

Event to address women's health

Roundtable discussions will focus on health issues for college-age women

By Felicity Ayles
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University has been chosen as one of six universities in the country to hold a national college roundtable on women's health.

The event is sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health, which is based in Washington, D.C. It features Dr. Saralyn Mark, senior medical advisor for the office, as the keynote speaker.

The event will begin with an opening and welcome from Mark, followed by a video addressing a variety of women's health issues, including sexual assault, body image and eating disorders, University Health Center health educator Joanne Frank said.

The presentation and discussion will take place in the EMU Ballroom from 7 to 9 p.m. Oct. 26. The event is open to both men and women.

The evening will continue with roundtable discussions led by peer educators, Frank said.

"The facilitators will try to generate conversation about the video," she said.

The program will end with a question-and-answer session with a panel of health experts.

The panel will include Mark; Sandy Marie Harvey, director of research for the Center for Study of Women and Society at the University; Dr. Donna Scurlock from the Student Health Center; and nurse practitioner Joleen Siemsen, also from the health center.

The entire program is focused specifically on a college-age group, said Carol Krause, Office of Women's Health communications director. This is the age group that tends to think nothing will happen to them, she said.

Krause said the video addresses health issues that women in college don't often think about. For example, she said, the video talks about osteoporosis.

"We know that the amount of calcium consumed and the amount of exercise a person gets between the ages of 12 and 20 impact the chance for osteoporosis in later life," Krause said.

Women in college now are at a much better advantage than

Women's health

WHO: U.S. Public Health Service's Office on Women's Health
WHAT: National College Roundtable on Women's Health
WHEN: Monday, Oct. 26, from 7 to 9 p.m.
WHERE: EMU Ballroom
WHY: To raise awareness about women's health

women before them, because society knows so much more about women's health issues, she said.

Another issue the video addresses is sexually transmitted diseases.

"One in four women have herpes," Krause said. And women are much more vulnerable than men, she added.

Whatever the topic, Krause said the panel will welcome any questions.

The University hopes the event will raise awareness of health issues in college-age women, Frank said.

"We will be looking at what sort of things women do in their daily lifestyle that contribute to these health issues," she said.



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