

## **MEDICINES REGULATION & MEDICAL EDUCATION**

### **How to get gender medicine into medical universities**

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In Austria, we have a national and an international society for Gender Medicine and also national and international meetings every year. At all our medical universities we offer Gender Medicine as an elective. But how do we get Gender Medicine into the heads of our researchers? How do we incorporate Gender issues into all our lectures and all our research projects? We attempted to develop a method that would establish Gender Medicine as a regular subject, just as any other field of medicine.

Innsbruck Medical University offers two degree programs: Human Medicine and Dental Medicine. In both we introduced Gender Medicine as an elective, but at the same time we felt it was not enough to only teach volunteers. We wanted Gender Medicine to be a regular core subject, just like all other medical disciplines. So we included Gender Medicine in the compulsory curriculum twice. We started by teaching basics and then repeated the basics in the last year of medical training and discussed clinical experience with the students. Like all other subjects, Gender Medicine is included in the compulsory examinations. In the new degree program in Molecular Medicine Gender Medicine is incorporated as a Master Module that was developed in an EU project. Moreover, it is compulsory in the clinical PhD program, where the students also have to include gender questions and a gender project in their PhD thesis. Here, too, we strive to have young researchers practice including Gender Medicine questions in all their projects as a matter of course. The next step in an Austrian scientific career is to be granted *venia docendi*. The criteria for *venia docendi* also include a compulsory Gender Medicine course. Here again we try to discuss the inclusion of Gender questions in all subject lectures and all research projects.

We have always seen Gender Medicine as a cross-cutting subject and thus from the beginning we aimed to cross-link Gender Medicine as a means of incorporating it in all medical disciplines. Moreover, we have also been successful in teaming up with Innsbruck University, where our ring lecture series is currently recognized as an elective for Gender Competence. Gender Medicine is also accepted as an elective in the PhD programs of all faculties, which gives rise to very interesting questions on Gender Medicine from completely different disciplines.

We started five years ago. In the beginning there were a lot of discussions and it was a controversial subject. Today it feels normal. So it looks like we were able to integrate Gender Medicine into the curriculum and into the research projects, at least those of our students. We hope that by including a Gender aspect in the scientific work for their PhD they will continue to do so in future.