

The International Society for Gender Medicine

History and Highlights

Edited by Marianne J. Legato and Marek Glezerman

This book is about a major step in the improvement of quality in medicine, namely the long overdue understanding that women are different from men in every system of the body and may require different approaches in diagnosis and treatment. This is not a textbook, nor is it a scientific publication. It is the story of the International Society for Gender Medicine (IGM) as seen through the eyes of 12 pioneers of Gender and Sex Specific Medicine (GSSM) from seven countries, five of whom were the founders of IGM in 2006. It describes the development of this new science in the respective countries and academic environments of the authors, their very personal experience while promoting, and implementing their vision of GSSM, their frustrations, successes and achievements.

The field of gender-specific medicine examines how normal human biology and physiology differ between men and women and how the diagnosis and treatment of disease differs as a function of gender and sex. Among the areas of greatest difference are cardiovascular disease, mood disorders, the immune system, cancer, osteoporosis, diabetes, obesity, and infectious diseases.

This book is essential reading for all researchers, graduate students, practitioners and anyone interested in how this diverse and thriving field. From the early beginning, to the recent NIH mandate that females be included in pre-clinical as well as clinical research and that research results be reported by sex, this quick read will broaden your understanding of the history of the field and highlight where the future is headed.

KEY FEATURES

- Illustrates how major universities and organizations around the world concentrated first on the unexplored world of women's biology and then progressively adopted the larger view of the importance of investigating and comparing both sexes through all levels of biomedical research
- Notes the recent NIH statement that funding would depend on inclusion of two sexes in scientific protocols wherever possible as an important affirmation of the legitimacy of gender specific science
- Addresses challenges for the future: how to incorporate both sexes in investigative protocols in a scientifically valid way, and whether or not the cost of including two sexes in protocols will be prohibitively expensive

Marianne Legato, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Clinical Medicine at Columbia University, is one of the founders of the science of gender-specific medicine. In 2016, the release of the third edition of her textbook, *Principles of Gender-Specific Medicine: Gender in the Genomic Era* was released and her new journal, *Gender and the Genome*, the official journal of the Foundation for Gender-Specific Medicine.

Marek Glezerman, M.D., is Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology and currently Head of Gender Medicine at Tel Aviv University. He is president of the Israel and the International Society for Gender Medicine and director of the Research Center for Gender Medicine at the Rabin Medical Center.



ACADEMIC PRESS

An imprint of Elsevier
elsevier.com/books-and-journals

ISBN 978-0-12-811850-4



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