

Med school names woman's center

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Historically, women have been under-represented in most studies done on the causes and treatment and disease. However, that is changing. The University of Nevada School of Medicine has announced formation of the Landra Reid Center for Women's Health Studies to focus attention on the study of the health problems of Nevada's women. The Center also will attempt to address these problems in women who are at particular risk, such as low income, minority and the elderly.

The School of Medicine chose to name the center for Landra Reid because of her long-term efforts to improve the health, education and environment of Nevada citizens. Mrs. Reid was instrumental in the success of the statewide Nevada Woman '91 conferences dealing with a variety of women's issues. The conferences were sponsored by her husband, Senator Harry Reid.

Top priority will be given to health problems especially prevalent in Nevada: cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, lung cancer, suicide and mental depression, domestic violence, and obesity and nutrition-related problems.

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Heart disease and lung cancer will be high on the priority list because Nevada has one of the highest rates of death from coronary heart disease among women, and the death rate for lung cancer in Nevada women is the highest in the nation. One of the factors which will be closely studied in both these health problems is smoking. The current smoking rate in Nevada women is also the highest among all the states.

The first significant research project conducted within the Landra Reid Center is the School of Medicine's \$8.5 million Women's Health Initiative funded by the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Sandra Daugherty, professor of family and community medicine, is recruiting 3,600 women between the ages of 50 and 79 to study risk factors for breast cancer, heart disease and osteoporosis.

To further address these health problems, the Center will sponsor a series of conferences, starting in the Spring of 1995. The first topic will be "Domestic Violence: Model Programs for Prevention from Around the Nation." Programs in Reno and Las Vegas will highlight successful prevention programs and discuss the possibility of adapting them for use in Nevada.

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