

iGIANT ROUNDTABLE

Orlando, Florida
October 27, 2017

In Concert With The North American Spine Society

NASS is a global multidisciplinary medical society that utilizes education, research and advocacy to foster the highest quality, ethical, value and evidence-based spine care for patients.

Participants:

F. Todd Wetzel, MD – *President NASS 2016-17*

Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Neurosurgery at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University [ret.]
Chief of Orthopedics – Bassett Healthcare
Cooperstown, New York

Kim Templeton, MD – *President AMWA 2016-17*

Professor & Director Musculoskeletal Oncology Service, University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City

Heidi Prather, DO – *President NASS 2014-15*

Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Vice Chair - Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Washington University Medical School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO

Donna Ohnmeiss, PhD, Dr. Med.

NASS Board of Directors
President – Texas Back Institute Research Foundation
Plano, Texas

Lisa Ferrara, PhD

Owner and President
OrthoKinetic Technologies, LLC
Southport, North Carolina

Shira Weiner, PT, PhD

Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
New York University Medical Center

NASS/iGIANT Rountable Participants - Continued

Alison A. Stout, DO

Chair NASS – Section on Rehabilitation & Interventional Medicine Specialties
Evergreen Health Sport & Spine Care
Primary Address
12039 NE 128th Street, Suite 500
Kirkland, Washington

Suzanne Badillo, PT

Past Chair – Section on Women’s Health - APTA
Clinical Program Director, Women's Health Rehabilitation
Shirley Ryan Ability Lab FKA Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Sheila Dugan, MD

Medical Director, University Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Director, Rush Program for Abdominal and Pelvic Health
Associate Professor, Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation,
Rush Medical College
Chicago, Illinois

Saralyn Mark MD – President IGIANT and Round Table Facilitator

iGIANT (impact of Gender/Sex on Innovation and Novel Technologies) seeks to accelerate the translation of research into gender/sex-specific design elements such as products, programs, policies and protocols.

Greg Whitcomb, DC

NASS Section on Interdisciplinary Spine
Department of Neurosurgery
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Past Chair
Assistant Professor,
Medical College of Wisconsin

Zoher Gogawhala, MD – NASS Board of Directors - Research Council Director

Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine, Lahey Hospital & Medical Center
Chairman of Neurosurgery Lahey Hospital & Medical Center
Executive Committee for the Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Executive Committee AANS/CNS Burlington, Massachusetts

NASS/iGIANT Roundtable Highlights

The North American Spine Society is the largest spine professional society in the world. Members of NASS span the spectrum of surgical and non-surgical spine specialists, researchers and educators. This roundtable convened spine professionals of highly diverse, but convergent, backgrounds in a facilitated discussion on the role of sex and gender in spine care.

NASS/iGIANT Roundtable Highlights (continued)

Epidemiological research confirms that women are disproportionately affected by spinal disorders and pain. In part, the roundtable was undertaken to explore the reasons for this disparity with the realization that past research has lacked sufficient focus on the importance of the effects of sex & gender in the causes of, need for, and responses to, treatment of spinal disease and related psychosocial effects.

It is also well established that women are underrepresented in spine surgical and non-surgical specialties, particular orthopaedic and neurological surgery. Through the narrative of personal experience, participants explored the barriers to advancement of women in the field of spine care and related research. Female mentorship was identified as a key component to increasing the participation and success of women in academia and spine research.

Many participants had either direct personal or clinical experience surrounding the stresses of childbearing on women's health, including obstacles to return to work, childcare, negative managerial attitudes and perceptions, systemic bias and policy deficiencies.

Issues of sex and gender were also perceived as critical to improving treatment outcomes and disease prevention. Discussion included design considerations in surgical implants to funding post-partum rehabilitation for women at risk for chronic spine and pelvic pain. Design was also perceived as critical to optimizing care delivery, for example, surgical tools and treatment modalities have been developed for use by male hands with poorly understand ramifications when employed by those of women.

While incipient, current research is raising questions regarding the effects of sex and gender on the experience, processing and behaviors of those with acute and chronic pain. Women, for example, have been disproportionately affected by the extant "opioid crisis".

Individuals were tremendously affected by an increased awareness of the impact of sex and gender on their efforts to improve health technologies, health-care delivery and scientific research. Several participants volunteered to champion change through interprofessional/ interdisciplinary outreach, education, clinical program and technology design.

NASS leadership volunteered continuing organizational support, with a next step of developing a novel continuing education course on women's issue in spine care. This will afford roundtable participants the opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of sex and gender in patient health and quality-of-life in the broader spine community.