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Media Contact  
Danielle Carrier  
P: 847-517-2801  
E: AssociateDirector@amwa-doc.org

The American Medical Women's Association Joins National Coalition to Improve Women's  
Sexual Healthcare  
*Alliance for Advancing Women's Health Aims to Raise Awareness and Improve Outcomes*

Schaumburg, IL, October 29, 2018 – The American Medical Women's Association, along with other leading women's health and sexual health organizations and experts have collaborated to launch a new initiative to improve women's sexual healthcare. The [Alliance for Advancing Women's Health \(AAWH\)](#), made possible with support from AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc., seeks to promote a culture of openness for women to discuss their sexual health concerns with their clinician and to improve outcomes in women's sexual health.

As a founding member of AAWH, the American Medical Women's Association will work with other member organizations to empower women with information to seek better sexual healthcare. We will also guide the direction of alliance activities and the development of tools and resources that aim to improve clinical interaction on the topic of women's sexual health.

"Healthcare providers and patients alike may be reluctant to talk about sexual problems. The American Medical Women's Association is working with the Alliance for Advancing to educate providers about the importance of sexual health and starting a conversation with patients about sexualhealth," said AMWA President, Dr. Connie Newman.

A survey of U.S. women found that about seven in 10 had experienced a sexual health issue. Despite the reported prevalence of sexual health concerns, a culture of discomfort around women's sexual health often inhibits open conversation about women's sexual health concerns even in the clinical setting. Surveys of patients and healthcare professionals found that most women (73%) preferred for their clinician to broach the topic of sexual health, while most clinicians (74%) relied on their patients to initiate the conversation. The American Medical Women's Association and other AAWH members will volunteer our time and expertise to help bridge this gap and improve women's sexual health outcomes.

"For too long, women and their clinicians have not had open conversations about sexual health concerns, to the detriment of women's physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing," said AAWH Co-Chair Sally Greenberg, Executive Director, National Consumers League. "AAWH will work to advance women's sexual healthcare by raising awareness and increasing healthcare providers' understanding of women's sexual health needs to help facilitate critical conversations, in and outside of the clinical setting."

Learn more about AAWH at <http://www.advancingwomenshealth.org/>.

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### **About The Alliance for Advancing Women's Health (AAWH)**

The Alliance for Advancing Women's Health (AAWH) seeks to advance women's sexual healthcare by instituting change that promotes a culture of openness and improves outcomes for women's sexual health. AAWH collaborates on initiatives that work to engage women to advocate for their sexual health and improve clinical interaction – or discussion between the patient and their clinician – by elevating awareness and advancing healthcare professional education and training. AAWH membership includes leading women's health and sexual health professional and patient organizations who are volunteering their time and expertise to help advance women's sexual health. The Alliance for Advancing Women's Health is made possible with support from AMAG Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

### **About The American Medical Women's Association**

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) is an organization that functions at the local, national, and international level to advance women in medicine and improve women's health. Founded in 1915, AMWA is the oldest multi-specialty organization of women in medicine. AMWA's programs help provide leadership, advocacy, education, mentoring and strategic alliances. As the vision and voice of women in medicine for over a century, AMWA empowers women to lead in improving health for all, within a model that reflects the unique perspective of women.