

# Sex and Gender in Medicine

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# EIWH ADVISORY ROLE

- European Medicines Agency (EMA) Member of Patient and Consumer Working party: *Patient representative –*
- *Member of EMA Geriatric Expert Group,*
- *Member of EMA WG of Clinical Trials Results for Laypersons*
- European Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (ECDC);
- *Member of Technical Advisory Group on Vaccination*
- *Member of ECDC Advisory Forum Representing patients*
- European Commission DG SANTE: *HTA Stakeholder pool*
- European Commission DG SANTE :Joint Action on Vaccination,Stakeholder Network
- DG Research H2020 Member of Advisory Groups :*Demographic Change Health and Wellbeing & also Gender Advisory Group*
- European Patients Forum (EPF) Digital Health, Vaccination
- European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) Board Member and former Presidency
- WHO- Expert group on Gender Mainstreaming, EU Strategy for Health , WHO Academy

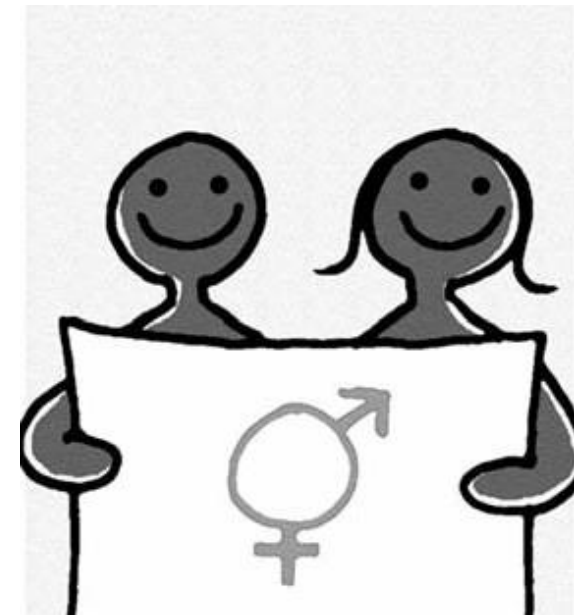
# Intersection of Sex & Gender

- **Biological Dimension**

- The biological/ sex differences between females and males
- are relevant for the diagnosis, treatment and progression of
- various diseases and medical conditions.

- **Social Dimension**

- Important social consequences which affect health
- include education, employment and family life.
- Socio-economic, educational cultural, ethnicity differences



# Biological Influences

- Women have higher rates of diseases such as, ***breast cancer, osteoporosis and auto-immune diseases (such as MS)*** than men.
- Other diseases affect men and women differently, including ***diabetes, depression and cardiovascular disease***.
- Safety of medicines in pregnancy: [www.conception.eu](http://www.conception.eu)
- Women, the heaviest medicine users, remain under-represented in clinical trials, research and data, weakening the evidence base for women as well as for older people.

# Public Health and Safety

- Multidimensional impact of falsified medical products :health, economic and socioeconomic consequences. Dangerous counterfeit medicines place citizens/patients at risk,
- Falsified medicines endanger health kill, promote antimicrobial resistance and the spread of drug-resistant infections.
- Undermine confidence in health care professionals and health systems
- Distribution and sourcing is the Internet, which is difficult to police-Online selling of medical products is also growing concerns but are often still inadequately addressed.
- Impact on limited budgets of families and health systems
- Provide huge income for criminal networks

# Recommendations

- **More awareness needed on the issue**
- Recommendation 1: Gender to be included when designing research on falsification of medicines
- Recommendation 2 Facilitate research into the causes, prevalence and impact of falsified medical products and the circumstances in which incidents involving falsified medical products occur.
- Recommendation 3: Research results to be disaggregated by sex and age - Harmonise international standards for Data Collection with common criteria
- Recommendation 4: Multisectoral approach to fighting falsification of medicines- International, Ministries of Health, Medicines Regulatory Authorities Justice, Social welfare, Industry, Civil Society.
- Recommendation 5: Collaboration between countries essential, exchange of information and good practice- Fund Information collection, exchange and analysis are essential to developing sound, evidence-based policy on preventing and combating falsified medical product-related crime
- Recommendation 6: Involve civil society organisations- patient groups in the fight- Establish a Platform for working together



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