

## **Gender Disparity of Orthopaedic Surgery Grand Rounds Speakers**

Sheena Amin, Hayden Hartman, Victoria Katherine Ierulli, Mary K Mulcahey

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Women account for approximately half of medical school graduates in the United States, yet they are significantly underrepresented within orthopaedic surgery and academia. One factor that may impact professional advancement for women are limited opportunities to present at the local and national level. The purpose of this study was to determine how often female orthopaedic surgeons presented at orthopaedic grand rounds between 2016-2021, if there was a difference between the types of presentations (technical vs. non-technical) given by female and male speakers, and whether the COVID-19 pandemic increased the number of opportunities available for female orthopaedic surgeons to speak at orthopaedic grand rounds with the transition to increased use of online platforms.

### **METHODS:**

A cross sectional study of 7 ACGME accredited orthopaedic surgery residency programs who are a part of Collaborative Orthopaedic Educational Research Group (COERG) were included in this study. Program directors who agreed to participate were asked to complete a survey to describe the demographics of grand rounds speakers at their institution and the types of presentations (technical vs. non-technical topics) given by those speakers before and after the COVID-19 pandemic from September 2016 to September 2021.

### **RESULTS:**

Between September 2016 to February 2020, 457 male orthopaedic surgeons (84%, range:18-131) and 86 female orthopaedic surgeons (16%, range: 5-31) were invited to give grand rounds presentations. There was no significant difference in the gender distribution of speakers from March 2020 to September 2021, after the transition to virtual platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic ( $p=0.303$ ), during which 79 men (80%, range: 4-28) and 20 women (20%, range: 0-7) were invited ( $p=0.303$ ). Male speakers were more likely to present on a technical topic than female speakers before ( $p=0.009$ ) and after the COVID-19 pandemic ( $p=0.009$ ).

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION:**

The results of this study demonstrated that male orthopaedic surgeons are invited to speak at grand rounds more often than female orthopaedic surgeons, and this was unchanged during the COVID-19 pandemic when online platforms were increasingly utilized. Male speakers were also more likely to present on technical topics (surgical techniques and outcome); whereas female speakers were more likely to present on non-technical topics (diversity, work-life balance). Understanding the gender disparity among orthopaedic grand rounds speakers is necessary for programs to reevaluate and revise the methodology by which speakers are selected to allow for greater diversity. This could help foster career advancement in academia for female orthopaedic surgeons as well as promote female interest in orthopaedics.