American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA)

For 100 years, the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) has been the progressive voice of organized medicine, addressing the tough issues that affect how medicine is discovered, taught and practiced. We are women healthcare providers who care about women’s health, women’s well-being and women’s leadership. AMWA has consistently championed gender equality, universal access to preventive and primary healthcare, including reproductive health services, and the importance of sex- and gender-based medicine.

AMWA’s Work in Sex and Gender Medicine

1915 AMWA was founded by Dr. Bertha Van Hoosen to provide a network of support for women physicians, who numbered less than 6% of practicing physicians.

1921 AMWA’s early advocacy and educational efforts focused on raising awareness of women’s health. The first bill that AMWA lobbied to support was the Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921, designed to protect prenatal, maternal, and child health.

1946 AMWA began publishing the Journal of the American Medical Women’s Association (JAMWA). Many articles pertaining to gender and medicine were published during the tenure of this journal. JAMWA ceased publication in 2005, but plans are underway to bring the journal back in 2015 as a digital publication.

1993 AMWA convened the Advanced Curriculum on Women’s Health (Part I: Midlife and Mature Years)

1993 AMWA began a three year Breast and Cervical Cancer Education Project (funded through a cooperative agreement with the CDC) which held 35 workshops across the country to train primary care physicians nationwide in breast and cervical cancer screening, detection, and diagnosis to improve the healthcare of their female patients. Over 1000 healthcare practitioners were trained at the workshops.

1994 AMWA convened the Advanced Curriculum on Women’s Health (Part II: Birth to 45 and Advanced Years 80 Plus)

1994 The National Academy on Women's Health Medical Education (NAWHME) was created in collaboration with AMWA and the Medical College of Pennsylvania Hahnemann University (MCPHU, now Drexel University) to infuse women's health education into the curriculum of all schools.

1995 AMWA published The Women’s Complete Healthbook
1995  AMWA created an Education Project on Coronary Heart Disease in Women, a continuing medical education program that enlisted 30 AMWA master faculty who lectured to primary care physicians in their local communities about the risk factors, symptoms and diagnostic testing for heart disease in women. The program reached more than 16,000 physicians and health care providers and was credited with increasing national awareness of heart disease in women.

1996  AMWA published *The Women’s Complete Wellness Book* (edited by Dr. Debra Judelson and Dr. Diana Dell)

1996  The NAWHME (co-sponsored by AMWA and MCPHU) published Women’s Health in the Curriculum: Resource Guide for Faculty – Undergraduate, Residency, and Continuing Education. Containing over 200 pages of information, it outlined successful strategies used by faculty leaders to integrate gender-based information into all curriculum levels.

1998  AMWA Past President, Dr. Lila Wallis published the *Textbook of Women’s Health*

1998  AMWA published the *Women’s Complete Health Reference*

2001  AMWA published *The Complete Family Health Book* (edited by Dr. Donna Shelley, Dr. Sharyn Lenhart, Dr. Roselyn E. Epps, Dr. Roselyn Payne Epps)

2008  AMWA and the American College of Women’s Health Physicians (ACWHP) co-founded Advancing Women’s Health, an initiative to develop a comprehensive on-line digital repository of evidence-based sex- and gender-specific resources and content for medical education.

2011  Advancing Women’s Health became the Sex and Gender Women’s Health Collaborative (SGWHC), co-founded by AMWA, the American College of Women’s Health Physicians (ACWHP), and the Society for Women’s Health Research (SWHR). http://sgwhc.org/

2014  AMWA participates in Advocacy Day on the Hill with the Society for Women’s Health Research (SWHR) to advocate for women’s health, gender specific medicine, and gender equality.

2015  AMWA, the Laura W. Bush Institute for Women’s Health, Mayo Clinic, the Society for Women’s Health Research (SWHR), and Texas Tech University Health Sciences are co-sponsoring the Sex and Gender Medical Education Summit, October 18-19, 2015 at the Mayo Clinic. An outcome of the conference will be the publication of sex- and gender-based medicine student competencies. The goal of the Summit is to encourage and facilitate adoption of dedicated sex and gender education curriculum in all medical schools within the next 5 years. More information is available at sgbmeducationsummit.com.
AMWA’s Position on Sex- and Gender-Specific Medicine

I. AMWA advocates public policy that recognizes that every aspect of a citizen’s health is influenced by sex and gender, and for policy that ensures that all aspects of medical and provider education as well as healthcare delivery are held to standards that reflect this principle.

II. AMWA advocates public policy that not only ensures the preservation of the national offices of Women’s Health already established in the US (NIH OWH, CDC OWH, UPHSS OWH), but promotes development of other appropriate offices in Women’s Health at the Federal level.

III. AMWA advocates continuing research and research institutions that not only include both genders but analyze and report data according to sex and gender.

IV. AMWA advocates for incorporation of that research into curricula that are comprehensive, sex- and gender specific, evidence-based and will promote sound decision making.

V. AMWA advocates for incorporation of sex- and gender-specific curricula into ALL forms of physician and provider education, including medical schools, residencies, fellowships, midlevel training programs, and continuing medical education venues.

VI. AMWA advocates for a method of certification that allows consumers to be assured that their provider has completed educational requirements that are specific to sex-and gender-based information.

AMWA believes that healthcare delivered to women should be comprehensive, reflect the findings of sex- and gender-specific research, and be available, affordable and easy to access and use. We not only support continued funding of sex- and gender-based research and development of appropriate curricula reflecting the results of that research but recognize the need to translate that information into the practices of all healthcare providers.

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