A Conceptual Model of Sex & Gender Influences on Health and Disease

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44th Meeting of the NIH Advisory Committee on Research on Women’s Health
September 13, 2017
sex (biology) XX/XY → sex and gender → gender (social) women/men
Influences on the Health of Women

The individual

External factors

Internal factors

Organ systems

(Images: Wikimedia Commons; Pixabay, released under Creative Commons CC0; and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences)
Influences on the Health of Women

- External factors
- Internal factors
- The individual
- Life course
Bio-Social Interactions with Sex Influences on Lung Cancer


Bio-Social Interactions with Sex Influences on Heart Disease


(Images: Pixabay, released under Creative Commons CC0)
Bio-Social Interactions with Sex Influences on Alzheimer’s Disease


**Image: Wikimedia Commons**

(Photo: *The Lancet Neurology*, April, 2016, Vol. 15)
sex and gender
sex

exposure & health impact

gender

exposure & health impact
Implications for Research

• The influences of sex and gender operate to some extent at every level of analysis.
• Controlling for the influences of sex and gender is insufficient.
• Recognizing where a body of research fits in the large model is critical.
Special Thanks to the “Raising the Bar” Working Group

Chris Bachrach
Wendy Baldwin
Jill Becker
Wendy Brewster
Virginia Cain
Wei-Jung Chen
Geert DeVries
Carmen Green
Kimberly Gregory

Mark Hayward
Patricia Horoho
Rachel Jones
Angela Kashuba
Ana María López
Emeran Mayer
Carolyn Mazure
Noel Bairey Merz
Susan Newcomer

David Page
Amy Paller
Mary Palmer
Judy Regensteiner
Elizabeth Sekine
Elizabeth Spencer
Marcia Stefanick
Connie Weaver
Michelle Williams