



# Speaker Gender Representation at Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting

Sanaa Semia, Caroline R. Paul MD, Sarah Webber MD  
University of Wisconsin – Madison

School of Medicine and Public Health, Department of Pediatrics

UWHealth



School of Medicine  
and Public Health  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## Background

- According to an AAMC 2017 data report, women make up 63.3% of all pediatricians.
- Despite this prevalence, women in pediatrics continue to face persistent disparities, including lower pay, underrepresentation in academic leadership and fewer publications and presentations at national conferences compared to male colleagues.
- To further examine gender disparities in academic pediatrics, we looked at the gender representation of speakers at the 2019 Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) Meeting.

## Methods

### Genderize

- Using a published list of speaker names at the 2019 PAS conference, we categorized each speaker by gender through GBAT<sup>1</sup>.
- Gender Balance Assessment Tool (GBAT) uses social media data to determine the most likely gender for a given first name.

### Sort

- We then sorted the names of presenters into three categories: all presenters, platform presenters, and plenary presenters.

### Compare

- Using univariate logistic regression analyses, the gender distribution for the different types of presenters was then compared to the gender distribution reported from the AAMC 2017 Physician Specialty Data Report for total active pediatricians.
- Odds ratios and corresponding 95% confidence intervals were reported.

## Results

Table 1: Demographics of PAS Presenters

	Total	Female
All conference presenters	14,832	8,609 (58%)
Platform	177	116 (65.5%)
Plenary	15	7 (46.7%)
AAMC pediatrician workforce data <sup>2</sup>	58,382	36,945 (63.3%)

Chart 1: National vs PAS Presenter Gender Demographic

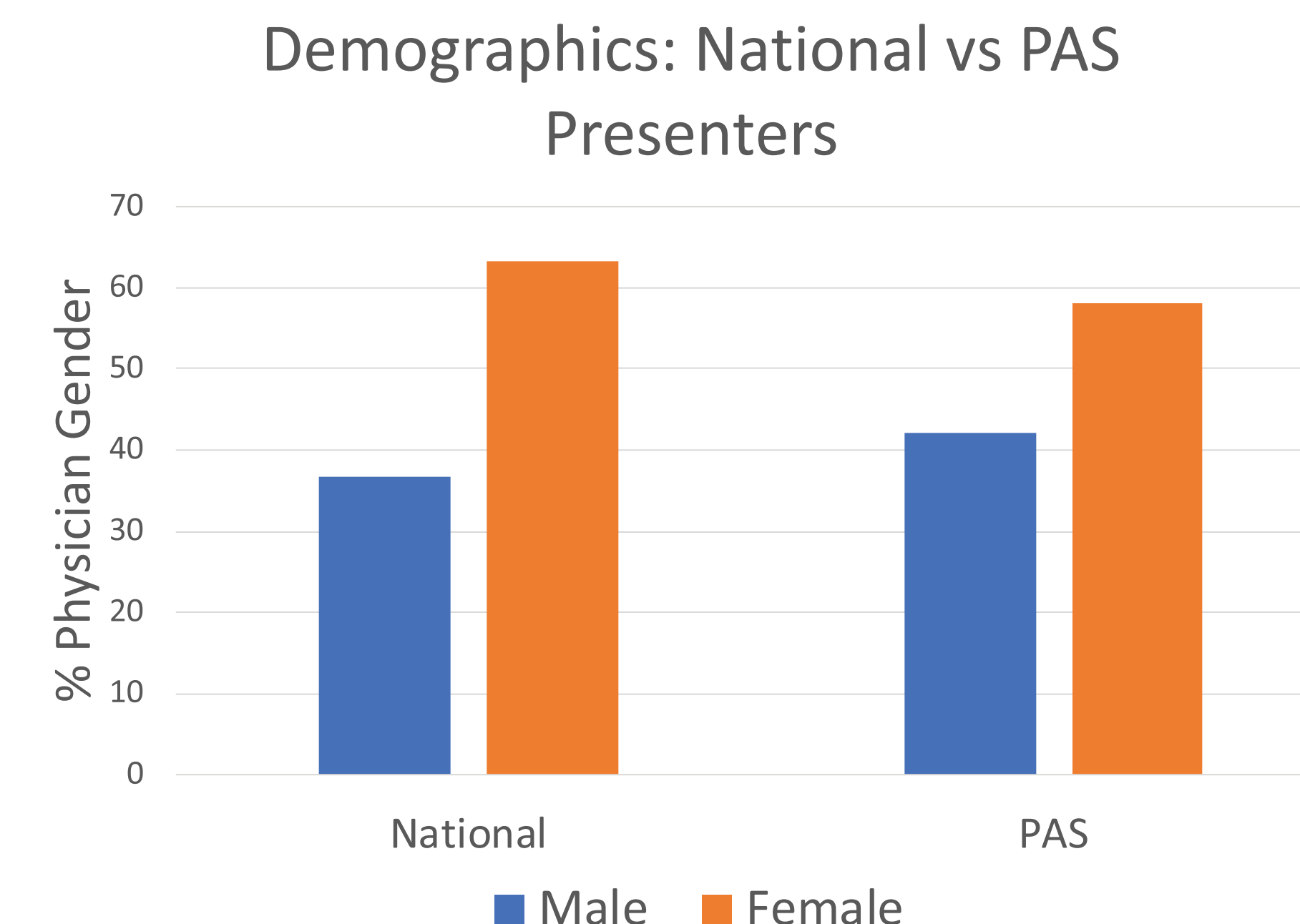


Table 2: Comparing the proportion of female presenters

	Odds Ratio	P value
All conference presenters vs AAMC active	0.80 (0.77-0.83)	<0.001
Platform vs AAMC active	1.10 (0.81-1.50)	0.540
Plenary vs AAMC active	0.59 (0.18-1.40)	0.190
Platform vs Plenary		0.237
Platform vs All conference presenters		0.05
Plenary vs All conference presenters		0.528

## Discussion

- We found the majority of all conference presenters and platform presenters were female, while most plenary presenters were men. We compared our data to AAMC data, which reported that most active pediatricians are female.
- The proportion of women presenters at PAS was significantly less than the proportion of women pediatricians. There were significantly more women as platform speakers compared to all presenters, but no difference comparing platform vs plenary or plenary vs all presenters.

### Limitations

- PAS is a conference for academic pediatricians. The AAMC data includes all pediatricians, academic and nonacademic.
- We do not know the rate of abstract acceptances.
- This project only examined one PAS conference.

## Next Steps

Longitudinal data is needed to better understand the representation of women pediatrician presenters at scientific meetings and whether differences exist among platform and plenary presenters.

### References

1. Genderize.io | Determine the gender of a name. (n.d.). Retrieved May 9, 2020, from <https://genderize.io/>
2. Spector ND, Asante PA, Marcelin JR, et al. Women in Pediatrics: Progress, Barriers, and Opportunities for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. Pediatrics. 2019;144(5):e20192149. doi:10.1542/peds.2019-2149

### Contact:

- Sanaa Semia: semia2@wisc.edu
- Caroline R. Paul MD: crpaul@wisc.edu
- Sarah Webber MD: sawebber@wisc.edu