

# Gender balance at the BOA congress (2014-2018): How well are women represented?



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## Introduction

- Women comprise over **55% of all UK medical students**<sup>1</sup>.
- Only **11%** of T&O consultants, associate specialists and higher surgical trainees are women<sup>2</sup>.
- Gender imbalance at congresses has been noted in other specialties<sup>3</sup>.
- **9.3% of editorial board members of T&O journals** are women<sup>4</sup>.

## Results

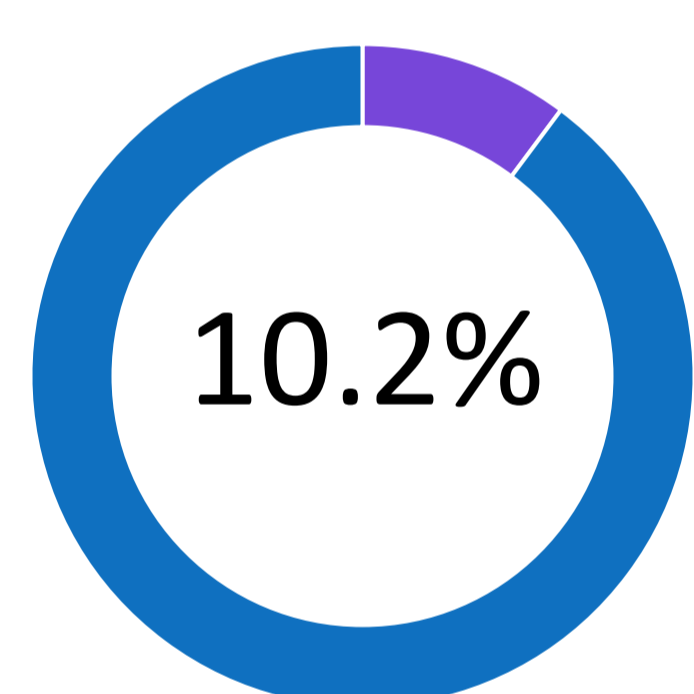
- Women presented **116 (10.2%) of the 1134 sessions**.
- **91.2%** of male speakers were surgeons, but only **46.6%** of female speakers.
- The most popular session topic among males were **clinical topics** (42.4% of sessions), but **education and training** for women (27.6% of sessions).
- The proportion of female speakers was similar each year.
- Female speakers gave **2 (7%)** of 29 "named lectures".

## Methods

- Rates of participation of female speakers at the Annual Congress of the BOA 2014-2018 were analysed
- Data from each congress collected included:
  - Session title used to determine category of talk
  - Date
  - Name of presenter
  - Gender of presenter
  - Profession of presenter

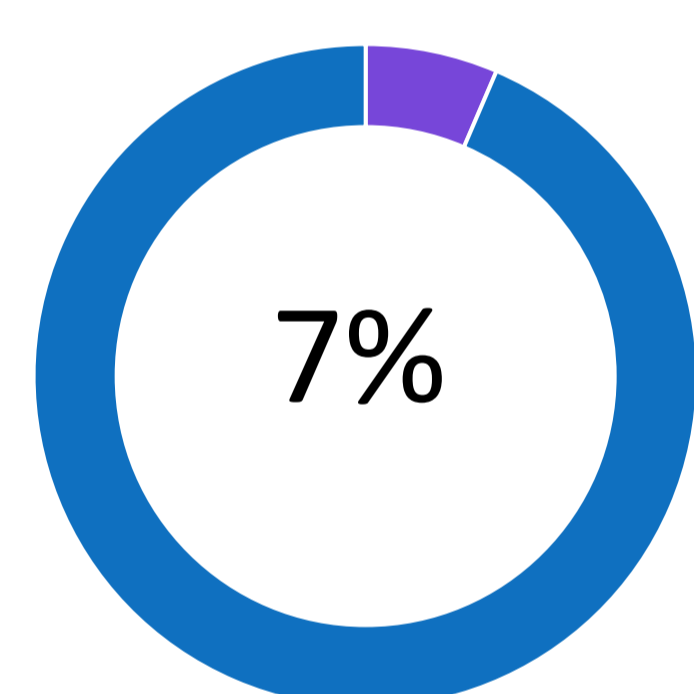
## Discussion

- Factors which deter women from becoming surgeons:
  - Work-life balance
  - Lack of female surgical role models
  - Perception of a male oriented culture
- Measures taken to increase female participation:
  - Women in Surgical Training by the Royal College of Surgeons<sup>5</sup>.
  - Creating a speakers' bureau to find female speakers at conferences.
  - Hosting annual conferences to promote presentation of research of women.



■ Female ■ Male

Fig. 1. Proportion of Male vs Female Speakers in 2014-2017 Congresses



■ Female ■ Male

Fig. 2. Proportion of Male vs Female Speakers in 'named lectures' 2014-2018 Congresses

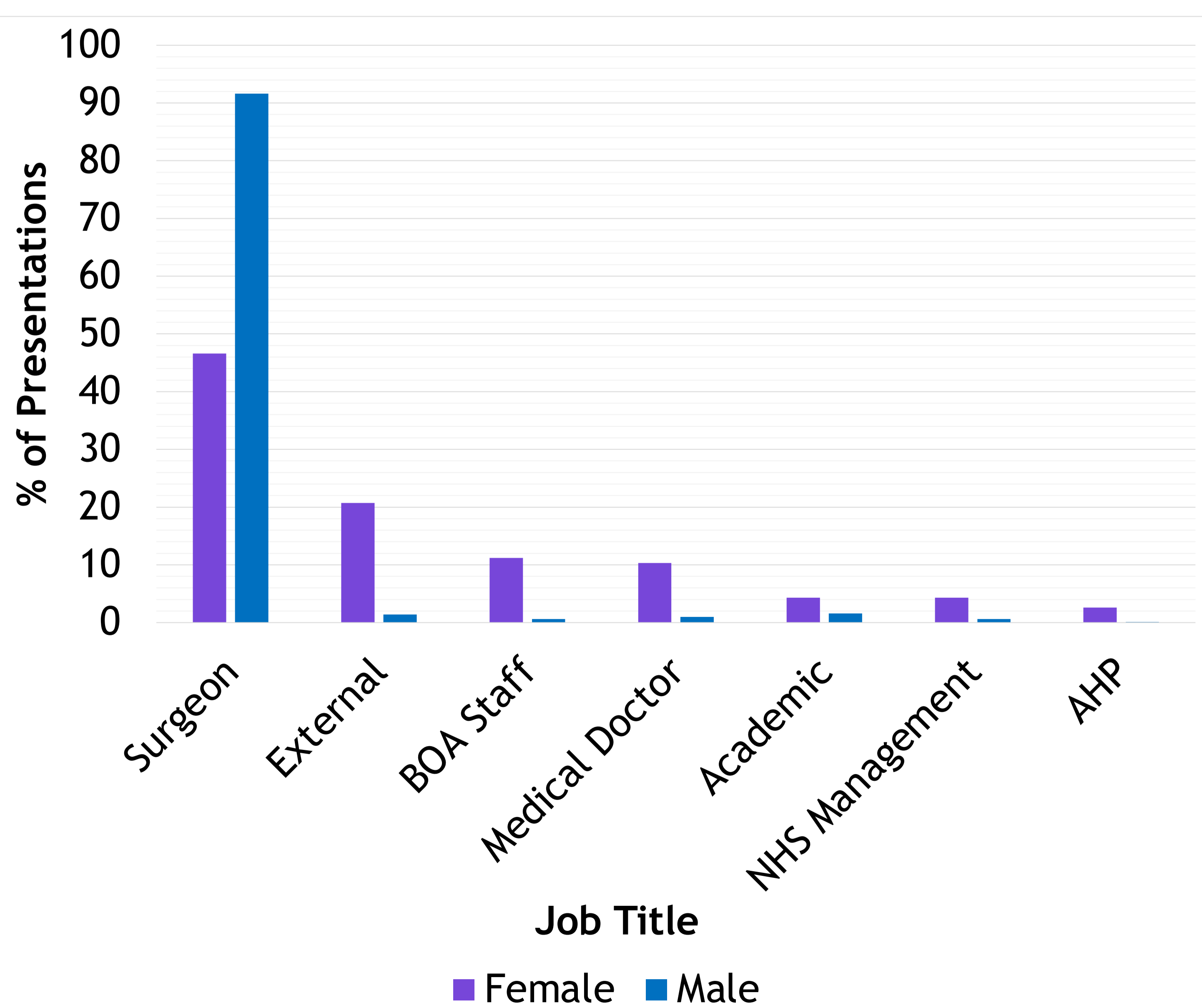


Fig. 3. Profession of speaker in all sessions

	Lower Limb	Paediatric	Spine	Trauma	Upper Limb
Female	13	2	1	7	3
Male	133	12	106	141	40

Fig. 4. Clinical sessions presented by topic 2014-2017.

## References

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