Federal Council has agreed that gender needs be taken more into account in the Confederation's studies and statistics. More information, can be found here: [DE / F / I](#)

News from the sex and gender integration in the nursing, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy bachelor curricula

The project is developed by DEASS-SUPSI in collaboration with other Swiss Universities of applied sciences such as ZHAW and HES-SO. It aims to raise awareness among universities of applied sciences in healthcare sciences and build disciplinary competencies that take into account sex and gender determinants.

It involves a review of international literature with the purpose of defining a core curriculum for nursing, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy programs. Additionally, it includes a survey conducted through a structured questionnaire to identify the current state of inclusion of sex and gender-related topics in various educational activities.

The results will enable the development of educational content that will be made available to lecturers through the GEMS platform, designed to facilitate the sharing of sex and gender-related issues in teaching and developed as part of the S&G integration project.

For further information, please contact: tiziana.sala@supsi.ch

SAVE-THE-DATE

7th March 2024, 17.30-19.00: Café de l'Egalité, Université de Genève

«LE CONSENTEMENT DANS LES SOINS»

Conference round table, in FRENCH. With Dre Lorena Mackinnon Lacasa, Lucie Milani, Léa Gonik, Dre Aude Fauvel.

More information can be found [here](#).

10th September 2024, CLOSING EVENT of S&G integration project

Support by swissuniversities will come to an end in 2024. A closing event is being organized at the University of Luzern.

The morning will focus on why integrating sex and gender into medical education is so important, presenting concrete results, while discussing future objectives and perspectives with the key stakeholders.

The afternoon will focus on practical considerations and support for sex and gender teaching. We are expecting participants from different backgrounds and a wide range of interests!

More information can be found on the [GEMS news page](#).

10th September 2024, OFFICIAL LAUNCHING of the Swiss gender health network

The Constituent Assembly will be held after the closing event of the S&G integration project in Luzern. The Articles of the Association will be voted on and the representatives elected. A remote connection will be provided.

The network, now comprising over 140 members from various professional backgrounds throughout Switzerland, continues to grow. Seize the opportunity to contribute to this new association! Further details will be shared in May.

To join the members' list, contact virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

7th & 8th November 2024. Closing conference of the Program P-7 “Diversity, Inclusion and Equal Opportunities in University Development (2021-2024)” – Kornhausforum, Bern

The event is organised by swissuniversities and the Think Tank Gender & Diversity. Thursday morning: Opening by swissuniversities. Global perspective with a focus on the political and institutional importance. From Thursday afternoon: presentation of the project results by the Think Tank Forum Gender & Diversity. These will be brought together in thematic, focal points and discussed with a view to knowledge building and implementation.

More information to come: [here](#)

14th & 15th November 2024. Sex and gender disparities in pain. Kurs- und Kulturhaus, Aarau

A two-day conference is being organised jointly by the Swiss gender health network and the Swiss Pain Society. The program is currently being drawn up. More information will be soon available on the GEMS news page.

MORE ON SEX AND GENDER INITIATIVES

Job offer

As part of its research and teaching activities on the topic of gender in health and medicine, the Health and Gender Unit, Unisanté - Lausanne, is looking for a **Postdoc - Research Fellow (60 - 100%)**

More information [here](#).

Launch of the SNF project MEDIF at the CHUV-University of Lausanne

La “médecine féminine” (MEDIF) is the exploration of women's contributions to medical innovation between French-speaking Switzerland and France, 1867-1939. It is a 4-year research project dedicated to studying the history of the first female doctors in Switzerland and France.

It gathers a team of 2 PI (Dre Aude Fauvel and Prof. Rémy Amouroux), 2 doctoral students, 1 postdoc, and 2 partners (including Joëlle Schwarz of Unisanté).

More information on <https://data.snf.ch/grants/grant/215100>

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

It is time to register for the 2024-2025 session! **Deadline is 17 March 2024**

The course can be attended over one or two years. It is also possible to only book and attend individual modules!

www.gender-medicine.ch

Press, media

To review the press requests received by the different institutions taking part into the project.

- **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](#)

Selection of scientific publications from the project partners

Influence of a sexism and sexual harassment prevention course on medical students' perceptions of and responses to problematic situations. Evéquo, Y., Pichonnaz, L. & Dubois, J. BMC Med Educ 23, 939 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-023-04902-0>

Beyond sex and gender: Call for an intersectional feminist approach in biomedical research. Jeanne M. Barbier, Joëlle Schwarz. European Journal of Internal Medicine, 2024, ISSN 0953-6205. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejim.2023.12.024>

Gender-based differential management of acute low back pain in the emergency department: A survey based on a clinical vignette. Schilter LV, Le Boudec JA, Hugli O, Locatelli I, Staeger P, Della Santa V, Frochoux V, Rutschmann O, Bieler S, Ribordy V, Fournier Y, Decosterd D, Clair C. Womens Health (Lond). 2024 Jan-Dec;20:17455057231222405. doi: 10.1177/17455057231222405. PMID: 38282544 Free PMC article.

Role of sex and gender-related variables in development of metabolic syndrome: A prospective cohort study. Alipour P, Azizi Z, Raparelli V, Norris CM, Kautzky-Willer A, Kublickiene K, Herrero MT, Emam KE, Vollenweider P, Preisig M, Clair C, Pilote L. Eur J Intern Med. 2023 Oct 17:S0953-6205(23)00352-7. doi: 10.1016/j.ejim.2023.10.006. Online ahead of print. PMID: 37858442

Women Are Underrepresented Among Authors of Retracted Publications: Retrospective Study of 134 Medical Journals. Sebo P, Schwarz J, Achdari M, Clair C. J Med Internet Res. 2023 Oct 6;25:e48529. doi: 10.2196/48529. PMID: 37801343 Free PMC article.

Smoking and Diabetes: Sex and Gender Aspects and Their Effect on Vascular Diseases. Tramunt B, Rouland A, Durlach V, Vergès B, Thomas D, Berlin I, Clair C. Can J Cardiol. 2023 May;39(5):681-692. doi: 10.1016/j.cjca.2023.01.018. Epub 2023 Jan 23. PMID: 36702239 Free article. Review.

Thank you for your interest in the S&G Integration project.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact virginie.schlueter@unisante.ch

Access to the previous newsletter [here](#)

Best wishes for a healthy and dynamic 2024!