

Editorial for First Issue of Journal of Women's Health & Gynecology

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Women's health has traditionally been thought of in terms of women's "bikini" lines, rather than from a more holistic view [1]. It is this narrow view of women's health that limits our ability to teach about and develop cutting edge solutions for women's health issues. The *Journal of Women's Health & Gynecology* will allow for a merging of information about the health of female anatomy and various other topics areas such as infertility, sexual medicine, health-related behavior, and maternal/fetal medicine-all areas that will allow for a broadening of the discussion about women's health. This online tool will assist in providing a more comprehensive view of women across the lifespan and their healthcare needs, especially in relation to gynecological issues.

As a research professor at a research-focused university in the United States, I promote the idea of using your research in the classroom setting. Research, in my view, should provide a solution to a social problem and be used to support education of students at all levels. Currently, I co-teach three online graduate courses all linked to women's health. Faculty members with whom I co-teach are from different disciplines, and we provide differing views on how to approach a topic for discussion and how to structure assignments, writing projects, and presentations about these topics. Our hope is to illustrate that there are various methods of knowing and presenting-as well as various methods of understanding data and how to use them. We have identified a number of topic areas (e.g., access to contraception, genetics, physical environment, pregnancy, pregnancy loss, sex work, violence against women, migration/immigration, conflict zones, cancer, caregiving, and aging) through which to explore their impact on women and discuss the unanswered questions about these areas. These interdisciplinary explorations expand students' views of the health care world in which we live and allow them to create a more fullyframed set of ideas about issues and practical solutions. Journal articles that emphasize developing knowledge about "the science of women" are one way to begin the dialogue about what is needed for better awareness about inclusive practices for women's health.

A critical advantage of an interdisciplinary journal is in highlighting and promoting an interconnected view of how to conduct research on, develop policy on, discuss practice about, and design interventions for real world applications of women's health from a global lens. Articles submitted for publication in peer-reviewed and scholarly journals should provide information about how to use the data to address a social problem. Data and findings should clearly be useful in developing state-of-the-art interventions. Studies, case reports, review articles, and communications can provide information about different groups (e.g., adolescents, adult women, aging women, heterosexual women, lesbian women, transgendered women, women with disabilities, etc.) and their specific health and gynecological health care needs. It is exactly these areas that this journal will examine and I am pleased to see that exploration about the science of women is being furthered through this scholarly online mechanism.

Reference

1. Frost CJ, Murphy PA, Shaw JM, et al. Reframing the View of Women's Health in the United States: Ideas from a Multidisciplinary National Center of Excellence in Women's Health Demonstration Project. *Clinics Mother Child Health*. 2013,11(1):1-3.

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