



**2010 Helen I. Moorehead-Laurencin, M.D. Sex and Gender Research Forum  
*Executive Summary***

On March 4, 2010, Drexel University College of Medicine's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership hosted its annual Sex and Gender Research Forum at the Bosson Research Center on Drexel University's main campus. This event honors Helen I. Moorehead-Laurencin, M.D., a North Philadelphia family physician and former faculty member of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

This year's topic was "Gender Differences Among Children and Youth: School, Violence and Health." The daylong event drew just under 100 people, including faculty, students, social workers, education workers and journalists.

The day began with Esther Deblinger, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry and Co-Director of the CARES Institute, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, whose topic was "Treating Children in the Aftermath of Child Sexual Abuse." She focused her lecture on teaching body safety to young children.

Following Deblinger's talk was the first of two panel discussions. The discussion was titled "Health Care Transitions in Adolescence." The panel was composed of Daniel V. Schidlow, M.D., Professor and Chairman, pediatrics, Drexel University College of Medicine, and Physician in Chief and Chief Academic Officer at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children; Eugene Hong, M.D., Associate Professor and Chairman, family, community and preventive medicine, Drexel University College of Medicine; and Laniece Coleman, DNP, CNM, Assistant Professor, obstetrics and gynecology, Drexel University College of Medicine. The panelists centered their discussion on sex education and body image and one of the most memorable statistics came from Hong, who noted that if children do not exercise regularly by age 10, the chance that they will be engaged in regular exercise by age 25 is less than 10%.

Nan Stein, a Senior Research Scientist at Wellesley Centers for Women, addressed teaching children about sexual harassment, gender violence and bullying in schools. Stein noted that if we permit children to engage in sexual harassment in schools, they might get the message it is appropriate to do in private, and that using schools as training grounds against sexual harassment and assault is key.

The second panel discussion centered on youth, violence and criminal justice with panelists Naomi Goldstein, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology, Drexel's College of Arts and Sciences; Daniel M. Filler, J.D., Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs and Professor of Law, Drexel's Earle Mack School of Law; and Theodore Corbin, M.D., Assistant Professor, Emergency Medicine, and Co-Director of Drexel's Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice.

The program then broke into three concurrent sessions. One focused on teens and sex with Stein heading a workshop about research in middle schools on precursors to teen violence followed by Nathalie Bartle, Ed.D., Professor of Community Health and Prevention at Drexel's School of Public Health, presenting research on sex and the Internet.

The second session focused on neuropsychology with Goldstein discussing an anger management program for female juvenile offenders and Richard Malone, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry at Drexel University College of Medicine speaking about brain function in autism.

The third session's theme was race and ethnicity. Carola Suárez-Orozco, Ph.D., Professor of Applied Psychology and Co-Director of Immigration Studies at New York University, spoke about the Latino academic gap and Howard Stevenson, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chairman of Applied Psychology-Human Development at the University of Pennsylvania, spoke about "African-American Boys: Racial Identity and Socialization.

The event showcased additional sex and gender research occurring at Drexel through 26 poster presentations during the closing reception. Five different Drexel colleges, schools or affiliates presented their research on gender in the areas of basic science (8 abstracts), clinical science (8 abstracts) or social science (7 abstracts) along with education and outreach (3 abstracts). Volunteer judges assessed the poster presentation skills of all graduate students. The winner was psychology Ph.D. student Alexandra Nelson, whose poster addressed coping with fertility treatment and infertility-related stress and social support among women receiving in vitro fertilization. Her mentor is Pamela A. Geller, Ph.D.