

Translating Sex and Gender Science into Clinical Practice: National Partnerships and Local Care

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Current health care service delivery models, regardless of economic structure, do not work well for women, either as patient or provider. Significant advances in science, education and professional organizations provide a context for change. Sex- and gender-specific basic science and clinical research on women has become mainstream(1) and is flooding the literature. Complexity science provides a framework to apply this information in a way that appreciates the whole woman in the context of her life without reducing care to its component parts(2). Tools are available to shift from rote learning to interdisciplinary thinking(3). The American College of Women's Health Physicians (ACWHP) has emerged as a nidus for developing standards for interdisciplinary, women-centered care(4). At the Santa Fe, New Mexico National Community Center of Excellence in Women's Health (CCOE)(5) experience has been gained in implementing health care based on these advances. The poster describes the elements and strategic steps of a progressive model of health care service delivery needed to translate sex- and gender-specific basic science into clinical practice. The elements are conceptually and scientifically iterative and reflected in an integrated, interdisciplinary, health service delivery model at 3 levels (individual patient encounter, organizational structure, and community partnerships). Data will be presented describing the quality and cost of health care. 1. Exploring the Biologic Contributions to Human Health: Does Sex Matter?, Institute of Medicine 2000 2. Acad Med. 2000;75:1102-1106 3. Am J Obstet Gynecol. 2002 Sep;187(3 Suppl):S41-3. 4. ACHWP Guiding principles 5. US Office on Women's Health CCOE