

PROGRAM 2026

OCTOBER 26-27
KURSAAL BERN, SWITZERLAND

The symposium will be held in English.
Translation will be provided in German.

DAY 1

	09:00	Arrival and Check-in at the Kursaal Bern Meet & Greet in the Forum
	10:00	Welcome and Introduction into Gender Medicine and its Fundamental Change of Perspective in Medicine Prof. Dr. med. Beatrice Beck Schimmer, Host, University of Zurich, Switzerland & Michael Rauchenstein, Moderator
KEYNOTE	10:15	History of Gender Medicine and a Look Ahead in the Future Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. Vera Regitz-Zagrosek, Charité University Medicine Berlin, Germany
IMPULSE	10:45	Gender Medicine in the Light of Global Health and Health Policy 2026 Prof. Dr. Ilona Kickbusch, Geneva Graduate Institute, Switzerland
POSTER	11:15	Presentation of Posters I
BREAK	12:15	Networking Lunch / Meet the Speakers
HOW TO ...	13:15	Build a Women's Heart Health Program Prof. Dr. med. Noel Bairey Merz, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, USA
	13:25	Build a Company in Gender Medicine Through Evidence and AI Thao Nguyen, EQUAL CARE, Switzerland
	13:35	Implement Sex as a Biological Variable Guideline in Preclinical Research Dr. Ivana Jaric, University of Zurich, Switzerland
PLENARY TALK	14:00	Ten Years of the SAGER Guidelines: Progress, Impact, and Future Needs Dr. Shirin Heidari, GENDRO, Switzerland
	14:20	Sex/Gender in Industry Research and Development - The Role of the Pharmaceutical Industry Dr. med. Katharina M. Gasser, Roche Pharma Switzerland
IMPULSE	14:45	The Role of Politics for Equitable Health Dr. med. Bettina Balmer, Pediatric Surgeon, Member of the National Council FDP ZH and President FDP Women, Switzerland
BREAK	15:15	Networking / Meet the Speakers

DAY 1

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

15:45

SCIENTIFIC SESSION 1 Men's Health

Gender Medicine Is Men's Business Too: Why Engaging Men Matters for Better Health

Dr. med. Ruben Fuentes Artiles, University of Bern, CH

The Evolving Field of Boys and Men's Health

Prof. Dr. John Oliffe, University of British Columbia, CA

Understanding and Treating Depression in Men: From Biology to Psychology

Univ.-Prof. Dr. phil. Andreas Walther, University of Graz, AT

SCIENTIFIC SESSION 2 Clinical Guidelines

Intersectional Analysis in Biomedical Research

Prof. Dr. Mathias Wullum-Nielsen, University of Copenhagen, DK

Clinical Practice Guidelines as Structural Instruments for Equity

Prof. Dr. med. Sabine Oertelt-Prigione, University of Bielefeld, DE

Bringing Sex and Gender into Clinical Standards: A Medical Society Perspective

PD Dr. med. Maria Rubini, National Centre for Cardiovascular Research, Madrid, ES

SCIENTIFIC SESSION 3 Policy / Global Health

Gender Inequalities in Global Health and What They Mean for Policy

Prof. Dr. Sarah Hawkes, Monash University, MY

Gender Power and Health Equity: Why Policy Must Address Structural Inequality

Prof. Anita Raj, PhD, MS, Tulane University, USA

Aligning Research Efforts with the Global Burden of Disease in Women and Men

Prof. Dr. Marc Lerchenmüller, University of Mannheim, DE

BREAK

16:45

Networking and Change of Rooms

SCIENTIFIC SESSION

17:00

SCIENTIFIC SESSION 4 Education - Innovation in Europe and Beyond

Panel with representatives from different nations

Austria: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Alexandra Kautzky-Willer, MedUni Vienna

France: Prof. Dr. med. Rosa Maria Bruno, Université Paris Cité

Germany: Prof. Dr. med. Ute Seeland, Magdeburg University

Japan: Prof. Dr. med. Miyuki Katai, GRIPS

South Korea: Prof. Dr. med. Seong Mi Park, Korea University of College Medicine

Switzerland: Dr. Joëlle Schwarz, Unisanté Lausanne

Ukraine: Dr. Kateryna Ostrovskya, Health Policy and Systems Strategist, Freelance Consultant

SCIENTIFIC SESSION 5 Epidemiology and Prevention

Sex Differences in Metabolic Disease: From Mechanisms to Personalized Prevention

Prof. Dr. med. Susanna Hofmann, Ludwig Maximilians University Munich, DE

SCIENTIFIC SESSION 6 Evolution and Development

Evolutionary and Biomedical Insights into Sex Differences in the Primate Brain

Dr. Alexandra DeCasien, National Institute of Health, USA

What Primates Societies Reveal about Sex/Gender Differences Relevant to Human Health

Prof. Dr. Erica van de Waal, The Sense Center for Research and Innovation, University of Lausanne, CH

Can We Close the Sex Gap in Lifespan? An Evolutionary Comparative Perspective

Dr. Johanna Stärk, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, DE

18:00

Networking and Apéro

DAY 2

	08:00	Arrival and Check-in at the Kursaal Bern Meet & Greet in the Forum
	08:30	Welcome by Moderator Michael Rauchenstein
KEYNOTE	08:40	Topic to be announced Speaker to be announced
PANEL DISCUSSION	09:10	Update on Gender Medicine in Switzerland Prof. Dr. med. Carole Clair, Unisanté Lausanne Prof. Dr. med. Carolin Lerchenmüller, University of Zurich PD Dr. med. Berna Özdemir, University of Bern Prof. Dr. med. Christine Meyer-Zürn, University of Basel Dr. med. Sara Arsever, University of Geneva Dr. med. Melissa Dominice Dao, University of Geneva
POSTER	09:35	Presentation of Posters II
PLENARY TALK	10:45	Bias in Artificial Intelligence and How to Build Equitable Systems Dr. Saniye Gülser Corat, No Bias AI, France
IMPULSE	11:05	Topic to be announced Speaker to be announced
	11:15	Funding the Future of Gender Medicine: Why Venture Capital Matters Maryann Selfe, FemmeHealth Alliance, Switzerland
POSTER	11:35	Poster Award Ceremony
	11:55	Wrap-up and Conclusions
	12:00	Farewell Lunch and Networking
	14:00	End of Swiss Gender Medicine Symposium 2026

WE LOOK FORWARD TO INSPIRING LECTURES AND MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE

This year's symposium spans the full spectrum – from scientific foundations and clinical application in hospitals to health policy questions and emerging technological developments. The focus is less on existing gaps than on solutions, best practices and concrete pathways for embedding gender medicine in the healthcare system.

The programme combines keynotes, scientific and practice-oriented sessions with interactive formats, creating space for professional exchange and networking across disciplines and institutions.

Join us in Bern to be part of this conversation!

Program



Registration



Subscribe
to newsletter



Host

Sponsors