

Title: Gender Disparities in NIH Funding, Publication Output, and H-Index Among Endowed Chairs in Dermatology

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Introduction: Endowed professorships often reveal gender disparities, with women comprising only 19.4% of department chairs across specialties. However, differences in dermatology endowed chairs have not been described. This study aims to examine gender disparities in research metrics and NIH funding among dermatology endowed chairs.

Methods: Using the AAMC database, three independent reviewers identified dermatology departments. Faculty profiles for 43 endowed chairs were reviewed to gather data on degrees, medical school graduation years, and academic interests. NIH funding was obtained from RePORT, and H-index and publication counts were sourced from Google Scholar and Scopus. All non-zero total NIH funding amounts were averaged, using the total NIH funding received from K, P, R, T, and U series grants. Statistical analysis included the interquartile range method and Welch's t-test ($p < 0.05$).

Results: Among the 43 chairs, 18 (42%) were women. Male chairs had significantly more publications ($\bar{x}=245$) than female chairs ($\bar{x}=160$) ($p=0.0348$). The male chairs were awarded significantly higher NIH funding ($\bar{x}=\$17,317,951$) than the female chairs ($\bar{x}=\$5,755,507$) ($p=0.0328$). There were no significant differences in post-graduate degrees, medical school graduation years, or H-index values. Skin cancer and Mohs surgery were commonly listed as interests among both female (50%) and male (48%) chairs.

Conclusion: This study identifies gender disparities in NIH funding and publications among dermatology endowed chairs despite increased female representation in dermatology. These findings highlight potential challenges female faculty may face in achieving comparable funding and publication records, suggesting a need for further investigation into structural barriers and career progression differences in academic dermatology.