Academic Medicine Zurich (UMZH), as a forward-looking and innovative institution, is introducing the new field of gender medicine to its range of subjects. With an endowed professorship, it aims to expand sex-specific interdisciplinary research and teaching at UZH together with the four university hospitals. The goal is to advance research in the field of gender medicine and to establish it in university teaching.

**New Endowed Professorship for Gender Medicine**

Women and men get sick in different ways, and drugs affect them differently. Gender medicine works with precision medicine to better explore these differences and incorporate the results into patient care and medical training. This is the goal of an endowed professorship in gender medicine to be established at the University of Zurich (UZH).

**Sex and Gender in Healthcare**

The risk of developing Alzheimer’s or dying from a suffered heart attack is significantly higher for women than for men. In addition, women suffer more often from thyroid diseases, rheumatism and disorders of the immune system. Men, on the other hand, are more often affected by Parkinson’s disease and are more likely to die from Covid-19. Taking into account sex differences in medical research benefits both women and men and should therefore be embraced and encouraged.

**Sex and Gender in Research and Teaching**

Studies on disease development and treatment largely ignore female cells. Clinical trials are also conducted predominantly on men and do not list separate results for women and men. In addition, sociocultural factors such as stress, environment and lifestyle, which differ between women and men, are neglected.

The sex and gender factor is also barely discussed in medical training. Medical students
“Women receive the same medical treatment as men – sometimes with devastating consequences for their health. It is high time for comprehensive research into the female-specific aspects of medicine!”

Prof. Dr. med. Vera Regitz-Zagrosek, founder of the Institute of Gender Medicine at the Charité Hospital Berlin

do not learn what makes men and women different, what they need to know during examinations and when prescribing.

Endowed Professorship in Gender Medicine

One of the main tasks of the endowed professorship will be to advance research in the field of gender medicine. It will establish projects in all areas of research, form consortia and raise external funding. Furthermore, gender medicine should be integrated into university teaching so that students receive basic information on the significance of biological sex and sociocultural gender in as many subjects as possible. Finally, the professorship should help raise awareness of the topic of gender medicine in Switzerland, and enable UZH to take a leading role in the field internationally. The endowed professorship in gender medicine will ensure that the subject is firmly anchored in research and teaching, that a national and international network is cultivated, and that relevant findings are translated into practice. Gender medicine, together with precision medicine, will make an important contribution to positioning Zurich as a modern center for innovative approaches in medical research and healthcare.

The longer-term vision is to establish a Department of Gender Medicine at the University of Zurich. In addition, a clinical center for gender medicine is to be established in the future, where treatments will be tailored according to the patient’s sex using the principles of precision medicine.

Facts in Brief

Aims of the endowed professorship
– Establish the new interdisciplinary field of gender medicine and sex-specific research
– Translate research findings into practice
– Integrate sex- and gender-specific medicine into the human medicine curriculum at UZH
– Promote national and international knowledge transfer in the field of gender medicine with UZH in the leading role

Long-term goal
Provide differentiated treatment for people of different sexes according to the principles of precision medicine.

Duration
The professorship is endowed for a period of six years.

Funding

The UZH Foundation is seeking external funding for the endowed professorship in gender medicine. Your support will enable UZH to take a leading role in this vital and socially relevant field.

Total financing requirements for 2022 – 2027

| Contribution of the UZH Faculty of Medicine | 1,000,000 |
| Required external funding in CHF | 1,500,000 |

Your support

Do you want to support the endowed professorship and help female and male patients get the differentiated treatment they need? I would be delighted to hear from you and look forward to explaining the endowed professorship in more detail.

Contact

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