

## Women's Health @ Oxford – First newsletter

The Women's Health @ Oxford initiative is a cross-divisional consortium of academics committed to improving the health of women and girls globally, with a focus on the most vulnerable communities.

We aim to bring together a critical mass of international expertise from a range of disciplines across the University to: a) address the current lack of high quality research in the field and b) develop solutions to the major health and equity problems facing women and girls.

Our first event, on 4 October 2019, was a **Women's Health @ Oxford Symposium**, which featured the VC, Professor Louise Richardson, and as keynote speaker, Professor Dame Valerie Beral. The Symposium attracted over 100 participants from many departments across the University (You can watch a recording of the Symposium [here](#)).

The Symposium generated tremendous enthusiasm for the Women's Health @ Oxford initiative from researchers, students and administrators across academic departments and divisions. We therefore have a unique opportunity to develop research programmes that will help women and girls receive an equal share of the benefits that health care brings to men. The initiative is especially timely given that next year marks the Centenary of women being admitted as full members of the University.

A poll conducted during the Women's Health @ Oxford Symposium showed that 100% of attendees wish to continue to be involved in the initiative. **This newsletter provides news and opportunities for such continued engagement.**

### What has already happened since the Symposium

The Symposium has already stimulated discussions about developing a new research programme focused on **Women's Mental Health in India**, jointly facilitated by Premila Webster (Nuffield Department of Population Health), Radhika Khosla (Oxford India Centre for Sustainable Development & School of Geography and the Environment) and Faisal Devji (Faculty of History). This is an exciting transdisciplinary example of what Women's Health @ Oxford is trying to achieve. Please contact Ana Bow-Bertrand, Communications Manager, if you would like to learn more about this initiative ([anastasia.bow-bertrand@georgeinstitute.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anastasia.bow-bertrand@georgeinstitute.ox.ac.uk)).

### Support for other groups

We would encourage other groups to follow the Women's Mental Health in India example, and our staff are able to offer some support. For example, they can:

- Help organise group meetings and events (including finding venues);
- Identify and circulate grant opportunities;
- Help build strategic collaborations and increase membership;
- Showcase group members' achievements on social media and on the forthcoming Women's Health @ Oxford website.

Please contact Alyssa Chase-Vilchez, Programme Manager, Women's Health-UK ([alyssa.chase@georgeinstitute.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alyssa.chase@georgeinstitute.ox.ac.uk)), if you would like to discuss how we can help.

### Other engagement opportunities

- **We are building a website—and need your support!** We are looking to put together a **small steering group** to provide feedback on the forthcoming website's look, feel and usability.

Students, staff, and researchers with a background in **user design, user experience, and/or web design** would be particularly beneficial.

- We are interested in helping to co-host **International Women's Day** events around the University in early March—please get in touch if you'd like to join forces!
- We are creating a database of **"Who's Who in Women's Health @ Oxford."** We will be in touch soon with instructions for joining this database, which will help connect women's health researchers across the University, and will ultimately be expanded to include external academics, NGO leaders and policy experts.

### Events

- Please join us on 3 December from 17:00-18:30 at the Oxford Martin School for the [final event](#) in our **Older Women's Health Seminar Series**, co-hosted with the Ageing Research Collaborative Hub @ Oxford. [Adelina Comas](#) will present on 'Long-term care financing and women.'

### Other ideas for what Women's Health @ Oxford can do? Connect with us!

If you would like to collaborate with Women's Health @ Oxford to launch a workshop, seminar series, or other event, please get in touch with Alyssa Chase-Vilchez ([alysa.chase@georgeinstitute.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alysa.chase@georgeinstitute.ox.ac.uk)).