

## ***Women's Initiative on Sexual Health (WISH) Position Statement***

The International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH) is a multidisciplinary academic, scientific and clinical organization whose purposes are:

1. To provide opportunities for communication among scholars, researchers, and practitioners about women's sexual function and sexual experience.
2. To support the highest standards of ethics and professionalism in research, education, and clinical practice of women's sexuality.
3. To provide the public with accurate information about women's sexuality and sexual health.

ISSWSH, as the leading international organization devoted to women's sexual health, is committed to further development of the field of female sexuality. As such, we advocate a collaborative approach for assessment, diagnosis and treatment of women who are suffering from sexual health problems. ISSWSH has developed this position statement in support of women impacted by sexual dysfunction. These women, their families, and loved ones are all affected by sexual dysfunction, and their voices are often not heard. It is only by a unified and coordinated effort that progress for those affected women will be achieved.

As healthcare professionals, researchers, family and friends who have seen firsthand the devastation to physical and psychological health and quality of life that sexual dysfunction can cause, we state, unequivocally, that female sexual disorders are real conditions and not a fabrication, nor a result, of disease mongering.

Female sexual disorders are valid conditions that warrant assessment, diagnosis and appropriate therapeutic intervention. The etiology of female sexual problems is often complex. It may include sexual medicine issues related to biologic etiologies including neurologic, hormonal, vascular and anatomic components as well as psychological issues relating to socio-cultural, emotional, cognitive and relationship concerns. We are aware that female sexual dysfunction research is still a relatively new field and continuing research is needed to further elucidate the etiological factors that contribute to female sexual disorders. We advocate the development of safe and effective treatments, both biological and psychosocial-cultural in nature, for women who are suffering from these conditions. Although not all treatments will work equally for everyone, women deserve to have a variety of treatment options and for their voices to be heard. In light of this, we call upon all the stakeholders, including government regulators, to move the bar of available therapies forward.

I fully agree with the content of the ISSWSH position paper and officially endorse this statement - [click here to sign on](#).