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A study of the number of female editors-in-chief of dermatology journals[☆]

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Over the past 50 years the proportion of women entering medical school has vastly increased, however there still exists a gender gap in top leadership positions, including within academic medicine. It is important to investigate the influence of women in this area, and assess change over time. The aim of the study was to assess the number of women who have acted as editors-in-chief of prominent dermatology journals over the 20th and 21st centuries.

Methods: A list of 25 journals was collated based on their impact factors and prominence. Information regarding previous and current editors was obtained, compiled and analysed.

Results: Overall there have been 26 female editors and at least 128 male editors in the 25 dermatology journals, which means that less than 19% of editors-in-chief have been female. 45.8% of journals have not yet had a female editor. The percentage of female editors ranged from 0% to 100%, with only one journal having had all female editors (International Journal of Women's Dermatology). On average, the journals had female editorship for 27.2% of the total number of years in publication. Of the 13 journals that have had a female editor, 61.5% had their first female editor after the year 2000.

Discussion and Conclusion: There are various factors that influence these numbers including age of the journals and length of each editorship. It is clear that over time there has been an increase in the number of women holding these prestigious positions however gender equity has not yet been reached.

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Introduction

As the 21st century continues to move through its second decade, we consider it the norm for women to be prominent within the medical profession. It is easy to forget that only 50 years ago, very few women even attended medical school. For example, in the United States in 1965, only 6.9% of medical students who graduated were women. This number had increased to 47.5% in 2014 (Association of American Medical Colleges, 2016).

With a more proportionate number of female students who graduate, one would expect a similar increase over time in the number of women in leadership positions within the profession. However, in academic medicine, there still exists a gender gap at the top level and currently only 21% of full-time medical professors

and 16% of medical school deans in the United States are women (Association of American Medical Colleges, 2016). In addition to being an academic faculty member, there are alternative ways for women to contribute to academic medicine. It is important to investigate these options to gain a full picture of the influence and prevalence of women in the academic field.

One marker to measure influence is the membership of a journal editorial board or professional medical society board. A study in 2004 investigated 28 different specialties and compared the numbers of men and women on boards with the proportion of men and women who work within those specialties. In seven specialties, including dermatology, women were found to be significantly underrepresented on the boards (Morton and Sonnad, 2007). Other studies also confirmed that there has been an underrepresentation of women on the editorial boards of prominent medical journals (Amrein et al., 2011; Kennedy et al., 2001).

Another measure of influence is authorship of papers. Studies have shown that the number of female authors who are listed first and

[☆] Conflicts of interest: Prof. Dedee Murrell is founding co-editor of the Intl J Women's Dermatology, an honorary position.

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Title	Current Publisher	Impact Factor	Associated Medical Society	Year of Founding	No of Female Editors-in-Chief	No of Male Editors-in-Chief	Percentage of Female Editors-in-Chief	Names of Female Editors-in-Chief	Year of First Female Editor-in-Chief	Percentage of Total Years under Female Editorship (%)
Annales de Dermatologie et de Venerologie	Elsevier	0.58	Société Française de Dermatologie, l'Association des Dermatologistes Francophones	1868	1	?	?	Béatrice Circkx (2004-2009)	2004	3.4
JAMA Dermatology (formerly Archives of Dermatology)	American Medical Association	5.0	American Medical Association	1882	1	18	5%	June Robinson (2004-present)	2004	9.0
British Journal of Dermatology	Wiley	4.31	British Association of Dermatologists	1888	2	25	7%	Rona MacKie (1985-1988) Tanya Bleiker (2010-2013)	1985	4.7
Acta Dermatovenereologica	Society for Publication of Acta Dermatovenereologica	3.67	European Society of Dermatology and Psychiatry, International Forum for the Study of Itch	1920	0	5	0	n/a	n/a	0
Journal of Investigative Dermatology	Elsevier	6.91	Society for Investigative Dermatology, European Society for Dermatological Research	1938	3	9	25%	Naomi Kanof (1949-1967) Ruth Freinkel (1977-1982) Barbara Gilchrest (2012-present)	1949	34.6
Australasian Journal of Dermatology	Wiley	1.30	Australasian College of Dermatologists, New Zealand Dermatological Society	1951	2	7	22%	Delywn Dyll Smith (1994-2008) Orli Wargon (2008-2013)	1994	29.2
International Journal of Dermatology	Wiley	1.41	International Society of Dermatology	1963	1	5	17%	Rokea el-Azhary (2013-present)	2014	5.7
Dermatologic Surgery	Wolters Kluwer Health	1.93	American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS), the American College of Mohs Surgery (ACMS), the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery (ISHRS), and the Dermatologic & Aesthetic Surgery International League (DASIL)	1975	0	7	0%	n/a	n/a	0
Clinical and Experimental Dermatology	Wiley	1.31	British Association of Dermatologists	1976	0	?	0%	n/a	n/a	0
Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology	Elsevier	4.44	American Academy of Dermatology	1979	0	4	0%	n/a	n/a	0
Clinics in Dermatology	Elsevier	2.36	International Academy of Cosmetic Dermatology	1983	0	1	0%	n/a	n/a	0
Dermatologic Clinics	Elsevier	1.87	None	1983	0	?	0%	Multiple guest editors, 23 of whom were women	n/a	0
Pediatric Dermatology	Wiley	1.16	The Society for Pediatric Dermatology, The European Society for Pediatric Dermatology, The International Society of Pediatric Dermatology, the Dutch/Belgian Pediatric Dermatology Society, The Latin American Pediatric Dermatology Society, and The Spanish Society of Pediatric Dermatology	1983	2	2	50%	Nancy Esterly (1983-2006) Ilona Frieden (2006-present)	1983	100
Pigment Cell and Melanoma Research	Wiley	4.16	International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies, Society for Melanoma Research	1987	0	8	0%	n/a	n/a	0
Journal of Dermatological Treatment	Taylor and Francis	1.85	none	1989	0	7	0%	n/a	n/a	0
European Journal of Dermatology	John Libbey Eurotext	2.06	European Dermatology Forum	1990	0	3	0%	n/a	n/a	0
Journal of Dermatological Science	Japan	3.73	Japanese Society for Investigative Dermatology	1990	0	6	0%	n/a	n/a	0
Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venerology	Wiley	3.02	European Academy of Dermatology and Venerology	1991	0	4	0%	n/a	n/a	0
Experimental Dermatology	Wiley	2.67	European Immunodermatology Society, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Dermatologische Forschung, European Hidradenitis Suppuritiva Foundation e.V., Hidradenitis Suppuritiva Foundation (USA) Inc.	1992	4	9	31%	Gunhild Lange-Skovgaard (1992-1995) Angela Christiano (1996-2007) Sabine Eming (2011-2015) Karin Loser (2015-date)	1992	79.2
Acta Dermatovenereologica Croatica	Croatian Dermatovenereological Society of Croatian Medical Association	0.46	Croatian Dermatovenereological Society	1993	2	1	67%	Jasna Lipoženić (2000-2012) Branka Marinović (2013-present)	2000	65.2
Dermatology Online Journal	California Digital Library		Department of Dermatology UC, Davis, Northern California Veterans Administration.	1995	1	2	33%	Barbara Burrall (2004-present)	2004	57.1
Dermatologic Therapy	Wiley	1.26	North American Clinical Dermatologic Society (NACDS)	2000	0	1	0%	n/a	n/a	0
Journal of Drugs in Dermatology		1.52	International Society of Dermatologic Surgery, Skin of Color Seminar Series and Orlando Dermatology Aesthetic and Clinical Conference	2002	4	3	57%	Elizabeth Hale (2004) Susan H Weinkle (2005-2008) Sherry H Hsiung (2008) Deborah S Sarnoff (2008-present)	2004	92.9
International Journal of Womens Dermatology	Elsevier		Women's Dermatologic Society	2015	2	0	100%	Jane Grant-Kels (2015-present) Dédé Murrell (2015-present)	2015	100
Skin Appendage Disorders	Karger		European Nail Society	2015	1	1	50%	Antonella Tosti (2015-present)	2015	100
					TOTAL: 26	TOTAL: 128	AVERAGE: 19%			AVERAGE: 27.2

Fig. 1. Table to show the gender distribution of current and former editors-in-chief of dermatology journals

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