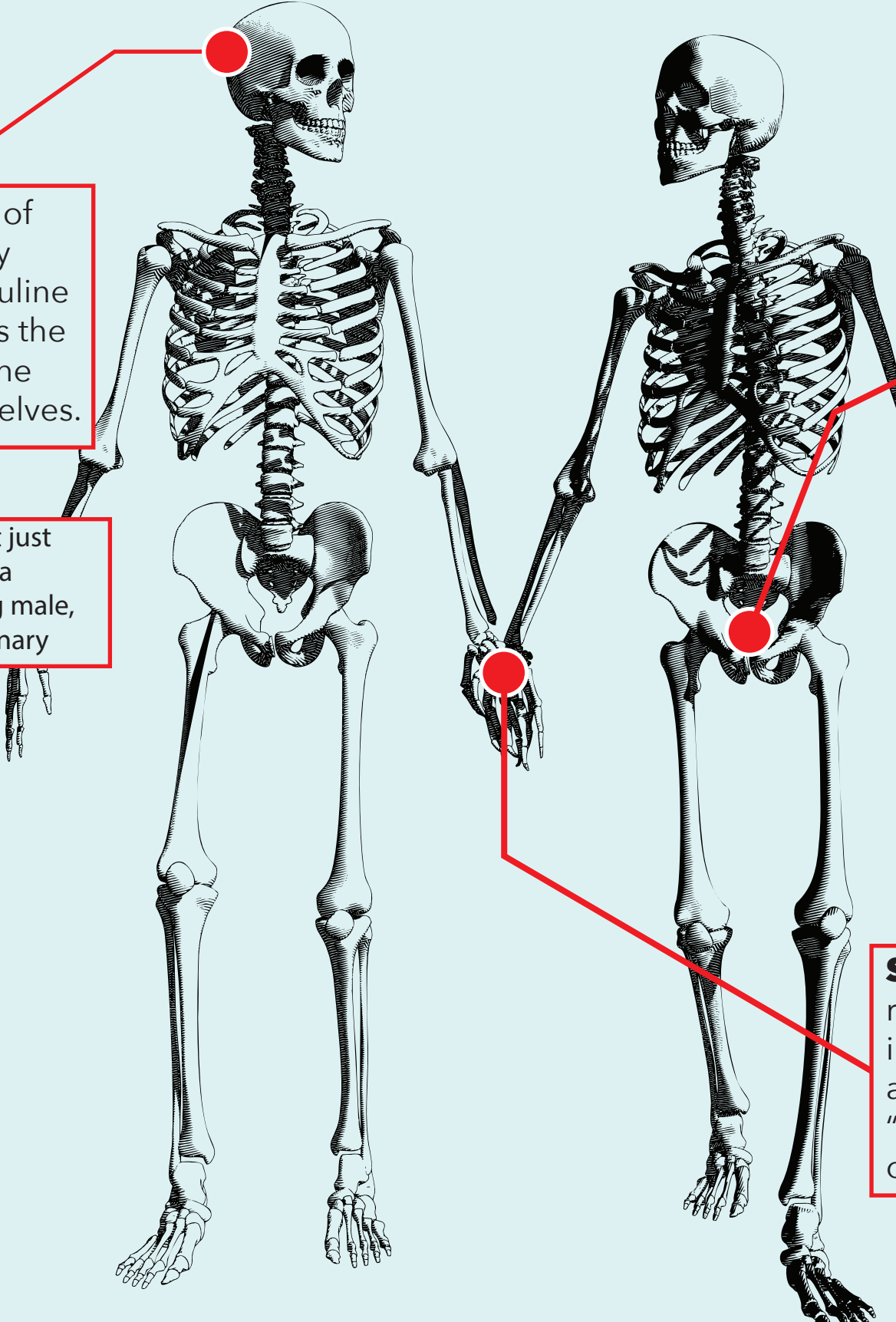


# WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

BETWEEN SEX, GENDER, AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION



**Gender** is a set of traits that society defines as masculine or feminine-- it is the way that someone identifies themselves.

Note: Gender is not just male or female; it's a spectrum including male, female, and non-binary

**Sex** refers to our physical "packaging--" it is determined by our combination of X and Y chromosomes, our hormones, and our internal & external sex organs.

Note: XX (female) and XY (male) don't tell the whole story, there are other possible

**Sexual Orientation** refers to the deep, internal sense of who we are attracted or "oriented" to in terms of our sexual attractions.

## Want to learn more?

Contact the Center for Diversity and Inclusion  
<http://mtu.edu/diversity-center/>  
[diversitycenter@mtu.edu](mailto:diversitycenter@mtu.edu)  
(906) 487-2920

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