

iGIANT® Second Annual Georgetown University Round Table
Wednesday April 1, 2019
Remote via Zoom

Schedule of Events:

iGIANT® Introduction, Discussion and Call-to-Action: Saralyn Mark, MD and Jennifer Purks, BS

Attendees and Affiliations:

Suhani Akhouri, Youth Ambassador at iGIANT, San Francisco Area

Frances Ashe-goins, RN, MPH, FAAN, PhD (hon) Expert consultant in public health, policy, and Nursing, South Carolina Area

Julia Bellotti, PMP, Director, Training & Outreach at Tesla Government Inc, Washington DC Area

Rory Byrne, Georgetown School of Medicine Class of 2022 Candidate, Washington DC Area

Eliza Chin, MD, MPH, Executive Director of American Medical Women's Association, Washington DC Area

Rosemary Christian, Manager of Client Engagement at Access IT Group, Women in Cybersecurity Advocate, Washington DC Area

Danielle D'Annibale, Georgetown School of Medicine Class of 2021 Candidate, Washington DC Area

Deran Erdengiz, PhD Candidate, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Georgetown University, Washington DC Area

Jennifer Grosman Fernandez, Graduate Student in International Climate and Gender Politics at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Washington DC Area

Dan Goldman, MS, Imaging Systems Development Engineer at Draper, Boston, MA Area

Bassam Haddad, PhD, Executive Director, Arab Studies Institute, Georgetown University, Washington DC Area

Brett Habermehl, Georgetown School of Medicine Class of 2022 Candidate, Washington DC Area

Cynthia Holcomb, Female Ai Intelligence Visionary, Portland, Oregon Area

Janvi Huria, iGIANT Youth Ambassador, St. Louis, Missouri Area

Shiloh Jones, PhD, Assistant Professor, Gross Anatomy Course Director and Musculoskeletal Module Director, Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington DC Area

Alicia Khan, Georgetown School of Medicine Class of 2022 Candidate, Washington, DC Area

Mark Lindsay, JD, MBA, Director of the Health Care and Pharmaceuticals practice at The Livingston Group, Washington DC Area

Saralyn Mark, MD, SolaMed Solutions, LL; iGIANT® founder, Washington DC Area

Isela Melendez-Carpio, M.Ed., Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Georgetown School of Medicine, Washington DC Area

Jennifer Purks, Georgetown School of Medicine Class of 2021 Candidate, Washington DC Area

Naseem Rangwala, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Class of 2023 Candidate, Los Angeles Area

Philip Rubin, PhD CEO Emeritus at Haskin Laboratories, New Haven, CT and Professor Adjunct in the Department of Surgery at the Yale University School of Medicine and a Fellow at Yale's Trumbull College, New Haven Area, CT

Elizabeth Salm, Associate Director, Postdoc Development & Training Grant Support, Biomedical Graduate Education, Georgetown University, Washington DC Area

Kathryn Sanchez, Graduate research Assistant at Georgetown University, Washington DC Area

Alexandria San Jose, Malaria Project Support Specialist, Pan American Health Organization, Washington DC Area

Dagmara Szkurlat, MS, Senior Software Engineer with Autodesk, London, UK

Tyler White, Culinary Manager with Hillstone Restaurant Group, Washington DC Area

Kellie Wo, Georgetown School of Medicine Class of 2021 Candidate, Washington DC Area

Discussion:

Poignant stories were shared.

One of the engineer attendees described her experience in the design lab – there were no changing rooms for women and both personal protective equipment and uniforms did not fit. Furthermore, she has experienced in Virtual Reality (VR) that she cannot see well using the technology. This limits her time in the headset and thus ability to work with it. Finally on a personal level as an avid skier, she observes the stark improvement skiing with the brand “HEAD” skis (which is specifically designed with a sex/gender lens) allows for an enjoyable skiing experience and injury prevention.

Another attendee shared how critical this lens is for the global stage. This has vast impacts to female safety (particularly when traveling), and daily lives for women in other countries who may not be as fortunate. She advocated to think about people in refugee camps and how food scarcity there (due to decreased planting as a result of COVID-19) disproportionately hurts women, and how quarantine will likely cause higher incidents of domestic violence everywhere, which tends to affect women more than others. All these elements remind us to continue to have a global lens on these issues and not just consider domestic concerns.

Lastly, a third attendee highlighted that computer assisted devices in engineering is typically designed for self rather than others. He now vows to be conscious of sex/gender design for others on all projects he is working on and expressed the benefit this would have if incorporated in an engineering curriculum.

Call to Actions:

“The iGIANT roundtable provided a forum to discuss the presence of gender/sex discrimination in technology and healthcare, ranging from oversized unisex medical scrubs to limited strength training programs designed for females to unequal female representation in medical leadership. My call to action is to increase awareness of sex/gender inequities in healthcare, including through creating an informational pamphlet that explains how strength training modalities can be adjusted respectively for females and males in order to prevent injury.” ~DD

“As an iGIANT Youth Ambassador, I will continue to contribute to the meaningful work that iGIANT is doing by helping organize iGIANT challenges, encouraging the design of more gendered innovation, and spread information about the necessity of sex/gender lens. Additionally, I will organize a virtual roundtable to encourage discussion about COVID-19-related gender-specific problems as well as similar other sectors in society.” ~JH

“Consider with my team how to better incorporate sex/gender in our work. Our challenge is that we have limited time/resources and multiple perspectives to consider. PAHO has multiple cross cutting themes: gender/sex, cultural diversity, equity, and human rights. As important as a gender/sex perspective is, my program has tended to focus more on indigenous populations and other vulnerable populations (rural/remote, poor, etc). So there’s more work to do to have more robust interventions. But also from a personal perspective I think an important call to action is demanding more as consumers from companies. Specifically I’m thinking about Apple’s health app and how it did not initially include reproductive health issues (fertility, menstrual tracking, etc) in the app. It’s important to have more women involved in tech and engineering to be a part of the design process, but something everyone can do now is make purchasing decisions and call out companies that aren’t including a focus on women in their products.” ~AS

“My call to action would be to share the iGIANT mission and work they are doing with the non-profit I started called the Philadelphia Women & Cyber Security. I will do so in our upcoming virtual happy hour events.” ~RC

“My call to action is to approach customer interactions with a sex/gender lens as this would greatly benefit their experience.” ~TW

“I commit to continue having these conversations to increase awareness about design and innovation with a sex/gender lens and bring about change in this sphere.” ~KW

This Round table was hosted by iGIANT® with close partnership of Georgetown University School of Medicine specifically including the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Georgetown School of Medicine American Medical Women's Society (AMWA), Georgetown Women in Science and Education (WISE), and Georgetown Women in Medicine (GWIM). We sincerely thank our partners.