




Equal or not? Women hold less prestigious roles at respiratory medicine conferences than men

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Analysis of the sex distribution of presenters in national and international conferences in 2017 demonstrates a significantly lower proportion of women in more prominent roles compared with men
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To the Editor:

The gender imbalance in medicine has been a topic of increasing interest and discussion. There are increasing proportions of graduating female medical students globally, with 41.1% of Australian doctors, 47% of UK doctors and 46% of medical residents in the USA being female [1, 2]. However, in positions of influence, the proportions change, such that in the USA only 21% of medical professors and 16% of medical deans are female [3]. Postulated reasons for this include implicit and unconscious gender bias and fewer promotion opportunities available to women.