

Introduction

- 5.9% percent of practicing orthopaedic surgeons and 7.1% of orthopaedic sports medicine surgeons in 2021 were female, the lowest of all specialties reported by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC)
- Medical society annual meetings are important platforms for physicians' recognition and visibility and can be a tool for career advancement for female orthopaedic surgeons, particularly instructional course lectures (ICLs)
- Purpose of this study: evaluate gender diversity among ICL faculty at recent orthopaedic sports medicine meetings and to determine whether factors such as moderator gender affect selection of ICL panelists

Methods

- Data on ICL faculty was collected from meeting programs for Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA) from 2016-2023 and for American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine (AOSSM) from 2018-2023, including the 2021 AOSSM-AANA Combined Annual Meeting
- Data collected for each faculty member: gender, institutional association, region of institution, practice type, years in practice, department leadership role, academic rank, and H-index
- First analysis: AANA and AOSSM data were compared
 - Chi-square analyses, student's t-tests
- Second analysis: pooled data from both societies, compared demographic factors between male and female faculty
 - Chi-square analyses, student's t-tests, z-test

Results

- Significant difference in distribution of practice types ($p = 0.009$) and H-index (34.1 vs 28.8, $p = 0.04$) between AOSSM and AANA moderators
- Female AOSSM ICL moderators were more likely than female AANA ICL moderators to have female panelists (11 versus 5, $p < 0.0001$)
- Significant difference in distribution of geographic region ($p = 0.014$) and H-index ($p < 0.001$) between AOSSM and AANA panelists
- Female AOSSM panelists had more years in practice compared to their AANA counterparts (17 versus 13 years, $p < 0.0001$)
- ICLs with female moderators were more likely to have female panelists (OR 4.6; 95% CI: 2.5 - 8.6, $p < 0.0001$)
- Academic ranks were significantly different between male and female moderators ($p < 0.00001$ for professor and associate professor categories)
- Male panelists had higher H-indices (36 versus 23, $p < 0.0001$) and more years in practice than their female counterparts (19 versus 16 years, $p = 0.02$)

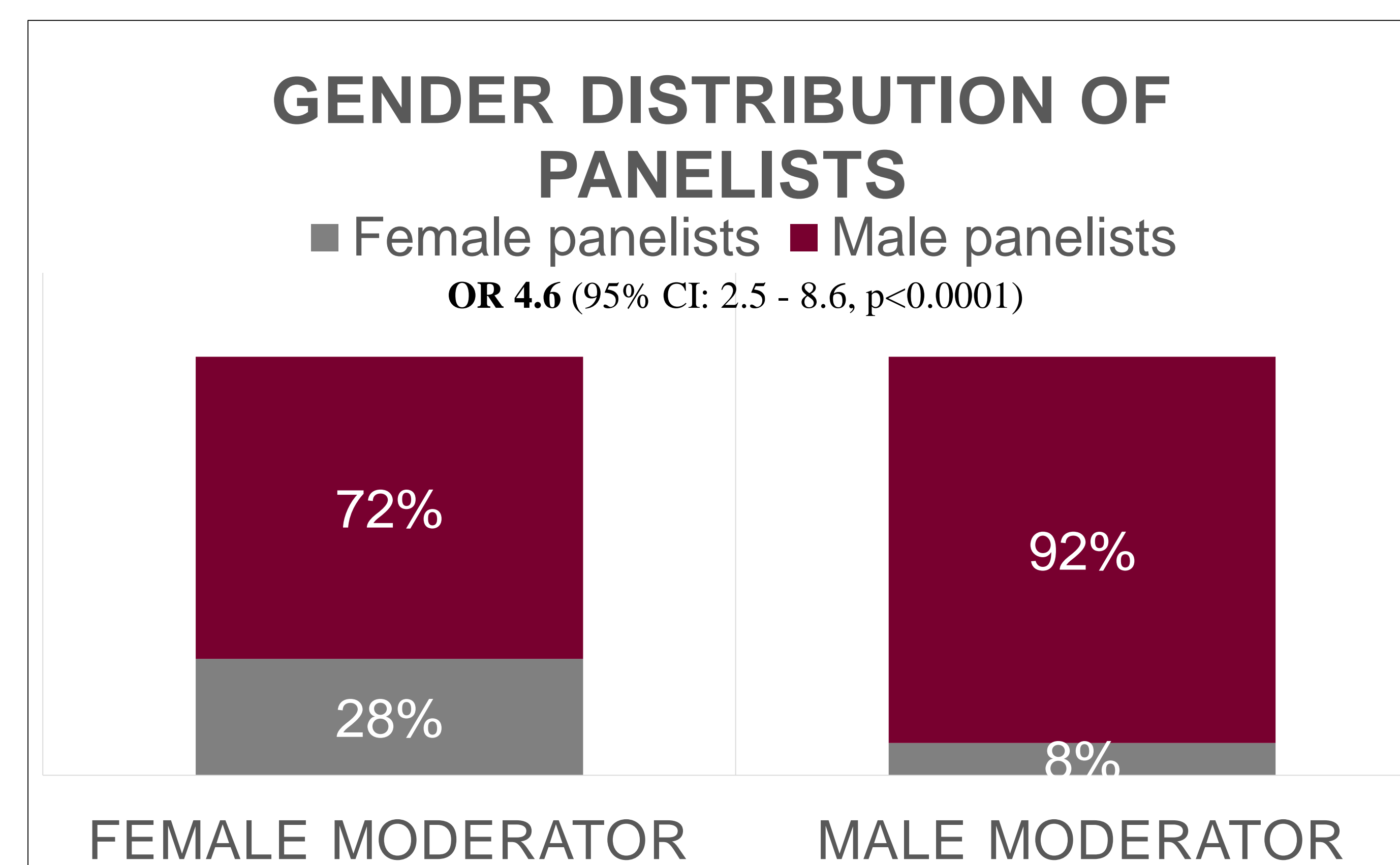


Figure 1: Gender Makeup of Panelists for AOSSM and AANA ICLs with Male versus Female Moderators

Discussion

- 18 (8.4%) moderators and 70 (9.2%) panelists were female, and ICLs with a female moderator were found to be more likely to have female panelists ($p < 0.0001$)
- Most female panelists were from the West, Northeast, and Midwest, with little representation from the South compared to males (7.1% vs. 21.9%)
- Females had stronger representation in academic practice (91.4% female panelists and all female moderators), yet held lower academic rank and department leadership roles than their male counterparts
- Male ICL faculty were found to have a greater number of years in practice (16.8 vs. 7.2 years, $p = 0.0002$ for moderators and 19 vs. 16 years, $p = 0.02$ for panelists)
- Limitations: archive availability, limitations of internet search, small sample size of female moderators, repeat ICLs

Conclusion

- Female faculty ICL representation at AOSSM and AANA Annual Meetings has been increasing over the past several years
- Female faculty were predominantly in academic practices yet were less likely to be in academic or departmental leadership roles
- ICLs with a female moderator were more likely to have female panelists

References

- AAMC. Active physicians by sex and specialty, 2021. AAMC. <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/workforce/data/active-physicians-sex-specialty-2021>. Accessed January 6, 2024.
- Hernigou P, Hosny GA, Waddell JP, Mavrogenis AF, Scarlat MM. Meetings and writing in orthopaedic surgery. Int Orthop. 2023;47(4):897-903. doi:10.1007/s00264-023-05758-1
- Instructional Course Lectures (ICLs). Accessed September 23, 2023. <https://rise.aana.org/aanaimis/ARTH/Education/Online/icls.aspx?WebsiteKey=cd6bb180-abf2-4c07-97f0-19b0861e9f21>