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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

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

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

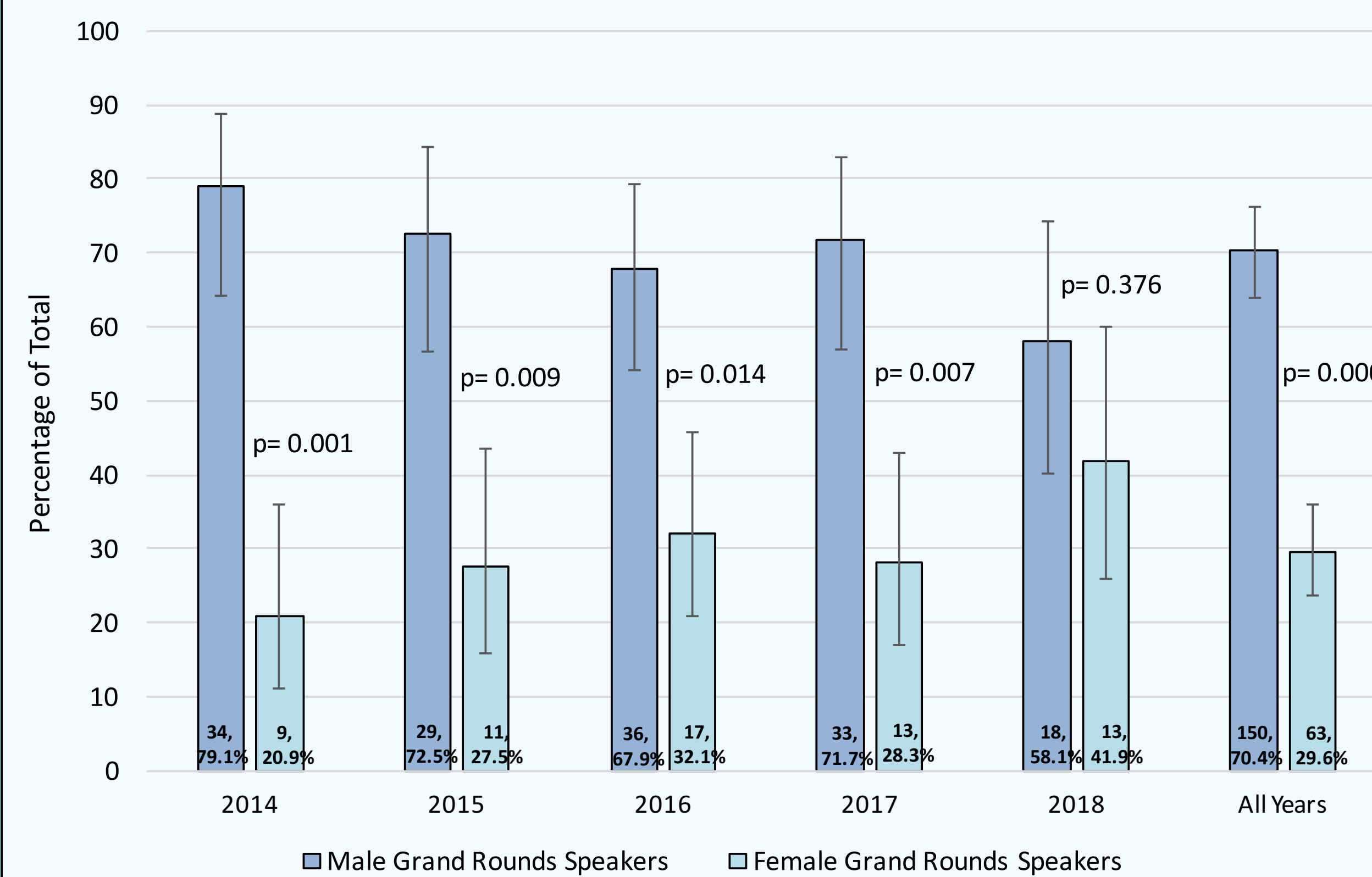
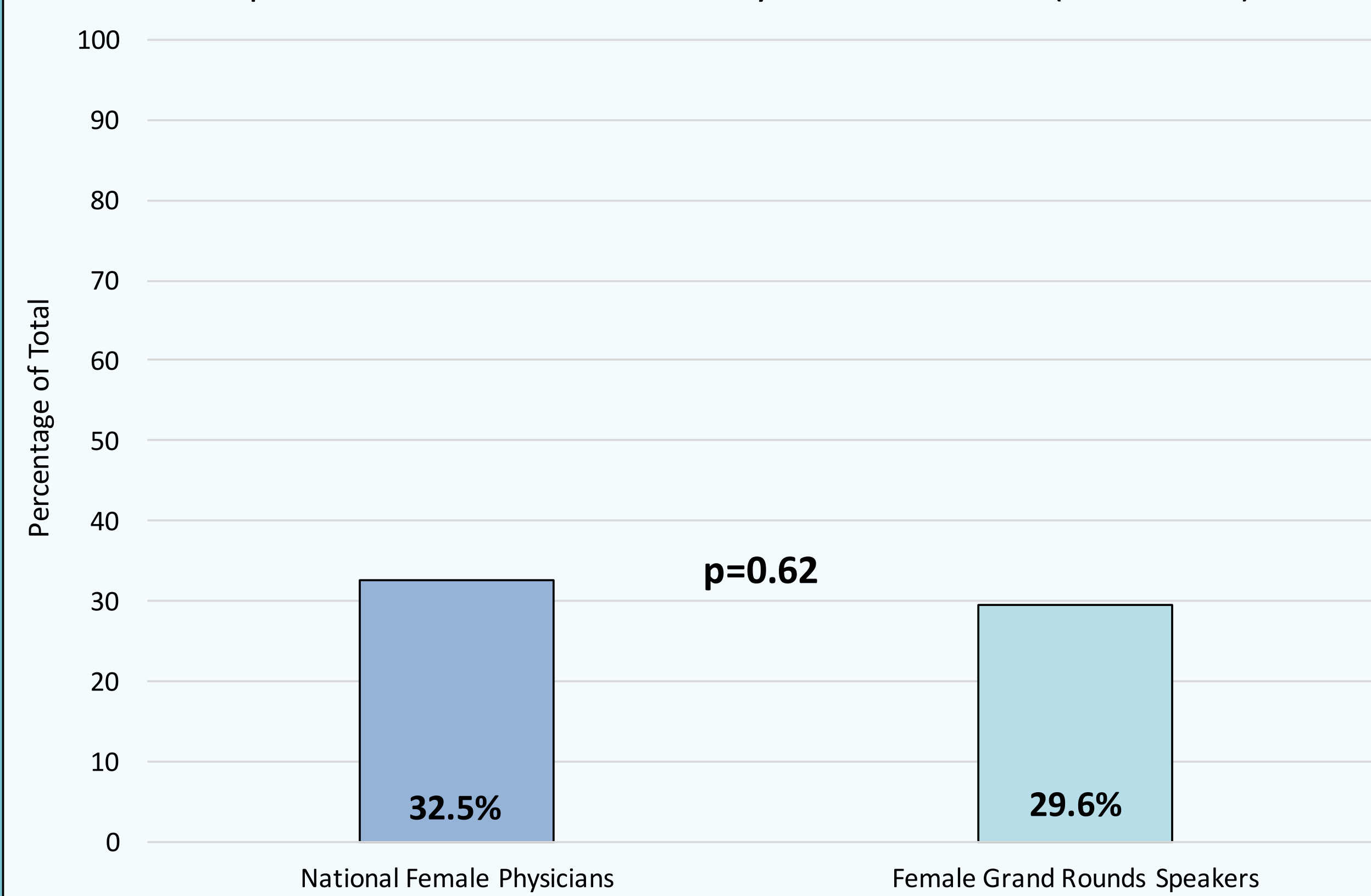


Figure 2: Percent of Female Grand Rounds Speakers (2014-2018) Compared to Percent of Female Physicians in the US (2010-2016)



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

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