

Gender Mainstreaming in Health

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The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1919. Women physicians in more than seventy countries make up the membership. The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 produced the Beijing Platform for Action, in which there was a commitment to mainstream a gender perspective into all United Nations activities. Despite much excellent work since the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, most physicians in clinical practice do not understand the concept of gender mainstreaming and its importance in positively influencing the health of both women and men. Women and men continue to suffer and die of readily preventable causes because of this lack of awareness. Gender differences play a very significant role in the differential in the burden of disease between men and women. As gender mainstreaming addresses gender relations, it leads to improvement in the fundamental principles of society to make men and women equal. Rather than excluding biology, it adds the social and cultural factors that affect power relations between men and women, which either promote or impede health. This workshop will be based on MWIA's Training Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Health. The objectives of the workshop are to give physicians an understanding of the concepts of gender mainstreaming, an understanding of how the social determinants of health can influence health and through case presentations show us as physicians how we can re-examine our attitudes and develop skills and knowledge to make sure gender equity and equality are achieved in health and health care.