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Gender Differences in Internal Medicine Grand Rounds Speakers at a Local Academic Hospital

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Introduction

- Women are underrepresented in leadership in medicine - inequity demonstrated across many domains, with gender bias shown to be a contributing factor.
- Grand rounds is an opportunity for dissemination of research and clinical knowledge, and is a factor in academic promotion, underscoring the importance of proving presentation experience to female physicians and scientists.
- Exposure to female presenters allows female trainees to establish relationships and witness role modeling.
- This study assessed whether gender differences exist in Internal Medicine grand rounds presenters at a local academic hospital.
- We hypothesize that the proportion of women will represent less than 50% of all presenters and will not represent their proportion in the physician population.

Methods

- Retrospective analysis of gender differences in Internal Medicine grand rounds presenters at a university hospital in New Mexico over 4.5 years (2014–June 2018).
- Gender of speakers determined by inference, and if unknown, by an internet search.
- The number of female presenters was compared with the number of male presenters via a one-tailed t-test.
- The percent of female grand rounds speakers was compared to the percent of female physicians in the population via binomial analysis.

Table 1: Number and % of Female Grand Rounds Speakers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>% Male</th>
<th>% Female</th>
<th>Excluded</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>P-value</th>
<th>P-value female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>79.07</td>
<td>20.93</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0.0010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>72.50</td>
<td>27.50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>0.0094</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>67.92</td>
<td>32.08</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>0.0140</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>71.74</td>
<td>28.26</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>0.0068</td>
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<tr>
<td>January – June 2018</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>58.06</td>
<td>41.94</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.3756</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014–2018</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>70.42</td>
<td>29.58</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
<td>0.6207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: Gender Differences in Grand Rounds Speakers at a Local University Hospital (2014-2018)

Figure 2: Percent of Female Grand Rounds Speakers (2014-2018) Compared to Percent of Female Physicians in the US (2010-2016)

Conclusions & Recommendations

- There were increasing numbers of female presenters over 4.5 years, particularly for January–June 2018. The percent of female presenters was significantly lower than male presenters for all years except 2018.
- The percentage of female grand rounds presenters in the five year period studied overall was commensurate with the number of female physicians.
- Benchmarking gender of presenters by grand rounds organizers may help reduce gender differences in presentation opportunities, and organizers should be encouraged to equally invite male and female presenters.
- It is unknown if women are more likely to decline presentation opportunities, and if that is the case then this should be studied and attempts made to overcome barriers to presenting.

Limitations

- Speakers not strictly MD/DOs (also included NPs, MS, PhDs, and MAs, which were not accounted for)
- Small sample size for each year
- Representation of only one specialty of medicine, hindering generalizability
- No access to rate of invitation decline between males and females at the institution

References


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Disclosures: None