

Dr. Margarita Sáenz-Herrero, MD, PhD is a Psychiatrist, Head of the Inpatient Psychiatry Section at Cruces University Hospital (Spain), and Aggregate Professor of Psychiatry at the University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU). She has developed an extensive career in clinical psychiatry, medical education, research, and healthcare leadership, with a particular focus on the integration of a Gender perspective into Mental Health care, Psychiatric training, and Health policy. She currently serves as Head of the Inpatient Psychiatry Section at Cruces University Hospital. She is also Coordinator of the Eating Disorders Program, including inpatient and day-hospital services, and Consultant Psychiatrist in the national referral multidisciplinary Unit for Autoimmune Diseases. Between 2021 and 2023, she served as Equality Representative for the Cruces Integrated Healthcare Organization, leading institutional strategies on equality and mental health and advising on policies for the prevention of sexual and gender-based harassment. As an Aggregate Professor at the University of the Basque Country, Dr. Sáenz-Herrero teaches Psychiatry in the Medical Degree Program and has been an accredited Psychiatry Residency Supervisor since 2009. She has extensive experience in postgraduate medical education, including the design and delivery of mandatory training programs on equality and gender perspective for psychiatric residents, with particular emphasis on gender-sensitive clinical practice and the identification of gender-based violence. She also provides continuing professional education for healthcare professionals in the fields of gender and mental health, gender-based violence, and gender-related distress in clinical practice.

A recognized leader in the field of gender and mental health, Dr. Sáenz-Herrero coordinated the Mental Health Equality Conferences from 2014 to 2023, organizing more than ten annual editions in academic and healthcare settings. She has also contributed to strategic mental health policy through her participation in the Advisory Council for Mental Health of the Basque Country as a member of the Gender and Mental Health Working Group, as well as other institutional initiatives aimed at promoting equality in healthcare.

She has served as Principal Investigator of several competitive research projects, including an Emakunde-funded study on gender bias in psychiatric emergency care (2020) and the NeuroFocus-APP Project funded by the Basque Government (2022). Her research focuses on gender and mental health, psychiatric emergencies, psychosis, eating disorders, and the impact of gender on mental health outcomes. She is internationally recognized for her contributions to gender-sensitive psychiatry. She is the editor of *Psychopathology in Women: Incorporating Gender Perspective into Descriptive Psychopathology* (Springer, 2015; second edition, 2019) and co-editor of *Gender Perspective in Psychiatry and Psychotherapy* (Springer, 2026), a comprehensive volume highlighting the importance of incorporating the gender paradigm into psychiatric and psychotherapeutic practice, education, research, and mental health policy. Her work has been recognized with the Euskalit Award for Best Practices in Equality Training (2021), Institutional Recognition for Contributions to Gender and Health (2021–2022), and the Emakunde Research Grant (2020). Dr. Sáenz-Herrero's career combines clinical excellence, academic leadership, and internationally recognized expertise in gender and mental health, contributing to the advancement of more equitable, evidence-based, and gender-sensitive psychiatric care. She is widely regarded as a leading advocate for the integration of gender-sensitive approaches into psychiatric practice, research, education, and healthcare policy at both national and international levels.