The Podiatric Medical Profession: A Gender Comparison

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METHODLOGY

A 38-question survey was sent using SurveyMonkey © & B&M Doctors of Podiatric Medicine (DPM) validated electronic report form. E-mails were obtained from The Podiatric Institute (PI). PI sponsored academic meetings. The responses were confidential, the survey was voluntary, and the participants remained anonymous. E-mails were sent December 2017. DPM’s who were not on the PI mailing list were excluded. The survey questions were closed-ended and divided into 5 categories (Figure 1).

Additionally, multiple data points were obtained from different organizations within the podiatric medicine and surgery community (Figure 2). Fifteen years of gender-based data was requested, although some organizations were unable to provide this.

The data obtained from the listed organizations was analyzed through 2 methods:

- Mean-Median test: Evaluate for a monotonic trend in each of the female data points per year with an associated p-value.
- Percentage change: Percentage of females to the total population comparing the first year of the given data, to last year with an associated p-value. A p-value of < 0.05 is considered statistically significant within our study.

LITERATURE REVIEW CONTINUED

A gender discrimination (10%) and sexual harassment (7%). This lack of women in male-dominated surgical specialties is widely acknowledged and thought to be due to limited clinical exposure during medical school, assumed inability to have a good surgery balance, perceived lack of required high physical demand, and lack of strong female mentorship. 3,5,6

Due to the increased number of females within podiatric medicine and surgery, there should be a concurrent increase in the number of female podiatric physicians that hold academic faculty positions, hold top level board positions, become fellows of advanced podiatric surgical training, publish in peer review journals, speak at the large academic meetings and be board certified. This study will evaluate the data and determine if there is a significant concurrent increasing trend of women in all aspects of podiatric medicine and surgery, as compared to the increase in women podiatry graduates.

SURVEY RESULTS

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Figure 5: Trend in survey questions category.