**KNOWLEDGE OF HEART DISEASE IN FEMALE AND MALE COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**M. Granieri**, C. Bavishi, A. Koulova, J.P. Cordova, J. Tamis-Holland

Mt. Sinai St. Luke's Hospital, New York, NY, USA

*Background*: Educational campaigns aimed at raising awareness of heart disease (HD) in women have resulted in an improvement in women’s knowledge of HD. Less is known regarding awareness of HD in the younger generation of Americans.

*Objective*: To assess the knowledge of HD, among a cohort of female and male college students.

*Methods*: Students were invited to complete an online 42 item survey.

*Results*: A total of 548 students completed the survey; (mean age 21.9 +/- 6.64 years; 79.9% female; 20.1% male; 87.6% Caucasian, 2.6% Asian 4.6% black and 4.6% other). Although the majority of college students correctly identified HD as the leading cause of death in men (62% of females vs 56% of males, p=.32), less than half of all female students, and only one third of male students reported HD as the leading cause of death in women (44% vs 32%, p=0.03). Female students were more likely than male students to recognize the typical symptoms of a heart attack (86% vs 75%, p=0.005) or correctly explain the meaning of the “Red Dress” symbol (38% vs 12%, p=0.001). Most female and male students were able to identify at least 3 risk factors for developing HD (79% vs 77%, p=0.71) but few knew their own blood pressure (31% vs 26%, p=0.38) or cholesterol levels 5% vs 3% p=.49).

*Conclusions*: Knowledge of HD among college students is sub-optimal, with females demonstrating a greater knowledge then males. Future educational campaigns should aim to target the younger generation.