Breaking Down Barriers in Sexual Health

A culture of discomfort around women’s sexual health has created barriers to having an open dialogue about women’s sexual health concerns. This discomfort is underpinned by long-standing stigmas and cultural norms that often stand in the way of adequately addressing these concerns in the clinical setting.¹

Many factors have contributed to this culture of discomfort – from patients' lack of awareness that their symptoms can be treated, to healthcare professionals' lack of time or training to address women’s’ sexual health concerns, to a general unease about women’s sexual health among all parties.²

As part of our commitment to normalize women’s sexual health and promote a culture of openness between women and their clinicians, AMAG helped to establish a new collaborative initiative called The Alliance for Advancing Women’s Health (AAWH) (www.advancingwomenshealth.org).³

About AAWH

Launched in 2018, AAWH seeks to improve outcomes for women’s sexual health by helping to break down the barriers that stand in the way of better conversations and optimal care. Members include representatives from leading women’s health and sexual health organizations who are volunteering their time and expertise to help advance women’s sexual health.

AAWH members seek to promote a culture of openness that empowers women with information to seek better sexual healthcare. In 2018, AAWH members collaborated on a consensus paper entitled Female Sexual Health: Barriers to Optimal Outcomes and a Roadmap for Improved Patient–Clinician Communications. Published in February 2019 in the Journal of Women's Health, the paper explored how cultural norms and stigma, patient misunderstandings and misperceptions, and limited clinical training and time constraints continue to inhibit open conversations about sexual health between clinicians and patients. In addition to the consensus paper, AAWH also collaborates on initiatives that work to engage women to advocate for their sexual health and improve clinical interaction – or the discussion between the patient and their clinician – by elevating awareness and advancing healthcare professional education and training.

¹. https://www.acog.org/-/media/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Gynecologic-Practice/co706.pdf?dmc=1&ts=20170622T2023485662
². Ibid.
³. The Alliance for Advancing Women’s Health is a coalition convened by AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Strategic Partnership with March of Dimes

The health of mothers and babies is critical to the overall health of our communities. As part of our efforts to help families and communities thrive, AMAG has embarked on a strategic corporate partnership with March of Dimes focused on our shared commitment to improve maternal health and birth outcomes, and reduce health inequities.

About the 2019 Partnership

Through this partnership, AMAG participates in the March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign Collaborative and supports the expansion of the Supportive Pregnancy Care program (SPC).

The Prematurity Campaign Collaborative aims to achieve health equity and demonstrated improvements in preterm birth outcomes. AMAG contributes to the Collaborative in areas related to maternal and infant health equity, drawing on our expertise in maternal health and standing collaborations with experts and clinicians to address this issue.

Additionally, AMAG’s financial support of the SPC, an innovative group prenatal care program, is aimed at creating nine additional group prenatal care programs in site locations throughout the country in 2019. SPC seeks to improve health outcomes for mothers and babies by supplementing traditional medical care with social support, health education and skill-building in a group setting with a team of clinicians.

Together AMAG and March of Dimes are working to improve maternal health and birth outcomes and reduce health inequities.

“Each year AMAG employees participate in March of Dimes’ annual March for Babies as part of our effort to fight for healthy families and build a brighter future in the communities in which we live and work.

“"The work of our Prematurity Campaign Collaborative and Supportive Pregnancy Care program are focused on helping families and communities thrive. With support from AMAG Pharmaceuticals, we are able to make even greater progress on improving health equity and access to comprehensive prenatal care, which can have a substantial impact on pregnancy and birth outcomes, as well as overall community health.”

STACEY D. STEWART
PRESIDENT | MARCH OF DIMES
Addressing Barriers to Better Maternal & Infant Health

Health inequities remain one of the most intractable barriers to better health for many mothers, newborns and families in the United States, particularly among African-American women. AMAG is passionate about raising awareness of this important issue and remains committed to working in collaboration with healthcare leaders to promote greater health equity.

As part of this commitment, AMAG has partnered with leading maternal health experts and organizations to help identify and address barriers to better health for mothers and babies in the United States.

Maternal and Infant Health Inequities Working Group

Convened by AMAG in 2016, the Working Group brought together leaders in maternal and infant health to help reduce health inequities and improve the health of mothers and babies in communities across the nation. The Working Group conducted research to help clinicians communicate more effectively with African-American women about risks for preterm birth and steps they can take. This group has also supported the creation of the Pregnancy and Baby Health Clearinghouse (www.pregnancyandbabyhealth.com), a free, online tool housing resources that support women and their babies, including minority women and women in low-income households. The site connects community health leaders to relevant data, successful program examples and experts across the country to help develop or enhance educational and social support services.

March of Dimes

AMAG and March of Dimes are working together through a strategic corporate partnership to improve maternal health and birth outcomes and reduce health inequities. As part of this partnership, AMAG:

• Participates in the Prematurity Campaign Collaborative, which aims to achieve health equity and demonstrated improvement in preterm birth outcomes.
• Provides financial support for the Supportive Pregnancy Care (SPC) program, an innovative group prenatal care program that supplements traditional medical care with social support, health education and skill-building in a group setting with a team of clinicians.
• Supports the development of the curriculum for an Implicit Bias Training Module to help health professionals identify and overcome unconscious associations or assumptions that could lead to an inaccurate evaluation of a patient on the basis of characteristics such as race or gender.

ii. Made possible with support from AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc.