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Paraskevi-Sofia Kirana received her Bachelor degree in Psychology from the Panteion University of Athens in 1998 and subsequently her Master's degree in Health Psychology from the University of Bristol, UK. She then focused her clinical and research activity on male and female sexual dysfunctions, relationship problems and psychological aspects of urologic conditions.

She completed the ESSM Oxford Sexual Medicine Course and also a 2-year postgraduate degree in sexology at the University Institute for Mental Health in Athens. During the last 8 years she is working at the Center for Sexual and Reproductive Health (CSRH) of the Aristotle University in Greece. During this time she has participated as an educator in more than 20 educational courses on sexual medicine for medical doctors. She has been active in research projects of CSRH and since 2005 she has been the project manager of a series of studies implemented by the CSRH focusing on psychological factors influencing patient's response to sexual dysfunctions and lower urinary tract symptoms. In addition, she is working in private practice focusing solely on the field of sexology. Currently, she is a member of the ESSM Educational Committee and the European Board of Sexual Medicine. Scientific presentation: "The role of sexual desire in the female sexual response models and the definition of female hypoactive sexual desire disorder".

THE ROLE OF SEXUAL DESIRE IN THE FEMALE SEXUAL RESPONSE MODELS AND THE DEFINITION OF FEMALE HYPOACTIVE SEXUAL DESIRE DISORDER

In 1979 H. Kaplan added sexual desire in the linear sexual response model developed by Masters and Johnson. It was suggested that sexual desire is a discrete stage of the sexual response and also necessary for the initiation of the sexual response. This was the model that strongly influenced the diagnostic criteria for hypoactive sexual desire disorder and also the majority of the relevant research studies until recently. However, a number of research studies have challenged this traditional model. The most critical research finding that challenges the linear model is that sexual desire is not the most frequent reason for which women engage in sexual activity. In 2000, R. Basson introduced a new circular model of female sexual response, according to which, sexual desire is not necessary for the initiation of the sexual response. This new circular model has influenced the new definitions of female hypoactive sexual desire disorder proposed by the DSM-V.