

Differences in NIH Funding in Maternal Fetal Medicine by Gender and Rank

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Introduction

The objective of this study is to evaluate the current R01 Equivalent NIH-funded studies holding a "Maternal Fetal Medicine" (MFM) tag and identify the distribution of their principal investigators by profession, gender and rank.

Methods

- This is a cross sectional study (September 2020) that examined the current studies ("Active Projects") found on the National Institute of Health (NIH) RePORTER website: <https://projectreporter.nih.gov/reporter.cfm>.
- The keyword for the search used is "Maternal Fetal Medicine"
- Projects included hold an "R01 Equivalent" Activity code (most common grant that supports projects aligned with the NIH mission).
- The principal investigators (PIs) were examined and classified by gender, profession (physician vs non-physician), academic rank (Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor), and whether the author is a MFM specialist.

Results

- 50 studies were identified.
- 31 (62%) of projects had women PIs whereas 19 (38%) have men PIs. 26 (52%) of studies had PIs who were physicians while 24 (48%) had PIs who were not physicians. (Figure 1)
- Amongst projects with women PIs: 17 (55%) were physicians, and 14 (45%) were not physicians. On the other hand, amongst projects with men PIs, 9 (47%) were physicians, and 10 (53%) were not physicians.
- Amongst projects with women PIs, 18 (58%) held a professor rank, 7 (23%) held an associate professor rank, and 5 (16%) held an assistant professor rank. On the other hand, amongst projects with men PIs, 14 (74%) held a professor rank, 5 (26%) held an associate professor rank, and none held an assistant professor rank.
- Only 8 (16%) PIs were identified as maternal fetal medicine specialists and 7 (88%) of MFM PIs were women.

Discussion

Among the active NIH projects with the "Maternal Fetal Medicine" keyword tag, principal investigators were more likely to be women than men. However, men principal investigators were more likely to hold higher academic ranks than their women counterparts. Possible reasons behind this disparity include mentorship opportunities.

MFM NIH principal investigators are more likely to be women than men. However, men principal investigators are more likely to hold higher academic ranks than their women counterparts.



Figures

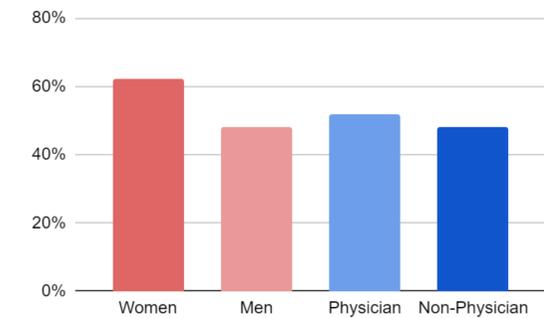


Fig. 1: Distribution of projects principal investigators by gender and profession

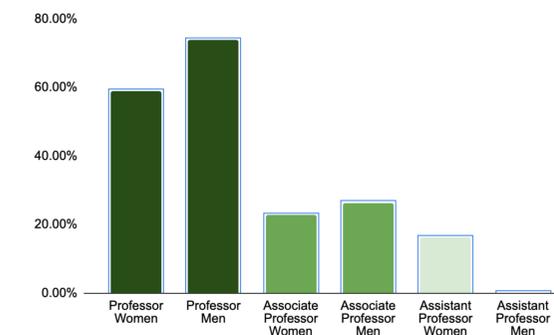


Fig. 2: Distribution of projects principal investigators by gender and academic rank

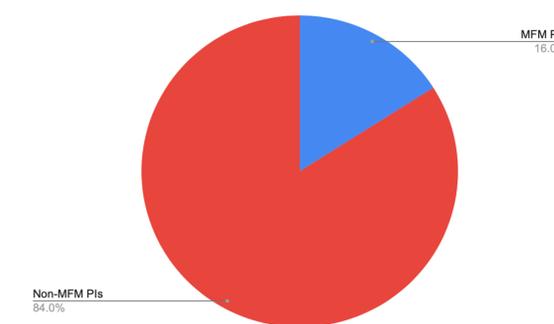


Fig. 3: Distribution of projects principal investigators by MFM training