Gender Outcomes INternational Group: to Further Well-being Development (GOING-FWD)

EUC School of Medicine to participate in a new 1.65 Million five-country transatlantic network, in a personalized medicine, large data science project, GOING-FWD

A new research challenge aimed at improving the health and well-being of men and women worldwide will involve the partnership effort of the School of Medicine of European University Cyprus, McGill University Health Center (Canada), Medical University of Vienna (Austria), Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), and Universidad de Murcia (Spain) for the next three years.

GOING-FWD is a **Data Science, Personalized Medicine** project funded by Canadian Institutes of Health and Research (CIHR) and GENDER-NET+, a European initiative part of the EU H2020 initiative for a total of one million Euros (Approx. 1,65 Million $CAD). GOING-FWD is led and coordinated at the RI-MUHC by **Dr. Louise Pilote, James McGill Professor of Medicine, Dr Valeria Raparelli, Visiting Professor of Medicine at McGill University from Sapienza University of Rome, and Dr. Colleen Norris, Professor in Nursing, Medicine and Public Health Science, University of Alberta.** The Cyprus team involves **Professor Elizabeth Johnson, Acting Dean, Professor Ioannis Patrikios, Chairperson, Professor Anastasis Stephanou, Head of the Medical School Research Unit, and Dr. Eirini Agapadiki of the School of Medicine, European University Cyprus; and Dr. Marios Pantzaris, Associate Professor of Neurology at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics.**

"We are proud to announce that a new research challenge aimed at improving the health and well-being of men and women worldwide will involve **the School of Medicine, European University Cyprus** in the next 3 years!"

*GENDER-NET+ aims to promote the integration of **sex and gender analysis into research**. This integration gives new knowledge and insights, which ultimately will benefit both women and men.*

A large volume of data gathered through 5-country network (Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Spain, Sweden) will allow for the creation of innovative algorithms that will assist in the implementation of personalized interventions for the management of noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular, chronic kidney or neurodegenerative diseases.

Scientific Summary of the Project:

Background: Beyond biological sex, gender is increasingly recognized as a pivotal determinant of health. However, there are no standardized gender measurements. We

hypothesize that gender-related factors and their effect will vary substantially between countries and diseases.

Aims: The overarching aims of this large Consortium are to integrate sex and gender dimensions in applied health research, to evaluate their impact on clinical cost-sensitive outcomes and patients reported outcomes related to quality of life in noncommunicable diseases including cardiovascular disease, metabolic disease, chronic kidney disease and neurological disease. We also aim to construct innovative ways to disseminate the application of gender measurement towards personalized approaches to chronic disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

Methods: With a five-country transatlantic network comprised of 30 investigators, we will benchmark innovative solutions to measure gender in retrospective cohorts. Based on consensus, we will develop a framework to identify gender-related factors, as well as cost-sensitive and patient-reported outcomes, and measure their associations in 32 accessible cohorts of patients affected by cardiovascular, chronic kidney and neurological diseases and metabolic syndrome. Large database analysis and when appropriate machine learning approaches will allow the derivation of pan and within country disease-specific gender scores which will be validated through e-Health and m-Health applications in prospective disease groups. Educational modules will be developed to promote awareness, implementation and dissemination.

Innovation: As a five-country multidisciplinary Consortium with access to granular large databases, we are uniquely positioned to harness an innovative methodology that will provide a framework to close gender gaps in chronic disease management and promote knowledge transfer in the scientific community and clinical practice.

Stay tuned! For any further information, please contact: GOINGFWD2019@outlook.com