



iGIANT Roundtable

October 29th, 2017

Chicagosalons.org

Chicago, IL

Participants:

Chicago Medical Society

Katherine Tynus, MD – President

Chicago Salons!

Nancy Church, MD

Charles Jett

Qingchu Thinking LLC

Zoe Quan, PhD

iGIANT

Saralyn Mark, MD – President & Moderator

Women in Bio, Chicago

Dima Elissa – President

Wright Foundation

Barbara Burgess

Jillian Eichel

Trucia Drummond, DDS – Former American Dental Association President

David Wettlaufer, PhD – Chemist and Pharmaceutical Consultant

Jackie Wong, MD - Physician

Discussion Highlights:

1. There is an underlying and often unequal perception of the appropriateness of certain medical procedures for men and women. For example, birth control or sterilization procedures for women is an idea more readily accepted than the male-equivalent for contraception or surgical procedures.
2. Improvements to sex/gender-biased medical treatments are occurring albeit slowly. Human factors such as musculature, height, or even the hormonal milieu impact on how

well an individual uses tools or machinery. For example, robotics is a game-changer in that designs are adjusted to the individual's needs.

3. Policies which impact diversity and inclusion need to be enacted in order to achieve full gender equity. This will require active leadership to change outdated and entrenched beliefs. From health insurance policies, research inclusion policies or even corporate regulations, the smallest changes will support the overall goal of the iGIANT, namely, to improve and protect the safety and quality of life, including work performance, for men and women.
4. While women tend to be more sensitive to the needs of other women regarding design elements for the health, IT, transportation and retail sectors, it is important that men be educated about the need for gender/sex-specific design elements and to take an active role in ensuring that they are developed.

Call to action: The following is a cross section of action steps which were discussed by the participants:

- “I could put together a survey with many doctors, one with the notion of custom printed medical equipment/implants and gauge the appetite for this. Could do the same with orthopedic surgeons.”
- “...the next time I go to Home Depot and something is too heavy for me, I'll ask them when are they going to come out with something I can use.”
- “Connect with manufacturers, perform studies relevant to what's missing in literature and get manufacturers to support them.”
- “Put together an advisory board that includes female representation.”
- “Find a male doctor and share my experience with him – talking about your experience is the action.”
- “Watching a woman really grow and develop as a physician and encourage her.”
- “Determine what aspects of a contract is particularly troubling for women? Maternity leave, etc. How can we change it to better fit women, with an emphasis on policy?”
- “Host a roundtable, hear everyone's voice, and the iGIANT can provide tools for this.”