

Second Year  
Sex, Gender and Medicine  
Seminar  
Lecture 3: Resistance

Ann-Maree Nobelius,  
CMHSE,  
Faculty of Medicine Nursing and Health Sciences  
Monash University  
Australia

To tell or not to tell....

I SAY TELL!

# Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective into Medicine

- 'Mainstreaming' simply means that a concept (or process) be fully integrated into all institutional processes so that it becomes a 'mainstream', common or everyday concept.
- Making gender concepts more 'mainstream', common or everyday within medical education and practice
- Practically it means acknowledging where difference is important throughout the entire curriculum and teaching process, in clinical practice and in policy development, and providing balance where needed.

# Mainstreaming Gender

- the process must be evidence based and balanced
- men have gender issues too
- the process slow to come to medicine but common in government, NGO and trans-national institutions worldwide
- parts of the process have been undertaken at other universities medical schools

# Evidence-based Gender Mainstreaming

- We are doing it all!
- Year 1 & 2
- **Year 3**
- **Year 4 & 5**
- **ASSESSMENT!!!**
- Post Graduate
- Guides, International Conferences and Publications coming up
- Monash leads mainstreaming in med ed
- Working on Clinical Practice

# Students can get involved

- Year 5 Selectives and BMedSci being developed so that students can graduate with publications that are international best practice in gender-specific medicine
- You can help define the field

# What about Monash staff?

- We are starting training (tutor guide)
- Haven't got to all of the clinical schools yet (literally 1,000 of people)
- We started at the top

# These are the people we did get to!

- The VC
- Prof Edward Byrne, the Dean
- Prof Leon Piterman, Deputy Dean
- Profs Richard Doherty and Chris Browne, co-chairs of the curriculum committee
- Prof Brian Jolly, Head of Medical Education
- Prof Julian Smith, Head of Surgery @ MMC

- Dr Jane Fox, Surgeon @ MMC
- Dr Jan Coles, Dept GP
- Assoc. Prof Rob McLachlan, Andrology
- Prof Jayashri Kulkarni, Head of Psychiatry @ Alfred
- Dr Chris Wright, Head of ICU @ MMC
- PCL tutors
- Anatomy Demonstrators

# Because this is an emerging field...

- The evidence is new and emerging
- You will come across people who won't have a clue what you're asking
- You will come across people who will try to tell you that your question is irrelevant
- People may know the answer or actually practice in a gender specific way, but don't understand the question because they have never been asked to think about it in that way

# A simple question for the tutor

- Is there any evidence that this is different in men and women?

# A simple question about gender to be rigorous when you are studying

- How would this scenario be different if the players were male/female?

# Some questions about gender and clinical practice for 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

- How would this **presentation** be different if the patient were male/female?
- How would the **treatment** be different if the patient were male/female?
- How would the **outcomes** be different if the patient were male/female?
- How would the **consultation** be different if the doctor were male/female?

# Along with regular critical literature review skills in EBM think about gender

- Does the disease affect both men and women?
- Were both men and women included in the study? If not, why not?
- Is the data presented in a sex disaggregated way?
- Understand that if both men and women are not reported on that the evidence may only tell part of the story and further evidence should be sought

# ...and when it comes to your medical education

- Be critical, don't just accept
- Be inquiring, if you don't get it, ask
- Don't let 'the blokes in suits' make you feel bad
- There are plenty of the Good Guys (and Women!) to help you out

If you don't get the answers you need...

Places to find info about difference:

**Monash University's Gendermed website**

[www.med.monash.edu.au/mrh/gendermed/](http://www.med.monash.edu.au/mrh/gendermed/)

[www.andrologyaustralia.org](http://www.andrologyaustralia.org)

<http://www.gendermedjournal.com/>

A MEDLINE search will always show you where to  
find info about difference