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In the era of molecular and genetic technologies, the historic trend of basing medical research and thinking on studies of the anatomy and physiology of the human male is increasingly giving way to research on biochemical and biological differences in the sexes. In the past decade researchers and clinicians have begun publishing study results and clinical experiences related to sex differences in symptom presentation, reaction to therapy and prognosis.

In collaboration with the National Institutes of Health's Office of Research on Women's Health and the National Library of Medicine, the University of Florida Health Science Center Library (HSC Library) has embarked on a project with two goals related to sex and gender differences research:

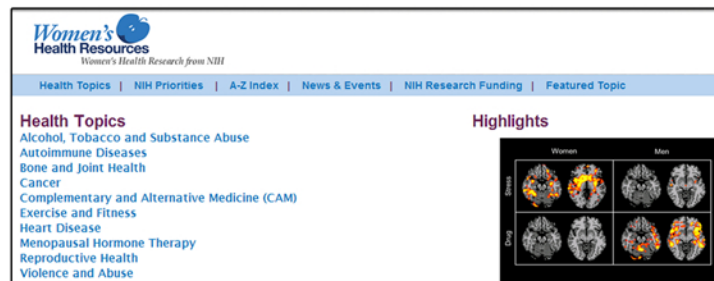
- to facilitate the growth of basic research in this area and
- to help develop a diverse clinical workforce able to recognize these differences and to apply this knowledge in clinical care.

In support of these goals the HSC Library is undertaking a multi-part outreach effort related to sex and gender differences research.

STUDENT AND FACULTY TRAINING

HSC librarians are presenting at orientations and within formal courses and professional development training programs relevant to the project's goals.

- Undergraduate genetics students (CLAS)
- Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences PhD students (COM)
- Genetics & Genomics graduate students (CLAS, CALS & COM)
- Graduate students and early-career faculty through Introduction to Clinical and Translational Research course (CTSI)
- Undergraduates minoring in health disparities in society (CLAS)
- Undergraduates in the Rural and Urban Underserved Medicine program
- First-year medical students, through discovery pathway on local and global health equity
- Second-year medical students, through Essentials in Patient Care course – Breaking Bad News
- Medical residents, fellows, and faculty through professional development workshops (COM)



COLLECTION BUILDING

The HSC Library has identified books, a journal backfile and videos to purchase for its collection to improve access to women's health and sex and gender differences literature.



INFORMATION DISSEMINATION THROUGH RESOURCES GUIDES

The HSC Library has developed a guide to sex and gender differences resources and other aspects of our project:



guides.uflib.ufl.edu/sexdifferences

WOMEN'S HEALTH OR SEX AND GENDER DIFFERENCES IN HEALTH OPEN ACCESS FUND

- Funding to defray the costs of article-processing fees for publishing in open access or hybrid journals for peer-reviewed research articles related to women's health OR sex or gender differences in health.
- Up to \$2,500 (open access journals), \$1,250 (hybrid journals).
- To help disseminate study results on these topics as widely as possible, UF researchers can compete for limited funding to defray reasonable article processing fees for articles accepted by OA or hybrid journals.
- Any UF faculty, post-doctoral researcher, staff member or student author.



FACILITATING COLLABORATION

To foster cross-disciplinary collaboration, the libraries are hosting two "Collaborating with Strangers" workshops, designed to introduce potential collaborators to one another in a setting that encourages creativity and synergy. Workshops allow participants to engage in three minute "speed meetings" with an average of 12 other participants, sharing information about their research and goals and often revealing hidden assets and commonalities of research, project, and/or academic goals.



EVALUATION

- Provides clear measures that align with the overall project goals.
- Outlines specific evaluation questions designed to support the evaluation goals and provide a clear direction for the evaluation.
- Plans for data gathering from a variety of sources, primarily focusing on the grant project's core audience - HSC faculty, staff, and students.
- Describes a variety of data collection methods, including questionnaires, data mining (from library collections, expenditures, and records), focus groups, and interviews.

Overall, the evaluation plan will provide for a comprehensive description of the program from which to determine program value and impact.

CONCLUSIONS

As a neutral entity, the Health Science Center Library has cultivated collaborations throughout the Health Science Center. Leveraging those connections and the librarians' respected role as experts in health information, the library has developed a comprehensive outreach program to facilitate the growth of basic research and clinical/translational research in the area of sex and gender differences and women's health.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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