Building Awareness of Sex and Gender Differences Research

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Objectives

Based on a subcontract award from the Office of Research on Women’s Health (ORWH), the aims were:

- To improve awareness of and access to sex and gender differences research (S&GDR) resources from ORWH in the University of Utah community through innovative strategies and partnerships.
- To invite and encourage the University community to contribute to the databank of resources by working with the Library to produce materials, including videotaped testimonials.

Methods

The Library partnered with several campus entities to create S&GDR materials in a variety of formats, including research guides, online tutorials, social media posts, recorded and in-person training sessions and testimonial videos from researchers and community members.

In the second year, a main campus library team was added in order to reach faculty not associated with the health sciences.

The Library sponsored an S&GDR award at the Center for Medical Innovation’s Bench-2-Bedside (B2B) student competition.

Results

- Freely available S&GDR online materials organized and advertised to the University community; print flyers and display monitor ads supplement marketing effort.
- Nine videos with researchers describing the importance of sex and gender in research have been viewed over 500 times.
- Resources for sex and gender differences research have been presented to faculty, staff and students of both campuses and materials have been integrated into classes.
- Key individuals from the University have contributed their expertise and helped spread the word.
- Offering the B2B award confirmed the need for more widespread awareness.
- Cultural competency videos are available for clinicians and researchers.

Conclusions

With new NIH policies requiring grantees to include both sexes in preclinical research, it is essential to improve awareness of resources created and highlighted in this project. The S&GDR project has made significant progress in keeping the University campus community informed about resources available to them as they begin planning their research.

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