Endometriosis: The Transformer of Lives

Silja Ástþórsdóttir, CEO of the Endometriosis Association of Iceland

In her lecture, Silja will describe her own battle with endometriosis. She will explain how endometriosis has constantly thread it's way through her life and affected every aspect of it. She will share stories of fellow endometriosis sisters and shed light on the experience of endometriosis patients in Iceland. She will explore the history of endometriosis through the centuries, gender bias regarding women's pain experience and the status of health care provision for women with endometriosis today. Despite improvements in health care for women with endometriosis, Silja points out how happenstance plays a big part in the diagnosing time and health care provision for women with endometriosis. She comes to the conclusion that in Iceland, as elsewhere, there is much room for improvement concerning health care for women with endometriosis. In this regard she emphasizes the need for skilled, specialized excision endometriosis surgeons, the need for endometriosis centers and a multi disciplinary approach to the treatment of women with endometriosis.