

Gender-Based Analysis of Participation in the OTA Annual Meeting From 2016 to 2020*Jana M. Davis, MD; Emily S. Benson, MD; Lisa K. Cannada, MD**Atrium Health Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, NC, United States*

Purpose: Gender inequality in orthopaedic surgery persists despite improvement efforts and has been the subject of recent research efforts. Prior studies have analyzed gender differences in orthopaedics more broadly, but we sought to report on gender differences with various presentation modes at a single subspecialty society's annual meeting. The purpose of this study was to report on the number and type of presentations by female authors or speakers at the OTA Annual Meeting over the past 5 years.

Methods: Data were collected regarding total presentations by type (podium, poster, or symposium/breakout session moderator) from the OTA Annual Meeting during the years 2016 to 2020. This was further broken down by gender and female participation for each presentation type was reported as both an absolute value as well as a percentage of total presentations. Available OTA membership data for active members was obtained from the online member directory at the time of this writing.

Results: The current estimate of total female active membership in the OTA is 8%. The percentage of total poster presentations given by females showed a modest 3.7% increase over the 5-year study period (13.4%, 15.9%, 14.5%, 15.6%, 17.1%). Female podium presentations at the meeting increased by 8.1% over the study period (11.9%, 14.6%, 16.4%, 12.8%, 20.0%), with the 2020 Annual Meeting having the highest percentage of female presenters of any year studied. Absolute numbers of female breakout session/symposium moderators remained stable over the study period, but as a percentage of total presentations, they increased in 2020 by nearly three times as compared to prior years (8.6%, 10.6%, 2.1%, 6.5%, 21%).

Conclusion: The percentage of female participants in the OTA Annual Meeting has increased over the last 5 years in all three presentation categories. The 2020 Annual Meeting had the highest percentage of female presentations of any year studied. Possible reasons for this include the virtual format and/or increasing submission rate. It should be noted there was over a 50% decrease in the number of symposia/breakout sessions for the virtual meeting. Current membership estimates show a percentage of roughly 8% for females within the OTA and the discrepancy between membership rate and presentation rate can only be speculated. It is important to recognize and track how this trend may positively impact OTA membership in the future.