

W20 Special Session 2 “Women as Patients and Caregivers: Improving Gender Equity and Labor Inclusion by Addressing Healthcare Disparities”

Background and Issues

There are many diseases that disproportionately affect women and their ability to fully participate in the labor force and contribute to socio-economic progress. Women also bear a disproportionate burden as the primary caregivers and decision makers in healthcare matters for their families.

This session seeks to understand the economic and social impact of certain diseases, such as neurological conditions, for female patients and caregivers, and how addressing these challenges can improve both gender equity and equal opportunity for men and women in workplace.

Topics

- Considering the higher incidence of certain diseases such as MS on women, how can private and public organizations as well as governments work towards equitable access to labor?
- How can we increase awareness of the disease impact on women as family members, as primary caregivers?
- What type of support needs to be initiated by governments to facilitate women’s access to the labour market.
- How can we improve awareness of women disease impact within private and public organizations to ensure equal access to career opportunities and the creation of an inclusive work environment that encourages women to talk openly and safely about the impact of the disease (ex : Migraine is often not disclosed for fear of social stigma and misunderstanding of the condition)