

Trends in Female Representation at High-Profile Urology Conferences, 2014-2019

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Background

- Currently female urologists constitute 9.9% of the field and represent 14.2% of academic urologists in the United States.
- In 2019, 22.2% of urologists less than 45 years old were female, while only 11.3% of urologists 45-54 were female.
- In 2020, 29.7% of matched urology applicants were female.
- We sought determine the proportion of female speakers at high profile urologic meetings over time as a metric of female leadership.
- A cross-sectional analysis was conducted to identify the gender of conference speakers from 2014-2019 at 6 high profile urology conferences: AUA, SUFU, SPU, SUO, GURS, WCE.

Results

Table 1. Conference Data Included in Final Analysis

Year	No. of meetings	Total Proportion Female Speakers	Total Female Urologists	P Value
2014	5	39/285 (13.7%)	897/11703 (7.7%)	<0.005
2015	5	43/359 (12.0%)	922/11990 (7.7%)	0.013
2016	6	61/585 (10.4%)	1032/12186 (8.5%)	0.13
2017	6	129/642 (20.0%)	1106/12517 (8.8%)	<0.005
2018	6	83/573 (14.5%)	1167/12660 (9.2%)	<0.005
2019	6	127/658 (19.3%)	1286/13044 (9.9%)	<0.005

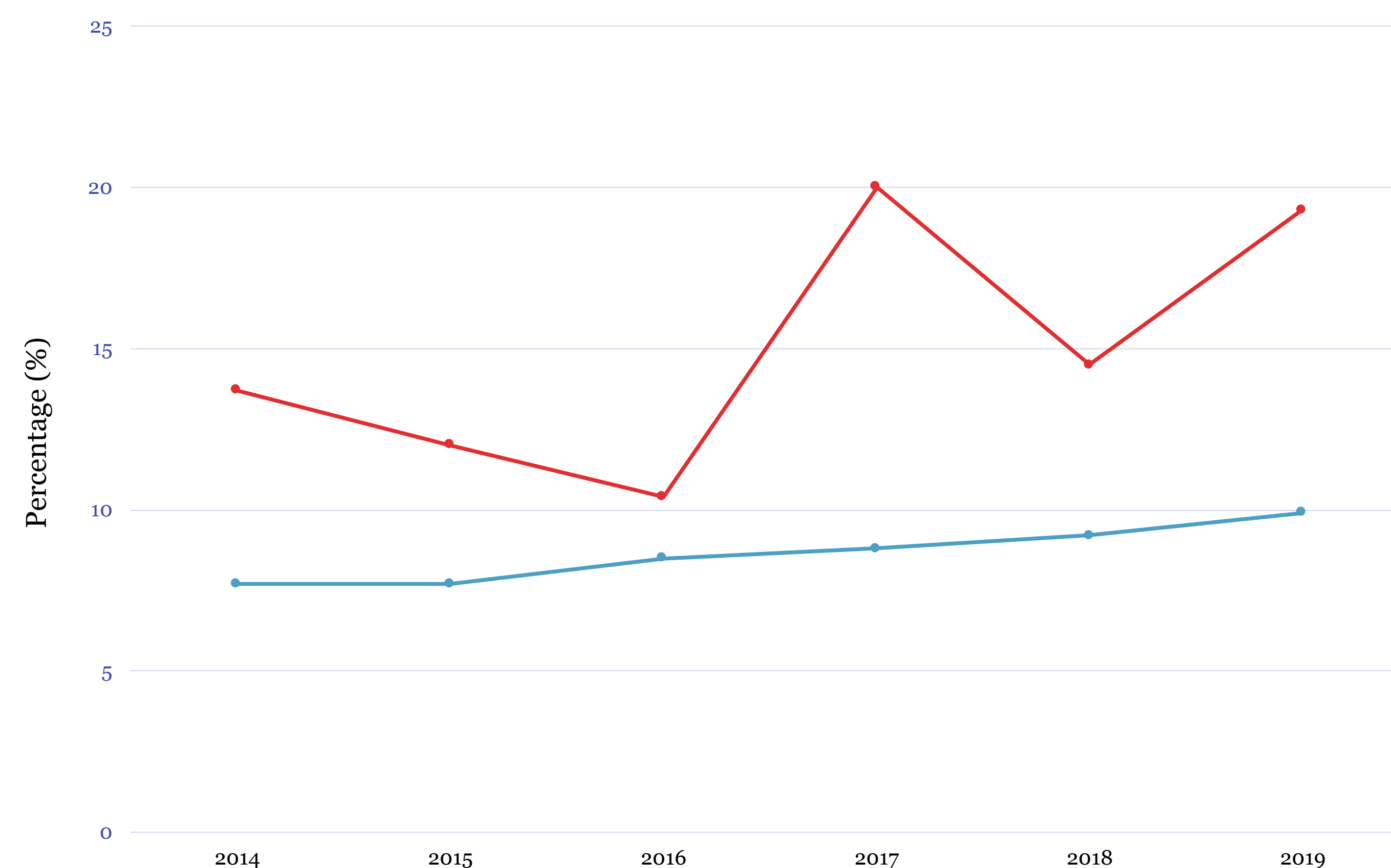


Figure 1. Total practicing female urologist representation(blue) and total proportion of female representation as speakers at major urology conferences(red), per year.

There was a slight trend of increasing proportion of female speakers at academic urology conferences from 2014-2019. Inclusion of female conference speakers presents an opportunity for increased gender parity within urology leadership.

Results (cont.)

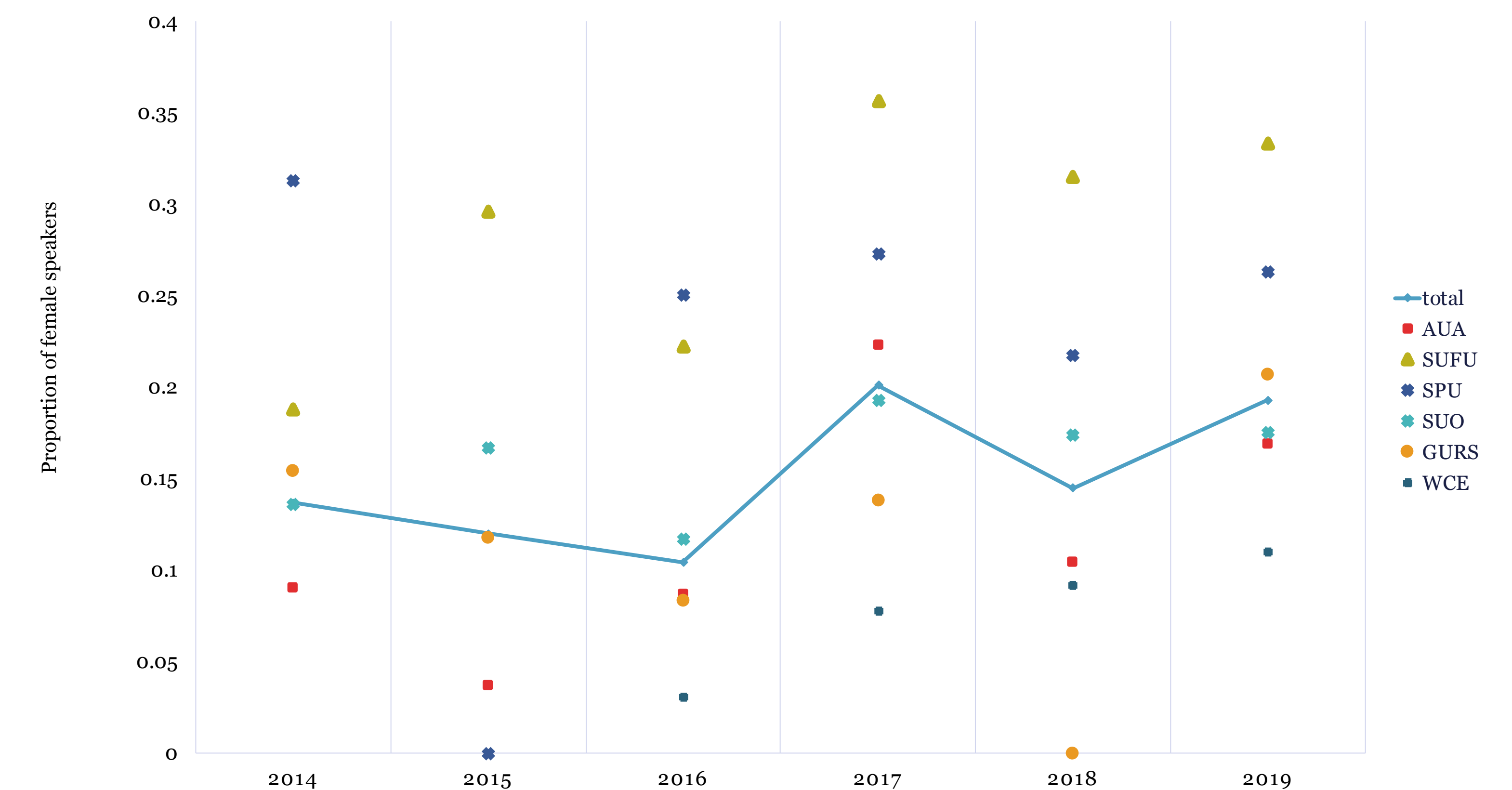


Figure 2. Proportion of female speakers at all conferences from 2014-2019 highlighted through the trendline (1.3% average absolute annual increase per year). Female speaker representation at each individual conference demonstrated by the individual data points.

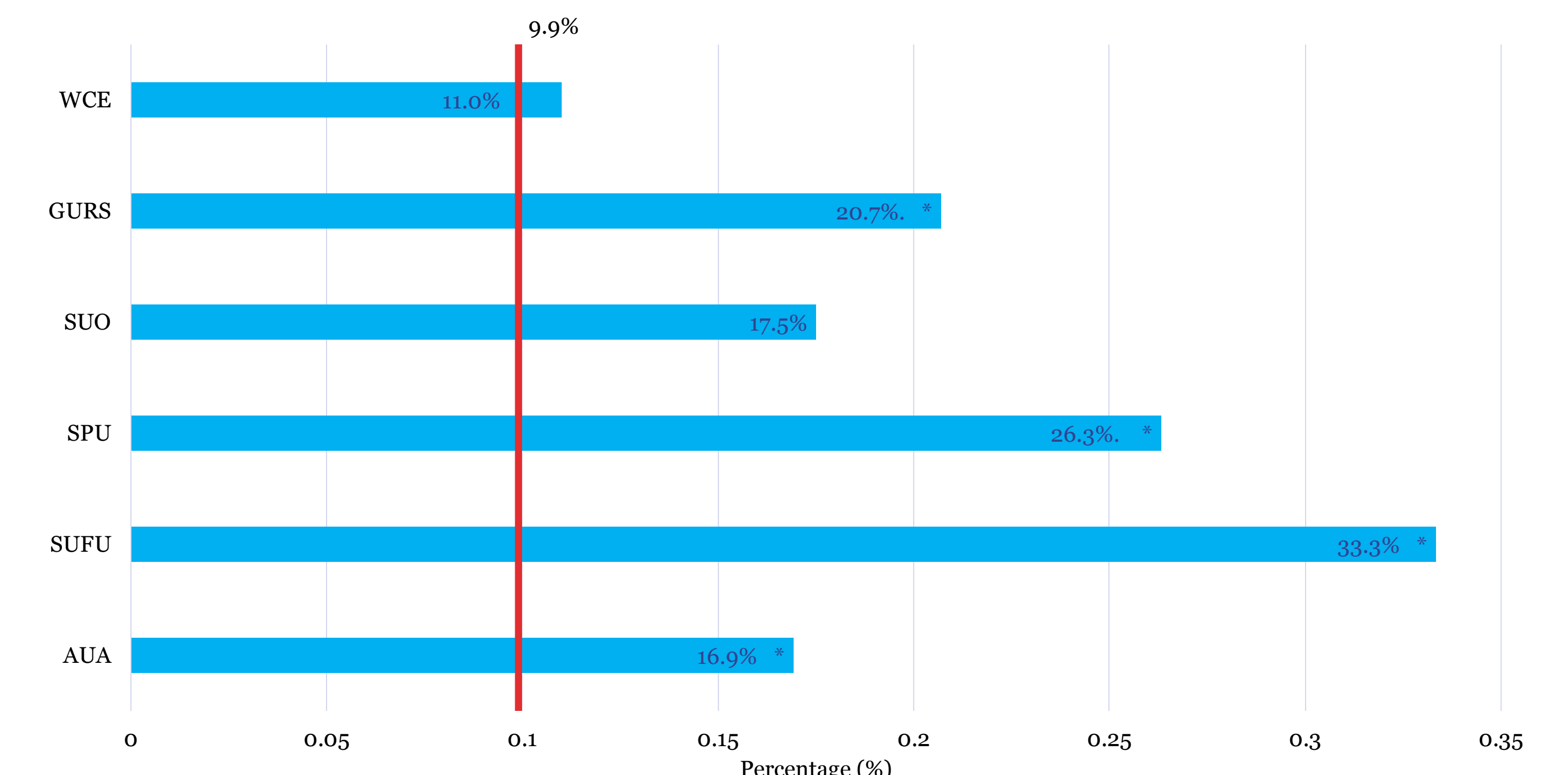


Figure 3. Females urologist in 2019 (vertical line) compared to percentage of female speakers at urology conferences in 2019. When compared, statistically significant increase between female speakers at GURS, SPU, SUFU and AUA and total practicing female urologists ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusion

- Our study shows an overall modest trend in increasing female speaker inclusion at urology conferences from 2014-2019 with variability between years.
- Overall, we found substantial representation of females when compared to the proportion of female urologists.
- Future conference selection committees should continue to consider strategies to encourage gender diversity in attempts to promote gender equality within the field of urology.