

**Debate****THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE TEACHING-RESEARCH OF ANATOMY IN MEDICINE:  
THE GENDER ISSUE****INTRODUCTION TO THE DEBATE****Susana N. Biasutto***Chair of Normal Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, National University of Cordoba,  
Cordoba, Argentina*

The field of Anatomy (gross and clinical in particular) has historically been a patrimony of men. Initially practiced by pseudo-surgeon scientists and later by surgeons as a priority, the Anatomy developed with a clear masculine tone, as can be seen in vintage paintings. However, since the beginning of the 20th century, women have been occupying increasingly relevant places in Medicine, in surgical specialties and, consequently, also in Anatomy. Even so, there are still many universities where Anatomy continues to be a small feud of men; although there are also those where women predominate...

The gender issue occupies many spaces in world literature today, from newspapers to scientific literature, with all kinds of manifestations and comments. However, when female inclusion

data is derived from males, questions about the likelihood of bias are raised.

In July 2022, the Argentine Journal of Clinical Anatomy published an article entitled "Women and Anatomy" (Biasutto, 2022), which quickly caught the attention of readers. It was then that I decided to convene a group of women anatomists, from different countries and from all continents, to express themselves about the reality of their universities and their countries in relation to the participation of women in teaching and research in Anatomy.

It was established that it should refer to macroscopic, applied and clinical anatomy, excluding teachers and researchers in Embryology, Histology, Molecular Biology, etc.; that in some cases (but not always) are part of the same Chair or Department.

The inclusion of certain statistical data was also required to provide objectivity and allow readers a comparative analysis.

The purpose of the Debate is to have the word and opinion of women, trying not to incur in extremism or misrepresentations.

The initial number of participants had to be limited to provide a general vision but to fit within the contents of one issue of the Journal. In some regions it was difficult to find women anatomists, especially with a certain track record and experience, a situation that, although unfortunate, could be foreseeable for cultural reasons. Thirty one female anatomists were invited and of them, 16 accepted the invitation

(from different countries and including all continents), 3 refused to participate, 1 could not be contacted by unknown reasons and the rest (11) did not respond to the invitation. Of the 16 that accepted, 4 reported late they could not complete the submission of their article, so they should not be included. This situation generated a bias in the Debate from a statistical point of view, since it makes the sample less representative in order to be considered comprehensive at an international level.

However, we think that the data and opinions expressed by the participating anatomists are very relevant and so are "the silences".

I think readers will be able to evaluate expressions, absences and silences. And we invite you to participate in the next issue with your comments and thoughts, which you can send as a manuscript through the Debate section of the Argentine Journal of Clinical Anatomy.

We dedicate this issue to women anatomists.