Establishing the First Gender in Medicine Institute in Germany

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Activities

Basic research
Clinical research
Public health and prevention
Teaching
Training
Structure:
Berlin Institute for Gender in Medicine

- Director
- Basic Research (15)
- Clinical Research (3)
- Public Health (6)
- Teaching (2, coop)
- Guidelines

9 postdocs, 5 TA, MD and PhD students
5 technical assistants /2 secretaries
Study manager +study nurse + student helpers
40 associated members
7 Million € third party money in 3 years
2003: Centre for Gender in Medicine (GIM) at Charite,

- Foundation Gim 2003 – Based on **Gender Equality Program Berlin** and German Heart Centre (DHZB)/Charité cooperation:
  - existing professorships allocated:
    - CVD in Women (gender equality program/DHZB),
    - Womens Health (Industry)
    - 2004: Associate professor in Molecular gender research from gender equality program
  - Interdisciplinary Centre, headed by an elected board
  - Members from different departments of Charite (double memberships possible) were associated (40)
Faculty investment

- 2005-7: 3 scientists from gender equality program;
- Secretary and office space and Lab space (mainly allocated based on third party funding)
- seed money to start gender research projects (3 x 8000 €]
Development: 2003-2007

• We turned a **DFG funded training project** into a gender project (Myocardial Hypertrophy into: „Sex- and Gender-Specific Mechanisms in MH“ – 10 positions for training of PhD students, for 9 years – 60 students)

• We fought our way into a **Cardiology Competence Network „Heart Failure“** – as only female researchers group - and started a clinical study on CABG in women

• We used the seed money to start **small collaborative research projects** with public health, pharmacology, epidemiology, nephrology, psychology and other disciplines

• We made our way into an **FP 6 project** (since *Gender* was an issue in EU research in 2006!) : “EuGeneHeart”: Genomics of Cardiomyocyte Signalling to Treat and Prevent Heart Failure,
2007: Excellent evaluation and more

- Independent external evaluation – excellent scores
- We became a regular institute of Charité
- We fought for election of a female Dean at Charité
- I became head of „Committee on women’s support“, transformed it into „Gender equality committee“
- Joined forced with the „Officer on women’s support“, transformed into „Gender equality officer“- Christine Kurmeyer.
- We attracted female professors at Charite
- Acquired gender equality funds to develop teaching in gender medicine
The female professors at Charité

The largest female faculty at any German Medical University – now 50!
More events–2007-2013

• Margherita von Brentano Price of Free University of Berlin in Jan 2008

• Foundation of German Society of Gender Medicine (DGesGM) in July 2007

• Foundation International Society of Gender in Medicine (IGM) in Berlin Oct 2007
Member of German Centre for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK) in 2011

- DZHK unifies the 7 most excellent Cardiovascular Research Centres in Germany
- Berlin was one of the 7 and I was the coordinator for Berlin
- Gender was introduced into DZHK - as a very small topic
More projects – Training and Research - 2007-2013

- **DFG Research Group 1054**: Sex- and Gender-Specific Mechanisms in Myocardial Hypertrophy, 8 groups, 5 million Euro
- **EU: „Cardiovasc”**: Marie Curie-Early Stage Training Program
- **DFG** – Aortic stenosis in women and men - in cooperation with DHZB
- **Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF):**
  - Pilot Projekt Gendermedizin (PPGM, 2008-2010)
  - Gendermed DB (2012-2015)

Establish a database on gender research contents that supports potential gender researchers. Establish critera for the evaluation of gender research projects. Resulted in teaching books and programs.
Coordination of EU projects

- **EUGIM**: European curriculum Gender medicine, 2008-2010, with Berlin (coord), Maastricht, Nimwegen, Innsbruck, Sassari, Budapest, Stockholm,

- **RADOX** – Free Radical Signaling, Marie Curie project FP 7 ITN, 2012-2016, with Berlin (coord), Oxford, Cambridge, Leuven, Maastricht, Padua, Navarra, Bayer Pharma,

- **EUGENMed**: Round Table Gender Medicine, FP 7, 2013-2015, with Berlin (coord). Maastricht and EIWH
Teaching Gender Medicine

• In elective courses at Charité: since 2006
• In regular curriculum: Gender implemented into first introductory week and into more than 10 disciplines at Charité
• In master programs – public health
• Vocational training – regulatory teaching events since 2010
• In e-learning courses
• Two international summerschools in Gender medicine, Berlin and Sassari/Sardinia

– More details Friday.....
Teaching books published

Dec 2011

Sex and Gender Aspects in Clinical Medicine

Sept 2012

Sex and Gender Differences in Pharmacology
Teaming up with private sponsors
Goal:
Assess cardiovascular risk, risk awareness, preventive intentions and behaviour in women

Cohort: 1000 women in Berlin, 25-75 years
Population based representative cohort

Methods:
Questionnaires
Sociodemographic variables,
Investigations-
physical and laboratory,
including stress, behaviour and cognitive Tests
GIM - Benefit for the faculty

**Unique position in Teaching** – implementing gender medicine in regular studies; curriculum development, EU support

**Strength in acquiring 3rd party funds:** involvement in large program grants with gender aspects (10 Mill in 3 years)

**Political support:**
Opportunity for female researchers. More attention and awareness for women in science, female doctors and patients

**Public attention:**
Activity „Hör auf dein Herz“
And now: waiting for next Christmas party.....

Thanks to the group and the supporters

......more on Friday, 11 am