Women in STEM – Additional Activity II

Title of Activity	Medical trials and gender: how pharmaceutical trails are killing women
Type of Activity	Senior grades
Suggested Subjects	Biology, philosophy, gender studies, English

Description of activity	Background: "For decades, women were excluded from clinical drug trials based, in part, on unfounded concerns that female hormone fluctuations render women difficult to study." "Women are more likely than men to suffer adverse side effects of medications because drug dosages have historically been based on clinical trials conducted on men." Both quotes are excerpts from the article: *Lack of females in drug dose trials leads to overmedicated women: Gender gap leaves women experiencing adverse drug reactions nearly twice as often as men.* https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200812161318.htm Read the article and fill in the chart at the bottom of this activity (Fig. 1). Then in small groups or as a class, discuss the article and your thoughts and connections. Guiding questions: What came as a surprise? What could be some possible reasons medical trials have evolved this way? Discuss some possible ways to address gender gaps. Discuss the relationship between medicine being a historically 'male' field and the gender gap in medical trials. Make connections with other professional fields like engineering, urban design and developments - are these professions affected in the same way? – compare and contrast the medical field with other fields. For further reading and context: *Women's involvement in clinical trials: historical perspective and future implications* https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4800017/

	Why we need to talk about sex and clinical trials https://pharmaceutical-journal.com/article/feature/why-we-need-to-talk-about-sex-and-clinical-trials

Notes	

Fig. 1.
fill in chart individually before group or class discussion

Surprising/Intriguing Visuals or Ideas	Response to Visual: This makes me think about... This stands out to me because... This makes me wonder... I've made a connection between...