

Editorial Board Gender Balance

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Dear Editor

I read with interest recent commentary in the European Journal of Nuclear medicine and Molecular Imaging detailing the gender inequity associated with the composition of the journals editorial board (1). This was followed by further analysis (2) of 25 nuclear medicine journals across the USA, Europe and Asia that reported universality of the gross disparity between male and female members of the editorial board for journals. Clearly gender diversity on an editorial board provides valuable perspective and builds a culture of equality in the profession and research. Nonetheless, the analysis was at a loss to explain the gender differential (in the order of 4:1 favoring males).

While the specific journals were not identified by name, the Journal of Nuclear Medicine Technology (JNMT) may have been overlooked because this analysis is far from representative. Indeed, the JNMT is a model for gender equality with 11 female and 9 male editorial board members comprised of a female editor in chief, 8 female associate editors, 7 male and 1 female consulting editors, 2 male international consulting editors, and a female managing editor. The historically inclusive culture of the SNMMI-TS and JNMT combined with more equitable gender distribution among professional colleagues provides a benchmark and formula for others to follow. Yet it also provides an insight that reflects the traditional male predominance in physicians, physicist and radiochemist numbers reflected in editorial board composition of medical and physics journals. Emergence of greater gender balance across science, technology, engineering and medicine (STEM) provides encouragement that the expertise of the profession, and thus journal editorship, will also find a balanced gender equilibrium.

It should be noted that this discussion, and the original works (1,2) do not accommodate non-binary gender classification, or indeed other important aspects of diversity that enriches an editorial team (eg. ethnicity, age/experience, sexual orientation); something to consider moving forward. But for now, an opportunity to celebrate the JNMT is a leader and benchmark internationally for gender equity.

References

1. Gelardi F, Gozzi N. Women on board: mind the (gender) gap. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging*. 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00259-021-05465-2>.
2. Evangelista, L., Ekmekcioglu, O. & Kunikowska, J. Gender balance in the editorial board of nuclear medicine journals. *Eur J Nucl Med Mol Imaging* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00259-021-05491-0>