



From the Chair

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Welcome to the Summer Season! Greetings from your new NAHRS chair. I am Keydi (pronounced Katie) Boss O'Hagan. I have been a librarian for 22 years, but I began volunteering with my mother (Cathy Boss) at her medical library when I was 14 years old at Elizabeth General in Elizabeth, NJ. Upon her leaving Elizabeth General for Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune, NJ, Elizabeth General hired me as a Library Assistant. Just after earning my master's degree at Rutgers in 2001, I was hired by Holy Name Medical Center as the librarian for the Medical Center and School of Nursing in Teaneck NJ.

Holy Name eliminated the position in 2016. In 2017, I was hired at my current position as the librarian at Jersey College – Teterboro, NJ campus. Most people do not know, nor have they heard of Jersey College. Jersey College is a private for-profit career college specializing in nursing education with its main campus in Teterboro, NJ. The college was established in 2003. Currently, Jersey College is up to 16 campuses in Arizona, Florida, Indiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee. Beginning next year, we are opening the 17th Campus in Alabama and continuing to grow. We have both LPN and RN students with some hospital-based campuses. There are only four librarians at Jersey College: at the Ewing, NJ Campus, the Jacksonville, FL campus, the Tampa, FL Campus and myself at the Teterboro campus.

During my professional career, I have participated in various associations. Locally I have been involved with HSLANJ (Health Sciences Library Association of New Jersey) and the former MLA New York/New Jersey Chapter. For MLA caucuses, I have been involved with the Hospital Library Caucus, CAPHIS, and of course, NAHRS. In NAHRS, I have helped with the Select Nursing Journal List Task Force and with the Certificate Design for NAHRS. For MLA, I have done numerous juries and just rotated off the Credentialing Committee.

Nursing has been an important part of my career. With my term as chair, I hope to follow the NCLEX to include the utilization of one's clinical judgment to care for patients safely and effectively. In order for us librarians to help our patrons, we need to learn how we can keep updated and pertinent in order to continue to be the unsung support for our nursing and allied health heroes. With MLA celebrating its 125th Anniversary, the goal is to build a Better Future while remembering our history while implementing some new initiatives that will propel us to build a better future and helping us librarians to be the unsung heroes that save lives.

Library Strategies to Help Reduce Sex-Biases in Health Care

Grace McGinness, Health Sciences Library Intern, Duquesne University, MLIS Student, University of Pittsburgh

Introduction

For over 30 years, research has demonstrated that much of medical knowledge was established without consideration of the female body, and how this practice has led to disparities in women's health care with higher rates of hospital readmissions (Zucker & Prendergast, 2020), misdiagnosis (Ali et al., 2022), and underdiagnosis (Cardona et al., 2016). Since the passage of the National Institute of Health Revitalization Act of 1993 (subtitled "Clinical Research Equity Regarding Women and Minorities"), there have been numerous, successful initiatives to improve research into women's health and health care. However, 30 years later the gap in health-care professionals' knowledge still remains and contributes to decreased quality of care for women.

Given that women comprise approximately half the world's population, health sciences researchers and providers must continuously explore how sex differences impact health care.

Background

As more medical research addresses sex as a biological variable (SABV), findings continue to suggest that females require health care that is developed and implemented with an eye towards differences in the female anatomy and endocrine system. For example, pharmacology has seen an increased focus on SABV with results showing that sex differences in pharmacokinetics are associated with increased adverse drug reactions among women that are not fully explained by other variables such as differences in body weight, yet many FDA-approved drug doses did not address the statistical significance of sex differ-

ences (Zucker & Prendergast, 2020).

Another dimension of this challenge is that male educators may continue to regard women's health issues as low priority for integration into health sciences curricula (Risberg et al., 2011), and that male education leaders may not be able to meaningfully enact change without addressing their own discriminatory gender beliefs (Humbert et al., 2019). Additionally, male medical students and faculty may not value female role models as positively as male role models (Lindberg, 2020). Therefore, when female leaders promote a focus on women's health care, the effectiveness of their efforts may be limited because of the gender-biases of their male colleagues.

Below are some suggestions for how you can begin to address female health disparities in your library.

Collection Development

Librarians are well positioned to help lead and enrich education opportunities for health professions students and clinicians and thereby contribute to improved care for female patients. We can develop collections with balanced sex-representation. For example, we can emphasize purchasing and clearly cataloging sex-specific models and models with diversity of skin color to encourage students to reflect on the different people they will give care to in the future.

The lack of representation of darker skin tones in medical education contributes to racial inequality in health care delivery (Louie and Wilkes, 2018). Black women in the U.S who are subject to both types of discrimination are more

likely to report experiences of gender discrimination during health care visits than white women (SteelFisher et al., 2019). By providing a diversity of anatomical models, libraries can give students the opportunity to practice care on the diversity of patients they will see in their community as well as help female and minority students feel represented in medical education.

Additionally, we can purchase books such as *Feminist Phenomenology and Medicine* (SUNY Press), *Sex- and Gender-Based Women's Health* (Springer), and *Women's Health Research* (National Academies Press). Some journals to consider adding to your collections, or link resolvers, include *Biology of Sex Differences* (BMC) or the *Journal of Women's Health* (Mary Ann Liebert). Although I could not identify databases specific to women's health care, you could consider subscribing to *Women's Studies International*, *GenderWatch*, or *Gender Studies Database*. You can find more examples in my guide, [Female Disparities in Health Care](#).

Library Instruction & Programming

Librarians can offer optional instruction sessions for faculty and graduate students on the complexities of searching the literature on female health disparities. For example, some Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) currently conflate terms for gender and sex (see the entry terms for "Sexism"). Librarians can help students and faculty devise effective strategies to formulate searches and navigate these problematic terms. One strategy is to introduce faculty to

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Library Strategies continued...

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newer relevant terms and subject headings that were added to databases to address these issues such as “Gender Equity” added to MeSH in 2021.

These sessions can be further enriched by partnering with interested faculty in health science programs, or even other programs like women’s studies, who may be able to provide insights to how social theories impact health care.

When doing course-integrated instruction for students, librarians can use SABV and sex biases in health care as examples to possibly motivate attendees to explore the literature further in their own research. By becoming more familiar and practiced with the resources involved with these topics, librarians will be able to better help faculty acquaint their students with them.

Another way that librarians can help to ameliorate gender bias is to provide “space” to help develop allyship among faculty and organizational leadership. These could be in the form of discussion groups about gender bias in health care and research, common book readings like *Lab Girl* (2017), and displays that showcase women researchers in the health sciences or pre-clinical sciences. Libraries can also consider hosting an National Library of Medicine Traveling Exhibition or a virtual poster that addresses related topics.

Research Guides

Librarians can use LibGuides to build interest and support instruction about these topics and their history. For example, my guide [Female Disparities in Health Care](#) pro-

vides students and faculty with a starting point to explore the gaps in medical knowledge on female bodies and how to research SABV, feminist theory critiques of current practice, and other relevant social theories. These guides can demonstrate the best language and potential searches for others to use to explore these issues because this topic often requires combining controlled vocabulary and more keyword searches that change with social context.

Female health disparity is inherently an interdisciplinary subject. Doing research on this topic requires librarians to introduce health sciences students and researchers to resources in other disciplines including education, social sciences, and even the humanities.

Conclusions

MLA’s Vision Statement says that MLA “... works to ensure that the best health information is available to all.” (2023). We must address the issues of female health disparities that are experienced around the world by women and particularly by women of color as a

Disparities in Female Health Care

This guide aims to address the gaps in medical research that contribute to female health disparity

Introduction
Female as Other in Medicine
Sex as a Biological Variable (SABV)
Sex Bias in Education
Feminist Theory in Clinical Practice
Intersectionality
Articles, Journals, & Databases
Books/eBooks
Related Guides
References
Getting Help

top priority. Although there has been an increased focus on the unique issues related to female health care for the last 30 years, continued effort and attention over are still needed to sustain this progress.

The topic of female health disparities lends itself to the skills and resources that librarians offer and could possibly introduce whole disciplines to new bodies of literature to consider for their research. The library is in a unique position of serving a large audience across many different fields, and we can use that visibility to spotlight important but overlooked research topics and help students and faculty approach their research from a more interdisciplinary perspective.

Disclaimer

My purpose in writing this article is to address health care issues related to females (sex assigned at birth), but the term “female” is used to reference those with any spectrum of female anatomy or a female endocrine system. I acknowledge that some trans men and non-binary persons may feel alienated by this label.

This article does not attempt to address the critically important and complex questions of disparities in care for transgender persons, but I believe that improved female health care can improve health care received by all.

Citations

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Author! Author! - NAHRS Members Activities

NAHRS MLA Presentation

NAHRS Nursing Essentials Resources List Working Group: Raszewski, R, Fial, A, Stark, RK, Alcorn, KS, Dennison, CC, Porcello, L & Delawska-Elliott, B. (2023, May) Forging ahead with the NAHRS Nursing Essential Resources List. Paper presentation. MLA/SLA 2023 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI.

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Jivanelli, B (2023) Evolution of Health Information on the Web: A Program Description of a Workshop for Seniors. *J Hosp Librarianship* 23(1): 34-38 [doi: 10.1080/1532369.2022.2159725](https://doi.org/10.1080/1532369.2022.2159725)

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NAHRS Member News

Grant Award

Lisa Connor of Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, TX was the Principal Investigator for the winning "All of Us Data Training and Engagement for Academic Librarians" 2023 \$50,500 Grant. From the NIH NLM Office of Engagement and Training, the grant recipient was selected to be part of an initial pilot cohort of academic libraries in minority serving institutions building infra-



Lisa Connor

structure and engagement with the All of Us Researcher Workbench.

MLA Research Training Institute (RTI) Capstone Experience

Jivanelli, B (2023, May) Impact of COVID-19 on Solo Health Librarian Mentorships MLA Research Training Institute (RTI) Poster presentation. MLA/SLA 2023 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI



Bridget Jivanelli

Author! Author! - NAHRS Members Activities continued...

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Choy, E, Daoussis, D, Goodman, S, Hudson, M, Jamal, S, Leipe, J, Lopez-Olivo, MA, Suarez-Almazor, M, van der Laken, CJ, Meara, AS, Liew, D, & Kostine, M. (2023) Identification of outcome domains in immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced inflammatory arthritis and polymyalgia rheumatica: A scoping review by the OMERACT irAE working group. *Semin Arthritis Rheum* 2023 Feb, 58:152110. doi: 10.1016/j.semarthrit.2022.152110. Epub 2022 Oct 26.

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mon strict search criteria in nursing literature searches. *Nurse Educ* 2022 Dec 30. Online ahead of print doi: 10.1097/NNE. 0000000000001353

Posters and Presentations

Acuff, LM, Lucero, D, Pringle, J & Rethlefsen, M. (2023, May) Customizing faculty success to showcase librarian work in an academic health sciences library. Virtual paper presentation. MLA/SLA 2023 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hslic-posters-presentations/111/>

Acuff, LM, Geiger Wolfe, G, Bowler-Hill, S. (2023, May) Disempowering terminology in online patient education materials for people with type 1 diabetes: Progress on a summative content analysis. Virtual poster presentation. MLA/SLA 2023 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI

Atwood, GS (2023, June) Can GPT-3 Tools Accurately Find and Analyze Articles for a Systematic Review: A (Very) Preliminary Assessment. Paper presentation. Canadian Health Libraries Association 2023 Annual Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Connor, L (2023, May) Pathways of Engagement for an R2

Campus with the All of Us Researcher Workbench. Lightning Talk. MLA/SLA 2023 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI

Dennison, CC (2023, May) Mapping the Literature of Nursing Education: An Update. Poster presentation. MLA/SLA 2023 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI

Henderson, S, Morgan, R & Genova, G. (2023, May) Partnering for Growth: How medical librarians joined special and academic librarians to plan a joint conference. Lightning talk. MLA/SLA 2023 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI

Klein-Fedyshin, M (2023, May) The Redesigned Core Clinical Journals filter: What it is, how to use it, and why to use it. Paper presentation. MLA/SLA Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI

Jivanelli, B (2023, May) A Solo Librarian's Systematic Review Service. Poster presentation. MLA/SLA 2023 Annual Meeting, Detroit, MI

James, LN & **Torian, S**. (2023, February 13) I've never done a systematic review. Where do I start? Online presentation. Experience MLA. <https://www.mlanet.org/page/experience-mla>

Library Strategies continued...

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NAHRS Member Spotlight: Marilyn Teolis

NAHRS MLA Member Since: 1994

First Professional Position: Assistant Librarian at Tyco Electronics, a Fortune 500 Company. Since I earned a B.S. in biology, I wanted a career as a medical librarian. Fortunately, my second job was as a Librarian at a School of Nursing. I've worked in medical libraries ever since.

Current Position: Clinical Medical Librarian, James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital & Clinics, Tampa FL.

As the Clinical Medical Librarian for the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital & Clinics, I oversee all aspects of the Medical Library. I conduct searches for clinicians, residents, students, researchers, and administrative staff, so they can make evidence-based care decisions, teach, and publish.

I help veterans find consumer health information and use computers and MyHealtheVet, the patient portal.

Education:

- B.S. biology and unofficial double major in English at Westminster College in PA.
- M.L.S. at the University of Pittsburgh

Favorite Website or Blog: I like to use Europe PMC [Home - Europe PMC](#) to find preprints in the life sciences. It is a partner to PubMed Central (PMC).

Involvement in MLA or library organizations:

- Federal Libraries Caucus Chair 2019 - 2022
- MLA/MIS Career Development Grant Jury 2020 - 2021
- Rittenhouse Award Jury 2018 - 2019
- Hospital Libraries Section/MLA Grant Chair 2013 -



Marilyn Teolis, MLS

2016

- SC/MLA Hospital Librarian of the Year 2009

I became a librarian/informationist because: I love helping people find the answers to their medical/health questions.

Issues that I see are big for NAHRS members in the profession are: Grant monies reimbursing the library budget or librarians receiving co-authorship for their contributions to published articles or scoping and systematic reviews.

My bucket list includes: Traveling to Disney World in Japan, visiting Australia, and seeing Jerusalem and Greece. Fun fact: My last name translated from Greek means t(h)eo, god and lis, little).

My favorite holiday is: Christmas because my extended family all have vacation, and we have time to visit.

If I could have dinner with 4 people in the world (living or dead): My parents so they could talk with my daughter, Princess Diana, and Scarlett Johansson.

In my spare time, I like to: talk to friends who live around the country, crochet, and watch comedy/adventure movies.

Weirdest question/request I've had as a librarian/informationist: Can you find evidence that drinking colas causes kidney stones?

Other item(s) you would like us to know: I've moved print libraries from one building to another twice in my career. The maintenance staff was surprised when I said they couldn't just throw the unbound journal issues into boxes. They had to be put in alphabetically by title and then chronologically by year.

Library Strategies continued...

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In our Toolkit - A column for Resources New and Cool

This column highlights useful, cool, or new resources including websites, monographs, OA sources, subscription resources/databases, etc. that NAHRS members find helpful to their work.

Tool: WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool (wave.webaim.org)

Recommended for: Library staff creating and editing web-based resources

In a Nutshell: WAVE is a free web accessibility evaluation tool by WebAIM that identifies ways to make websites or LibGuides more accessible. On the WAVE website, users can enter a URL and WAVE will display a version of the website marked with icons placed directly on the page to indicate items that are important during an accessibility evaluation, as well as on a sidebar summarizing WAVE's findings. WAVE identifies issues with headings, missing labels and alt text, text with low contrast, and other elements of the page that may constitute an accessibility issue. You can read more about what WAVE identifies in WebAIM's [Web Accessibility Evaluation Guide](http://wave.webaim.org).

WAVE also has Chrome, Firefox, and Edge browser extensions for testing accessibility directly



within your web browser that can be used on any password-protected sites such as Sharepoint or intranet pages.

It is important to remember that WAVE and other tools can only identify certain accessibility issues. WebAIM recommends testing the pages with a keyboard, screen reader, and/or browser developer tools as well, and they also provide cost-based assistance for more extensive projects.

Column Editor: Elizabeth Moreton, MLS, Clinical Nursing Librarian, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

To recommend a tool for this column, fill out the Google form at <http://bit.ly/NAHRStoolkit>. Tools mentioned in this column will also be added to the NAHRS Resources Wiki. To see the full list of resources, or to offer up your own suggestions via the Wiki, visit <http://bit.ly/NAHRSresources>.

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NAHRS Newsletter 43(3) July 2023

NAHRS Newsletter is the official newsletter of the Nursing and Allied Health Resources Caucus of the Medical Library Association. It is published quarterly. This issue is distributed freely online at <https://www.mlanet.org/d/do/25135>

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Deadlines for submissions are March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15. Submit items for publication via e-mail to:

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Layout: Lindsay Blake, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.