



February 28, 2015

To The Editor:

**ISSWSH Board of Directors
2015 – 2016**

President

Sharon J. Parish, MD, IF, NCMP

President-Elect

Irwin Goldstein, MD, IF

Secretary

James A. Simon, MD, CCD, NCMP, IF, FACOG

Treasurer

Murray Freedman, MD

Past-President

Andrew T. Goldstein, MD, FACOG, IF

Directors

Anita Clayton, MD, IF
Shari B. Goldfarb, MD
Lisa Larkin, MD, NCMP
Stuart D. Shoengold, MD
Lauren Streicher, MD
Marcel Waldinger, MD

Fellowship Chair

Susan Kellogg-Spadt, PhD, CRNP, IF

Global Development Chair

Sue W. Goldstein, BA, CCRC, IF

Online Services Chair

Stephanie S. Faubion, MD

Scientific Program Chair

Debra Herbenick, PhD, MPH

Scientific Program Co-Chair

Melissa A. Farmer, PhD

Executive Director

David Casalod

Association Manager

Tessa Benitez

Re "Nothing Is Wrong With Your Sex Drive" (Opinion, February 27, 2015)

The International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health (ISSWSH), the preeminent international organization dedicated to women's sexual health, was greatly disturbed by the inaccuracies and lack of balance in the Op-Ed *Nothing Is Wrong With Your Sex Drive*. Comparing contemporary research on medications for female sexual dysfunction (FSD) to a doctor's misguided use of brain electrodes to "convert" a homosexual is an inflammatory and specious argument. Recognizing FSD, including hypoactive sexual desire disorder (HSDD), as an important unmet medical need, the FDA held a recent forum on the topic. Telling a woman with distressing low desire that "nothing is wrong" when there are validated medical conditions to explain her symptoms is outdated science. It is demeaning to women to suggest that HSDD can be fixed simply by counseling or having sex and hoping sexual desire will appear. As with other conditions where brain and behavior meet, medical and behavioral interventions play an important role in FSD. The same treatment path does not work for every woman, and women deserve access to all options.

Sharon J. Parish, MD

President, International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health

Sheryl Kingsberg, PhD

Chair, Advocacy Committee, International Society for the Study of Women's Sexual Health

*This letter is endorsed by the International Society for Sexual Medicine and the Sexual Medicine Society of North America.