

## **Peggy Maguire**

### ***Director General, European Institute of Women's Health***

Peggy, a Political Scientist, graduate of Trinity College Dublin, and Director General of the European Institute of Women's Health has been working for the last number of years at a European and International level to create awareness of the need for gender mainstreaming in health policy at all levels, particularly research. In 1998 she was invited to attend the UN/WHO expert group on, "Women and Health Mainstreaming the Gender Perspective into the Health Sector." In 2000 the EIWH produced a document aimed at EU "Promoting Gender Equity In EU Public Health".

Peggy, as part of an expert group, has worked with the Commission, DG for Research., in preparing the wording on gender to be included in the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for research. From 2000, Peggy has lobbied members of the EU Parliament, holding briefing sessions on several issues relating to Public Health. With support from several members of the EU Parliament, the EIWH amendments on gender, ageing and other health issues, were included in the Trakatellis Report, and voted through Parliament in April 2001. Peggy has also been a member of the EU Commission External Advisory Group on ageing and Disability, 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research and a member of the WHO expert group on gender mainstreaming.

1989-1992: Director of Research and Education Foundation at The Irish College of General Practitioners (representing over 2,500 General Practitioners).

1992-1996: Director of development at the National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin. Peggy specialised in the development of initiatives in women's and family health covering many aspects of public health information programmes research and education. Peggy also developed and implemented a three-year strategic plan for the hospital.

1996-date: Director General European Institute of Women's Health

### **Achievements**

- Establishment of the European Institute of Women's Health a registered charity and NGO. The objective of the EIWH is to have a positive influence on women's health at a European Regional and National level, seeking balance and equity in health policy and improved standards in health care. The EIWH is working to achieve this objective, through research, education advocacy and information dissemination.
- Appointment as Director General, European Institute of Women's Health.
- Development of a network of international and European organisations with specific interest in women and family health.
- Appointed member of the National Women's Health Council, a Statutory Body that is the expert advisory group to the Minister for Health and Children (Ireland) on all aspects of women's health. (Completed three year term in 1997)
- Initiated and co-ordinated the design and implementation of the first national survey of women's health needs in Ireland "Women and healthcare in Ireland: Attitudes and Behaviour"(Published in 1997).
- Initiated and co-ordinated the research and publication of "*Women in Europe – Towards Healthy Ageing*" which reviewed the health status of midlife and older women's health in Europe, launched at the first EIWH conference in 1996.
- Founder and steering group member of the EAC (The European Advisory Council on midlife and older women's Health). The objective of the EAC is to make mid-life and older women's health a priority for research and health policy.

- Research and publication of "*Women in Europe - Towards Healthy Ageing*" which addressed salient issues pertinent to older women in Europe. These issues include: Cancer, Coronary Heart Disease, Osteoporosis and Depression.
- Organisation and hosting of European Conference on "*Women in Europe - Towards Healthy Ageing*", Dublin 1996.
- Member of the UN/WHO Expert group on mainstreaming gender into the health sector, 1998.
- Member of the WHO expert panel on Gender Mainstreaming.
- Co-ordinated a EU Project which received funding from the European Commission (DG SANCO) to produce a European Policy Paper on Alzheimer's disease.
- Co-ordinated a EU Project which received funding from the European Commission (DG SANCO) to produce information on Cancer (Website won award for user friendly information on cancer).
- Organisation of international conference to launch Alzheimer's policy document.
- The EIWH held a briefing session in the European Parliament, Brussels on International Women's Day, co-hosted by Heidi Hautala MEP.
- Research and publication of policy document "Promoting Gender Equity in European Public Health Policy. Launch of Policy document at conference, 2000.
- Influencing the development of policy at a European level.
- Presentations of research findings at the European Parliament Health Intergroup.
- Member of the European Commission External Advisory Group on Ageing and Disability.
- Invited by European Commission Environment Directorate to discuss Gender Mainstreaming and Environment Policy.
- Drafted amendments on gender and ageing for inclusion in the new EU Public Health Strategy, which were tabled in the European Parliament, and successfully voted through Parliament, April 2001.
- Invited by EU Commission DG for Research to chair meeting on "Gender as a Determinant of Healthy Ageing", 2001.
- Drafted statement on gender, for inclusion in the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for Research, 2001.
- Invited by EU Commission 'Women in Science' Unit 2002 to join an expert group to look at the wording on gender for inclusion in Applications for Funding, Guides for Evaluators and Guides for Proposers for the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.
- Responsible for preparation of position papers as responses to Commission communications and white papers.
- Member of the Board of the European Men's Health Forum.