

Debate

THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE TEACHING-RESEARCH OF ANATOMY IN MEDICINE:
THE GENDER ISSUE

WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN HUMAN ANATOMY - FACULTY OF MEDICINE, NOVI SAD, SERBIA

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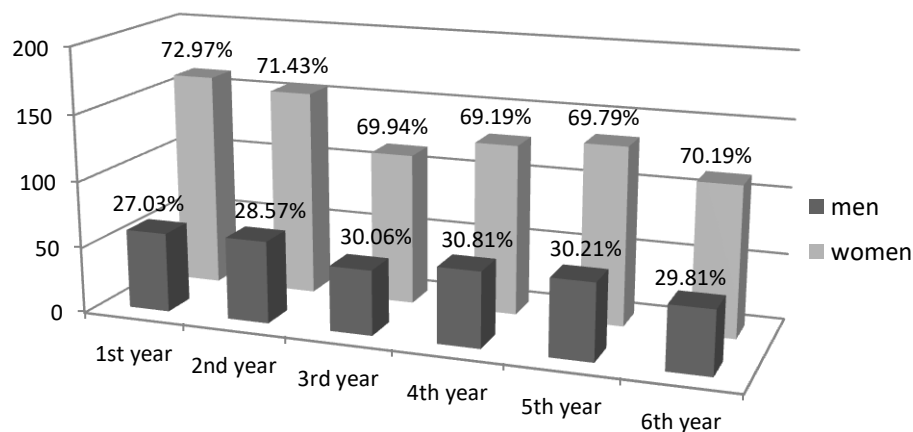
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“Doctors without anatomy are similar to moles: they work in the dark and their daily tasks are mole hills.” *Friedrich Tiedemann (1781-1861)*



Faculty of Medicine in Novi Sad is one of five public Medical faculties in Serbia. As a unit of the University of Novi Sad, it conducts higher education study programmes in Serbian and English, as well as scientific research in the fields of medical and related sciences.

Women comprise the majority of enrolled medical students at this faculty. Approximate percentage of women entering Medicine in 2022 is 72.97%. In Serbia, the program of General Medicine takes 6 years. Approximate percentage of women in certain years of study are given in Graph 1.



Graph 1- Approximate percentage of women and men in certain years of study

In relation with that, the approximate percentage of women who graduated from Medicine in 2022 was higher in comparison with men (63% vs. 37%).

Also, at the Department of Anatomy in Novi Sad women comprise the majority of teaching staff. Out of the total number, more than 3/4 of teachers are women (76.92% vs. 23.08%). By analyzing the data of all five public faculties in the country, it is found that women in total make up 55.74% of staff who hold regular teaching in Anatomy. Two public faculties employ the same number of women and men (50% vs. 50%), two public faculties employ a greater number of women (76.92% vs. 23.08% and 58.33% vs. 41.67%), while only one public faculty employs a greater number of men (66.67% vs. 33.33%) at the Department of Anatomy.

All teachers (100%) at the Department of Anatomy in Novi Sad and other public faculties in the country are Doctors of Medicine. Moreover, in Novi Sad, one Full Professor is a surgeon, one Associate Professor is a psychiatrist, one Assistant Professor and three Teaching Assistants are residents (physical medicine and rehabilitation, radiology and ophthalmology). There is no woman or man who carry out teaching and/or research activities ad-honorem, with interim or transitory appointments.

At the Department of Anatomy in Novi Sad last 10 years 83.33% women held positions as a Full, Associate or Assistant Professor. In the meantime, four of them have retired. Currently, proportion is 3:1 in favor of women (75% vs. 25%). Their titles and percentages are given in Table 1. All professors are Doctors of Medicine.

Title	Women	%	Men	%
Full Professor	4	100	0	0
Associate Professor	1	50	1	50
Assistant Professor	1	50	1	50
Teaching Assistant	4	80	1	20

Table 1- Teaching staff at the Department of Anatomy in Novi Sad.

From 1996 to 2018, in the position of Head of the Department were women. From 2018 until now, Head of the Department of Anatomy is a man (Associate Professor) while Head of the Institute of Anatomy is a woman (Full Professor). Head of the Institute of Anatomy was a man only in period from 2016 to 2018.

During the last decades in Serbia, Medicine study is more popular in females. Situation of our University is representative of what happens in the majority of Universities in the country but situation of our Department regarding the

representation of female teachers is above the national average (76.92% vs. 55.74%).

Female teachers from our Department are very engaged in teaching, science and in the management of the national association. The headquarters of the Serbian Anatomical Society is in Novi Sad since 2006. Currently, the third woman, Full Professor from the Department of Anatomy in Novi Sad is in the position of President in the association. Beside the President, females are in the position of General Secretary and Treasurer.