UNDERSTANDING
SAGER Reporting Guidelines in 6 steps

Sex And Gender Equity in Research

Gender Policy Committee
European Association of Science Editors
Sex and gender differences are often overlooked and unreported in scientific research design, implementation and reporting, and in science communication. This limits the generalizability of research findings and their applicability to clinical practice, in particular for women, but also for men.
WHO is the target of the Guidelines?

EDITORS, AUTHORS, REVIEWERS
organizations that fund and conduct research, policy makers, society

They need to become fully aware that **SEX AND GENDER MATTER**
and share such responsibility through the use of the Guidelines (authors and referees) and their adoption (editors)

WHO is responsible for Guidelines?

The **Gender Policy Committee (GPC)** of the **European Association of Science Editors**
The GPC includes experts from 10 countries in Europe, North America, Latin America and Africa. To know more about the GPC visit:  [http://www.ease.org.uk/about-us/gender-policy-committee](http://www.ease.org.uk/about-us/gender-policy-committee)
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

• Authors should use the terms sex and gender carefully to avoid confusing both terms.

• Where the subjects of research comprise organisms capable of differentiation by sex, the research should be designed and conducted in a way that can reveal sex-related differences in the results, even if these are not expected.

• Where subjects can also be differentiated by gender (shaped by social and cultural circumstances), the research should be conducted similarly at this additional level of distinction.
They will help authors, editors and referees:

- Use the correct **terminology** (sex and/or gender)
- Improve **study design, implementation and reporting**
- Allow the correct **implementation of research results** thus contributing to an equitable use of resources and reduction of waste
The SAGER guidelines will be useful in the different stages of research:

- study design, implementation, reporting
- peer reviewing
- research implementation
Where to find more about the SAGER Guidelines?

**Full article**: Heidari et al. Research Integrity and Peer Review, 2016

**Flyer**: EASE GPC website

**Equator** website, among published guidelines

**National Library of Medicine**, among NLM reporting guidelines

**Instructions for authors** of journals who adopted them

**Citations in editorials and other articles**: JAMA, The Lancet Psychiatry, Annali dell’Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Addiction Journal, BMC Medical Research Methodology and others

Where to endorse the SAGER Guidelines in less than 1 minute


Highly recommended to foster adoption by journal editors
SAGER Reporting Guidelines in practice

- Recommendations per section of the article
- Recommendations for editors
- Authors checklist for gender-sensitive reporting

Sex And Gender Equity in Research

Gender Policy Committee

European Association of Science Editors
Recommendations per section of the article

1. Title and abstract

If only one sex is included in the study, or if the results of the study are to be applied to only one sex or gender, the title and the abstract should specify the sex of animals or any cells, tissues and other material derived from these and the sex and gender of human participants.

2. Introduction

Authors should report, where relevant, whether sex and/ or gender differences may be expected.

3. Methods

Authors should report how sex and gender were taken into account in the design of the study, whether they ensured adequate representation of males and females, and justify the reasons for any exclusion of males or females.

4. Results

Where appropriate, data should be routinely presented disaggregated by sex and gender. Sex- and gender-based analyses should be reported regardless of positive or negative outcome. In clinical trials, data on withdrawals and dropouts should also be reported disaggregated by sex.

5. Discussion

The potential implications of sex and gender on the study results and analyses should be discussed. If a sex and gender analysis was not conducted, the rationale should be given. Authors should further discuss the implications of the lack of such analysis on the interpretation of the results.
SAGER Recommended actions FOR EDITORS to implement reporting policies

1. **Adopt the guidelines as a formal policy in Instructions to Authors**

2. **Screen initial submissions** to determine whether sex/gender is relevant to the topic of the study; if so, determine whether the issue has been addressed adequately enough to proceed with peer-review.

3. **Encourage peer reviewers** to consider journal’s sex/gender policy in the evaluation of manuscripts.

4. **Train editorial staff** on the importance of sex/gender sensitive reporting.
SAGER flowchart
guiding editors’ initial screening of submitted manuscripts

1. TOPIC OF THE STUDY
Is sex/gender relevant to the topic of the study?

- No
  - Justify how it is not relevant

- Yes
  - Answer questions 2, 3 and 4

2. DATA
Have all data been reported disaggregated by sex?

- Yes
- No

3. DESIGN OF THE STUDY
Has consideration of sex/gender (or lack thereof) in the design of the study been described?

- Yes
- No

4. DISCUSSION/LIMITATION
Has gender analysis, or implication of lack thereof, been mentioned and discussed in the discussion and limitation sections?

- Yes
- No

The monitoring/screening editors, should contact authors to ensure that these issues are addressed before the paper is sent to peer reviewers.

No further action required.
AUTHORS’ CHECKLIST for gender-sensitive reporting

FOCUS ON

• Research approaches
• Questions and hypothesis
• Literature review
• Research methods
• Ethics
Co-Chairs
Paola De Castro
Thomas Babor

Founding Chair
Shirin Heidari

Members
Rachel Carol
Janine Clayton
Mirjam Curno
Jhony A. De La Cruz Vargas
Jibril Handulelh
Joan Marsh
Ana Marusic
Ravi Murugesan
Paul Osborn
Petter Oscarson
Ines Steffens
Cara Tannenbaum
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GENDER POLICY COMMITTEE

CONTACT US
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http://www.ease.org.uk/about-us/gender-policy-committee/

ENDORSE the SAGER Guidelines

we encourage endorsement by all those involved in the scientific enterprise and in communication and explanation of science and scientific achievement, including journal editors, researchers, broad media and broadcasters.

THANK YOU