SEX DIFFERENCES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE RESEARCH WORKSHOP

March 8-9, 2010
San Francisco, California

Purpose of the Workshop:

The Institute of Medicine’s Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders is hosting a workshop to explore the key principles and strategies used by basic translational researchers and industry in studying sex differences in the neurosciences for the therapy development pathway. Specific objectives of the meeting are to:

- Briefly outline the public health importance of studying sex difference in the nervous system, in health and sickness, including the potential application to healthcare delivery.
- Identify the scientific principles that should be considered when designing pre-clinical experiments that will examine sex differences, including strategies to bridge between pre-clinical and clinical studies.
  - Discuss when and how sex differences should and should not be considered.
- Explore the key principles and strategies used by academic clinicians to effectively utilize basic research for pre-clinical and clinical application and study (i.e., phase 0-4), including approaches used by researchers to decide how and when to take into consideration the potential importance of sex differences.
- Explore how and when industry considers and addresses studying sex differences, given regulatory guidelines.
- Examine the advantages, constraints, and implication of performing “valid analysis” versus requiring statistical outcomes between the sexes.
- Identify the next steps that will be critical to establishing a set of principles that could be used by a variety of stakeholders in considering when and how to incorporate studying sex differences into translational research efforts.

Public Input:

We welcome a variety of perspectives in order to help make this a highly productive workshop and look forward to valuable contributions and discussions. Please register for this free public meeting at http://www.iom.edu/Activities/Research/NeuroForum/2010-MAR-08.aspx To provide information to the planning committee in written form, please send an email to shanson@nas.edu.

Workshop Report:

A publicly available summary of the presentations and discussions made during the workshop will be prepared by a rapporteur and will reflect what transpired. All views presented in the report will be those of workshop participants. The report will not contain findings or recommendations by the planning committee.
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The IOM was chartered in 1970 as a component of the National Academy of Sciences to enlist distinguished members of the appropriate professions in the examination of policy matters pertaining to the health of the public. In this, the Institute acts under both the Academy’s 1863 congressional charter responsibility to be an adviser to the federal government and its own initiative in identifying issues of medical care, research, and education.

For additional information on the Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders visit the project’s homepage at www.iom.edu/neuroforum