

EDITORIALS

research purposes, such as revision of information services, in health and within the healthcare system, to achieve whatever information be broken down by sex, and the inclusion of variables enabling research on gender inequalities.⁹⁻¹⁰ Also this support helps in the process of devising and financing the research, ranging from improving the quality of the applications, and designing of studies on gender and health, to gender awareness in application assessment processes. At all stages, shortcomings have been detected that have set in motion actions such as training and methodological support to emerging health and gender research teams. In this sense, the Observatory on Women's Health is working to develop a series of guidelines for gender mainstreaming in the different stages of research. The first, about research policies, is already available.¹¹

Publication of research results, specifically in scientific journals, is basic for knowledge dissemination. It has been shown that gender stereotypes have some impact in this field by hindering women's works.¹²

These actions are expected to come to completion in the oncoming years, thus contributing to a deepened understanding of the magnitude and causes of gender inequalities in Spain, as well as in the whole scientific world, and hence providing knowledge for the kind of political action that may enable ongoing progress towards these inequalities reduction, to thrive on.

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GALLERY

Doctor Aleu, the first woman doctor in Spain



Doctor Dolores Aleu

Doctor Dolores Aleu (Barcelona, 1857-1913) was the first woman to study medicine in Spain. She completed her university education in 1879 but was not granted permission to take the graduation exam until 1882, when she also obtained her doctorate. She fought single handedly to achieve a medical degree, moved by the conviction that denying access to it was an act of social injustice towards women. "Despite there being so many social concerns, we are denied instruction, and the poor women who actually make the superhuman effort of reaching the fountains of science are constantly ridiculed..."

In her doctoral thesis, entitled "On the need to set the hygienic and moral education of women on a new course," she harshly criticised discrimination against women in all realms of life, the social hypocrisy that bans women from education, arguing that they are weak and have to bear the burden of families, while neither is taken into account when it comes to putting them to work like dogs on farms or in factories, as well as the unhealthiness of female attire, particularly corsets.

Dr Aleu married and had two children, but this did not prevent her from practising medicine until her death at the age of 56.

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