

Small Particles, Big Issues: PRIORITYze DEI

Issue 6 11/07/2023: Reviewing Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) Guidelines.

Dear all,

We want to bring to your attention the reviewing process since publishers are increasingly recognizing the importance of sex and gender within the research itself, a dimension of analysis that has a critical impact on research quality and outcomes.

As we know, changing norms around study design and reporting to **ensure that sex and gender are considered appropriately within research** will require action from across the academic community.

- **Researchers** should design studies to take sex and gender into account in establishing objectives, developing methods of study, obtaining and evaluating data, and reporting the results of their work.
- **Funders and policymakers** should consider sex and gender in developing research priorities, funding strategies, and guidelines.
- **Editors, as sentinels of scientific rigor**, have a critical role in developing and implementing standards for reporting sex and gender to guide authors and ensure adherence.

The peer review process is still important in **ensuring effective, transparent and complete sex and gender reporting**. Referees are recommended to assess manuscripts for inclusion of sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis and to consider if sex and gender are relevant to the topic of the study and whether the study **follows relevant guidelines**, wherever applicable.

The **Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) Guidelines** have an accompanying checklist published in European Science Editing. You can find them here: <https://ease.org.uk/communities/gender-policy-committee/the-sager-guidelines/>

Please note that this booklet exists in two versions, one for studies including human participants and one for studies that do not include human participants, such as those using animals and cells. The guidelines present a convenient list of items to check when writing, reviewing or editing manuscripts. **They recommend carefully using the words “sex” and “gender” to avoid confusing both terms.**

We encourage you to consider the **guidelines useful** for more detailed insights and recommendations.

Best regards

Mariasole and Camilla