



iGIANT Roundtable
January 31, 2018
San Francisco, CA

Participants:

American Medical Women's Association

Eliza Chin, MD, MPH – Executive Director

Founded in 1915, AMWA is an organization that works to advance women in medicine and improve women's health. AMWA's programs provide leadership, advocacy, education, mentoring and strategic alliances.

BrightFocus Foundation

Stacy Haller – President & CEO

At BrightFocus Foundation, we support research to end Alzheimer's disease, macular degeneration, and glaucoma. We are a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States, and are working to save mind and sight.

Child Family Health International

Robin Young, MBA – Director of Programs & Operations

CFHI is a nonprofit provider of global health education programs for interdisciplinary health students at all levels, sending 1,000 students on programs annually in 11 countries. CFHI is in special consultative status with the United Nations and is recognized as a standards-setting leader in global health ethics and student/patient safety.

Eli Lilly

Erica Andreozzi, PhD – Neuroscience Medical Science Liaison

Developing medicines for global unmet medical needs.

Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Elizabeth Baca, MD, MPA – Senior Health Advisor

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research advises the Governor and his cabinet on many policy issues.

iGIANT

Saralyn Mark, MD – President and Founder

Naseem Rangwala, BA – Scholar-in-Residence

The iGIANT is a nonprofit dedicated to understanding how elements of sex/gender influence our interactions with the world. It looks to promote progress through implementing and advocating for changes in policy, protocols, and design elements.

Jacobs Technology at NASA Ames Research Center

Erika Rodriguez, PhD – Test Engineer

Testing thermal protection materials for space exploration vehicles.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Ames Research Center

Ann-Sofie Schreurs, PhD – Scientist

NASA's Ames Research Center, one of ten NASA field centers, is located in the heart of California's Silicon Valley. Since 1939, Ames has led NASA in conducting world-class research and development in aeronautics, exploration technology and science aligned with the center's core capabilities.

Open Research Institute

Bruce Perens, K6BP – President

Mr. Perens is one of the founders of the Open Source movement in software.

Opter

Chalisa Prarasri, B.S. – CEO and Cofounder

Opter is a mobile health intervention platform that uses a combination of custom health tracking hardware and AI to make expert-designed health intervention programs more accessible to consumers and patients.

Partnerships for Change

Jacqueline Miller, BS, MS - CEO & Founder

Partnerships for Change is a Global United Nations Affiliated 501 C3 NGO dedicated to abolishing cruelty and advancing compassion through innovative direct action, trans media and reflexive development.

San Francisco Marin Medical Society

John Maa, MD – President

Representing several thousand physicians in San Francisco and Marin Counties.

Science Futures

Nola Masterson, MSc – Managing Director

Advisory and investment company in life sciences.

SENSOREE Therapeutic Biomedia

Kristin Neidlinger – Biomedia Designer

SENSOREEs therapeutic biomedia is bioresponsive fashion with auditory, visual, and or tactile emotive displays. The interface offers biofeedback as well as expression promoting “extimacy” – externalized intimacy. SENSOREE gives the body a voice – self awareness, insight, communication, empathy, and fun!

STLGip Law Firm // Presque Inc.

Soody Tronson, JD, MS – Managing Founder/Founder & CEO

STLG is a boutique intellectual property law firm.

Presque, Inc. is a wearable health-tech start up in the maternity space.

Taku International

Karin Hollerbach, PhD - Managing Director

Taku International (TI) is a global management and IT consulting firm that helps clients achieve success with business processes and the systems used to implement them.

Sonnee Weedn, PhD

Traditional wisdom. Transformative psychology.

YTH

Bhupendra Sheoran, MD, MBA – Executive Director

YTH is an Oakland based non-profit that designs innovative solutions for youth health and wellness. YTH has over 17 years history of using new media and technology to reach vulnerable youth with information and education, building knowledge and awareness, and linking them to critical services and resources.

ZOGENIX Inc

Anupam Agarwal, MD, MPH – Head of Safety

Dr. Agarwal was trained as a cardiologist and practiced medicine in the USA. He received a Master of Public Health (MPH) from Harvard School of Public Health with a concentration in the clinical research. He worked on the genetics of hypertension and drug-eluting coronary stent research at Harvard Medical School. Now more than a decade Dr. Agarwal is involved with clinical research in the pharmaceutical industry. In the past, he worked at GSK, Pfizer, and Gilead Sciences.

Discussion Highlights:

1. The greatest progress is made when we understand the need for equity over equality, highlighted by the idea that the best outcomes are not when “everyone gets a shoe, but when we all get a shoe that fits.” Equitable outcomes can only be achieved if we openly discuss and allow ourselves to understand and accept the different experiences of the people around us. Once we develop that understanding, we can work together to accommodate the needs of others so that we all can have “shoes that fits.”
2. With the latest push for precision medicine and the various initiatives stemming from it which delve into topics like socioeconomic and racial diversity, there is room to include sex/gender-based precision in medical research and development. There is an opportunity to think about these things in the design phase itself- for example, include adequate male and female representation in sample sizes, testing products out on these different populations before going to market, etc.
3. There has been a gradual trend in workplace projects and presenting finished works to the public that is beginning to move away from an individualistic model of leadership and towards collective leadership. With the former model, often only one individual is recognized and the diversity and contributions of the rest of the group is overlooked. By recognizing all who contributed to a project, we give equal value to the contributions of both men and women, which can help change the workplace dynamic, enhance teamwork and result in better quality work overall.
4. There exists an unconscious bias in the way professionals interact with women compared to men, which is manifested throughout medicine, academia, and industry. For example, a common hurdle female entrepreneurs face when speaking to investors is manifested in the questions they are asked. While women are asked, “how are you going to develop this product?” their male counterparts are asked, “what is the market for this product?” The second question assumes the first question has already been thought through and implemented, highlighting the assumption of capability in males that isn’t granted by default to their female counterparts.

Call to Action:

- One way to better understand issues around sex/gender differences could be through virtual or mixed reality platforms. If we can empathize with another’s experience, it can lead to better long-term cooperation.
- Film can also be a vehicle to highlighting these topics. Issues regarding the treatment of women in the film and media industry could be alleviated by providing women a platform to create and lead their own narratives.
- When presenting medical data to patients, understand that standard lab ranges are different for men and women. Present information that is useful and directly relevant to the patient.
- Advocate for policy change- simple moves such as instituting lactation rooms in government offices can spread to other institutions as well.

- Advocate for diversity and inclusion in leadership- only a handful of women have been heads of professional or academic institutions. By including more women in leadership roles, we pave the way for giving due recognition to women in all other aspects of our lives (including medical treatment, professional contributions, accommodative work spaces, etc.).
- Focus on human-centered design. Allow those for whom a product is intended to be part of the process of its creation and review.
- At a medical device conference later this year, propose to dedicate a few hours to exploring the topic of sex/gender differences that could enhance our interaction with biomedical products.
- Focus on the youth. If they grow up understanding the importance of sex/gender, it will be part of their nature to account for it in whichever field they go into as adults.