

# The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Gender Imbalance in Gynecologic Oncology Authorship

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## BACKGROUND

- Despite increased participation of women in Medicine in recent decades, there remains gender disparity in Academic medicine.
- Research activity is an important factor in academic advancement.
- The extent of the gender gap in publication authorship and in various editorial roles in Gynecologic Oncology journals has not been recently evaluated.

## OBJECTIVE

- To examine gender diversity in authorship and Editorial Boards of 2 prominent peer-reviewed Gynecologic Oncology journals, and to examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on publications.

## METHODS

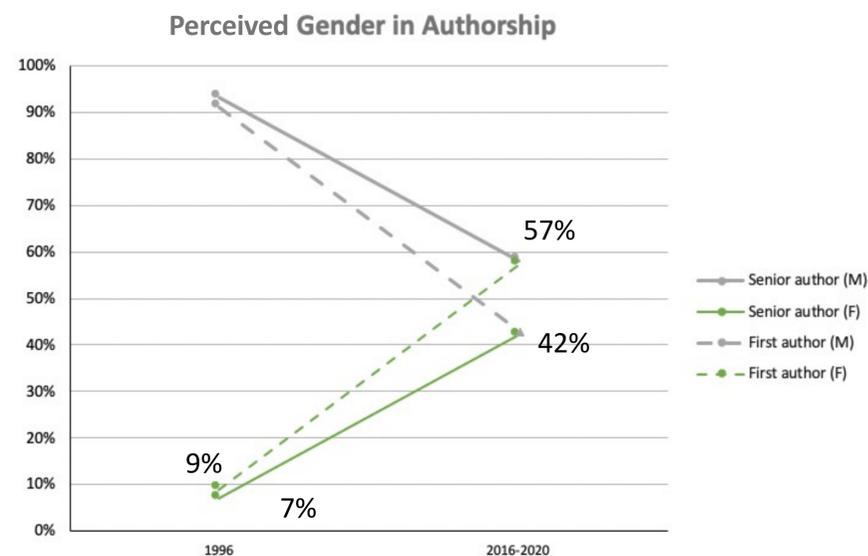
- We performed a bibliometric analysis of original articles published in Gynecologic Oncology (GO) and International Journal of Gynecologic Cancer (IJGC), comparing 2016-2020 to two decades prior (1996, 2006).
- We also assessed gender of authors during the COVID-19 pandemic period (May 2020-April 2021), and compared this to articles published in 2019.
- First names and photographs from institutional websites were used to identify subjective gender.
- Nonbinary identities were not accounted for in our categorization method.
- Gender distribution was compared using chi-square tests.

## RESULTS

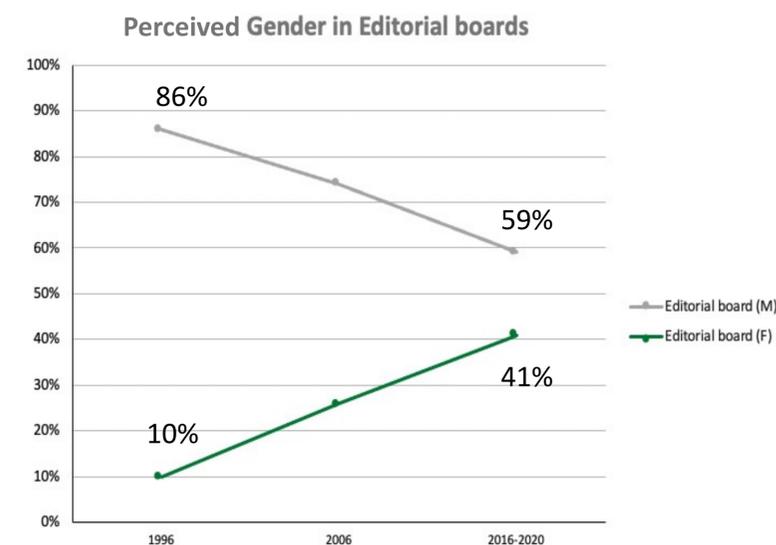
### Total number of papers



**Representation of women improved over time** in senior authorship ( $p < 0.00001$ ) and first authorship ( $p < 0.00001$ ). However women are still underrepresented, as they represent 55 and 70% of academic Gynecologic Oncologists in the USA and Canada in 2020.

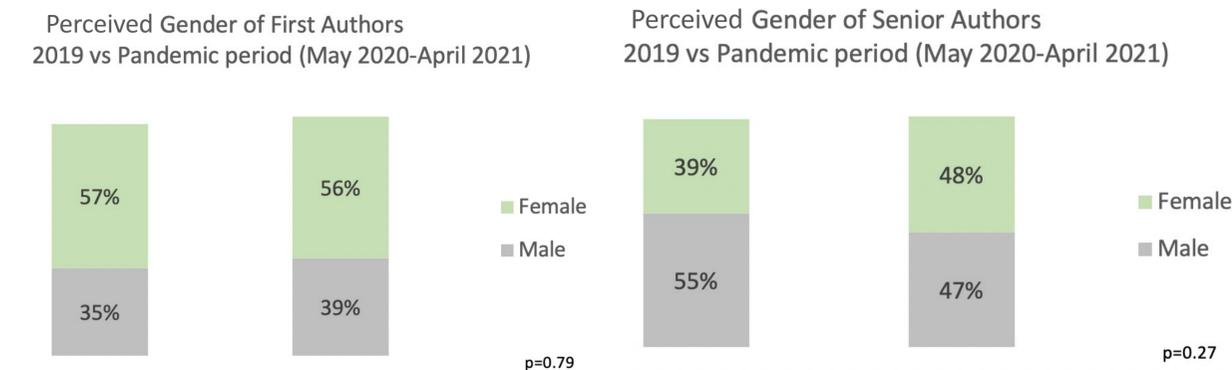


**Men continued to comprise the majority of editorial board members.**



## RESULTS

When comparing the gender of authors in articles published during the **pandemic period** to those in **2019**, we found **no difference in gender distribution** of first ( $p = 0.79$ ) and senior authors ( $p = 0.27$ ) in both journals.



## CONCLUSIONS

- There is an encouraging trend in female authorship, likely reflective of increased representation in the workforce, though gender disparities still exist.
- The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on gender imbalance in authorship needs continued evaluation. We hypothesize that there may be a time lag, and that the impact on research productivity and publications may not be immediately detectable.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- There may be opportunities to close the gender gap through:



Increased transparency by publishers on statistics of gender



Collecting self-reported gender throughout publication process



Advocacy and decisive action by academic community

Thank you for listening

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