



# Women's Participation in the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies



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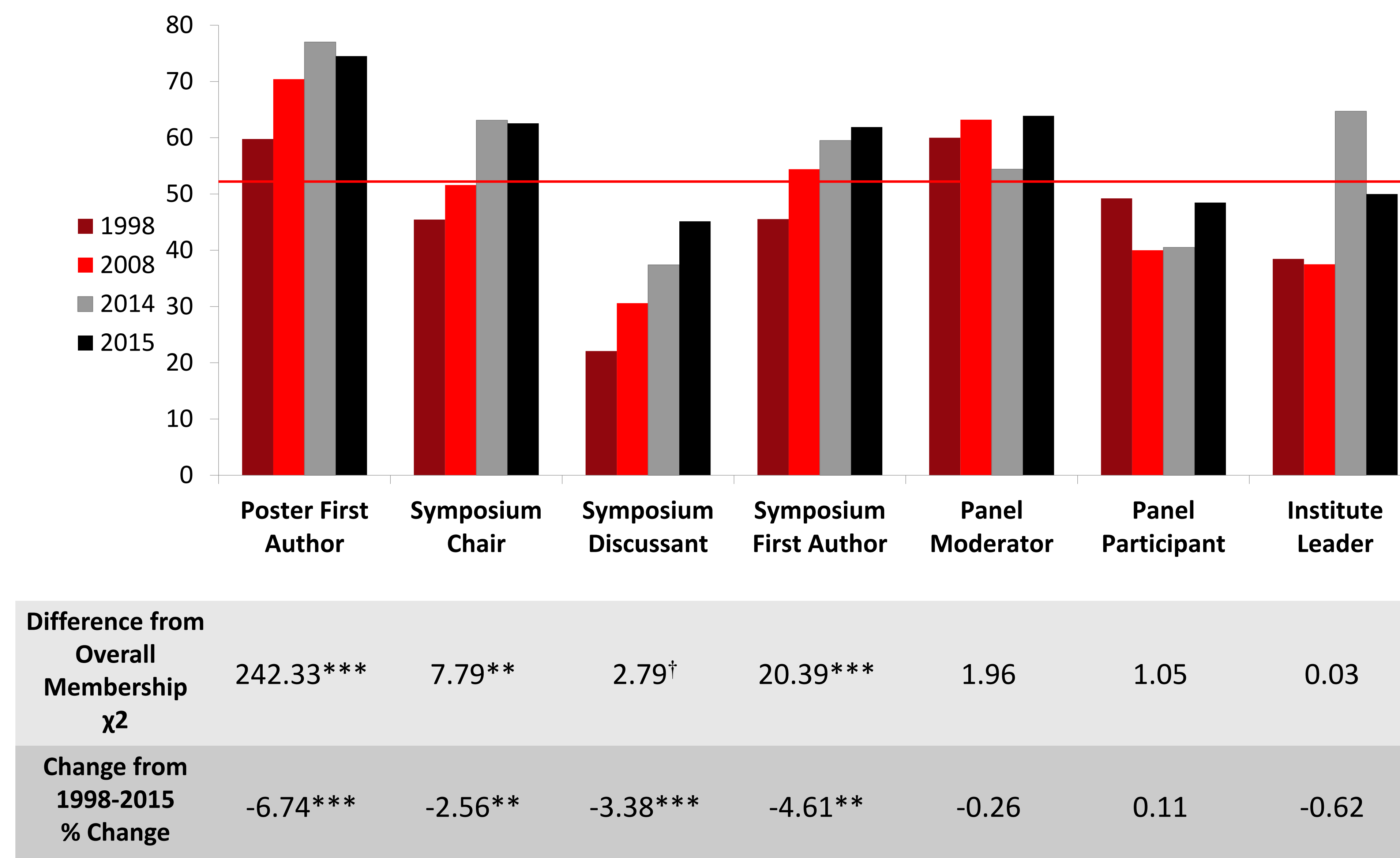
## BACKGROUND

- Since 1986, women have gone from earning 50% of doctoral degrees in clinical psychology to nearly 80%.
- Disparities still exist between the number of women graduating with doctoral degrees in clinical psychology and the number of women in distinguished positions, such as senior faculty positions and leadership roles in professional organizations.
- A recent study published in *The Behavior Therapist* found that women's representation within the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) and participation in the 2014 annual meeting was consistent with this overall pattern.
- The goal of this study was to evaluate women's participation in the 2015 annual meeting of ABCT.

## METHOD

- Participation was coded using the program guide from 2015. Gender was coded as male, female or unknown based on the author's first name. In cases of ambiguous first names, publicly available autobiographical information was used, when available, to code author gender.
- Percentage of female participants was calculated for each role in the conference (e.g., poster first author, symposium discussant, etc.).
- The proportion of female participants was compared to the overall 2015 ABCT membership statistics (52.2% female, 5225 members) using chi-square analyses.
- Change in women's participation from 1998 to 2015 was assessed using Z-scores to test for differences in proportions.

## RESULTS



## RESULTS Continued

Award Title	% Women (n)	First Woman Awardee
ABCT President	20% (10/49)	1981
Career/Lifetime Achievement Award	18% (4/22)	2009
Outstanding Researcher Award	25% (2/8)	1995
President's New Researcher Award	32% (12/37)	1979
Dissertation Award	81% (25/31)	1998
Outstanding Clinician Award	57% (4/7)	1999
Outstanding Educator/Trainer Award	13% (1/8)	2012
Outstanding Mentor Award	14% (1/7)	2014
Outstanding Service to ABCT Award	48% (13/27)	2000

## DISCUSSION

- Our results suggest that many patterns of gender discrepancy found in 2014 within ABCT continued in 2015.
- Women continue to be over-represented in early-career roles at the conference, such as poster authors. Women were under-represented in more senior roles, such as symposium discussants, clinical roundtable moderators and workshop leaders.
- ABCT should consider ways in which the organization can support the promotion and retention of women in leadership roles.
- Members of ABCT can use their expertise to promote behavioral changes that support gender equity, such as being aware of gender biases in letters of recommendation.

