Women’s Global Health Institute

INITIATIVE

The health of women and girls is of particular concern as a result of gender-related biological differences, socioeconomic status, and disparities in research involving women participants. At Purdue, we deliver solutions through research, training, and assistance to technology commercialization that address these challenges, both nationally and internationally, through our work at the Women’s Global Health Institute (WGHI). The Institute combines strong technology, engineering, natural and social sciences, and is a hub for interdisciplinary research focusing on: 1) Wellness and disease prevention; 2) Early detection and effective interventions for prevention and treatment of diseases in Neurodegenerative Disorders, Bone Health, and Women’s Cancers.

The Institute aspires to deliver meaningful solutions to the challenges in women’s health by securing partnership and support for research and training from government, private foundations, and corporate companies.

IMPACT

- Having more than 60 affiliated faculty members from 7 colleges and 23 departments
- Supporting International Breast Cancer and Nutrition, an ongoing program which establishes collaboration among scientists from various disciplines and every continent working with low-middle-high income countries to develop strategies on primary prevention of breast cancer worldwide.
- Providing seed grants from Walther Cancer Foundation in partnership with Purdue University Center for Cancer Research (PCCR) to support innovative and interdisciplinary research on how obesity contributes to cancer risk. Four grants have been awarded since 2012
- Stimulating cutting-edge research in women’s health through the Mildred Elizabeth Edmundson Research Grant. Four grants were awarded since 2013
- Holding Women’s Health Research Symposium in 2012 and 2013
- Director Connie Weaver gave more than 15 invited talks on women’s health since 2012, to local communities, corporate companies, national and international research institutions and government offices
- Providing business strategies in partnership with Purdue’s Krannert School of Management for affiliated faculty members interested in technology commercialization
- Local partners: Oncological Sciences Center, PCCR, Indiana Clinical and Translational Institute, and IU Medical School
- International partners: Canada, China, France, Ghana, Lebanon, Qatar, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and Uruguay

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the world’s number one killer, causing 60% of all deaths globally, of which 18 million are women. It has been estimated that 80% of heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes, plus 40% of cancer cases, could be prevented. Purdue University’s Women’s Global Health Institute (WGHI) changes the way NCDs are addressed by focusing on prevention to improve women’s health throughout the lifespan, worldwide.