

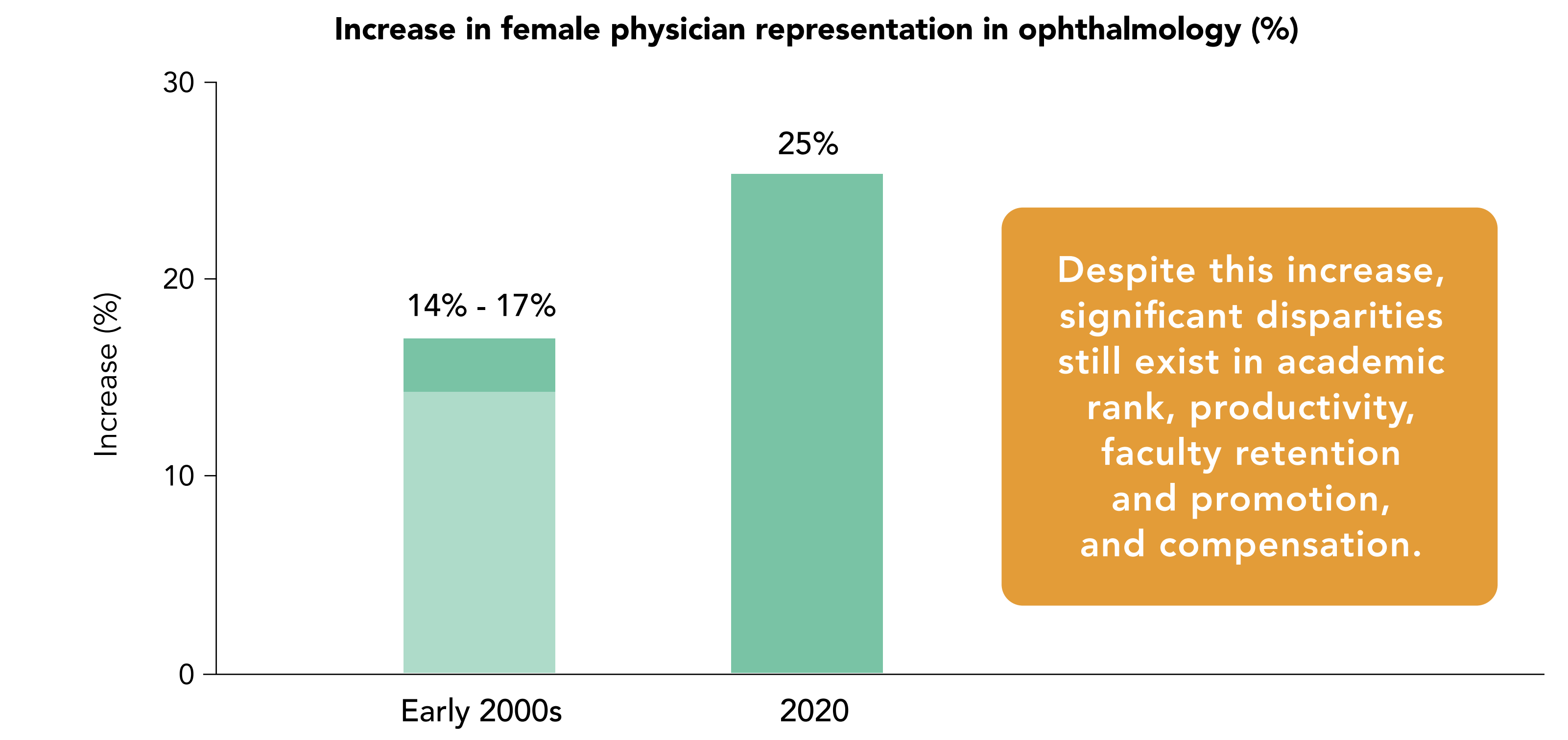
Sex Differences in Salaries of Academic Ophthalmologists in the United States

Emami-Naeini P, Lieng MK, Chen J. JAMA Ophthalmol. 2022;140(5):519-522. doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2022.0376

This cross-sectional study analyzed data for full-time academic physicians practicing in 154 accredited US medical schools. Data from the Association of American Medical Colleges Faculty Salary Report for fiscal year 2019-2020 were used to evaluate disparities in total compensation for female and male academic ophthalmologists. Using a large database of physician compensation reported by US academic centers, researchers evaluated whether male and female academic ophthalmologists were paid differently with comparison of the results across other specialties.



The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) reported that the percentage of women in the physician workforce has increased from **28.3% in 2007** to **36.3% in 2019**; increased female representation was also reflected within the field of ophthalmology.

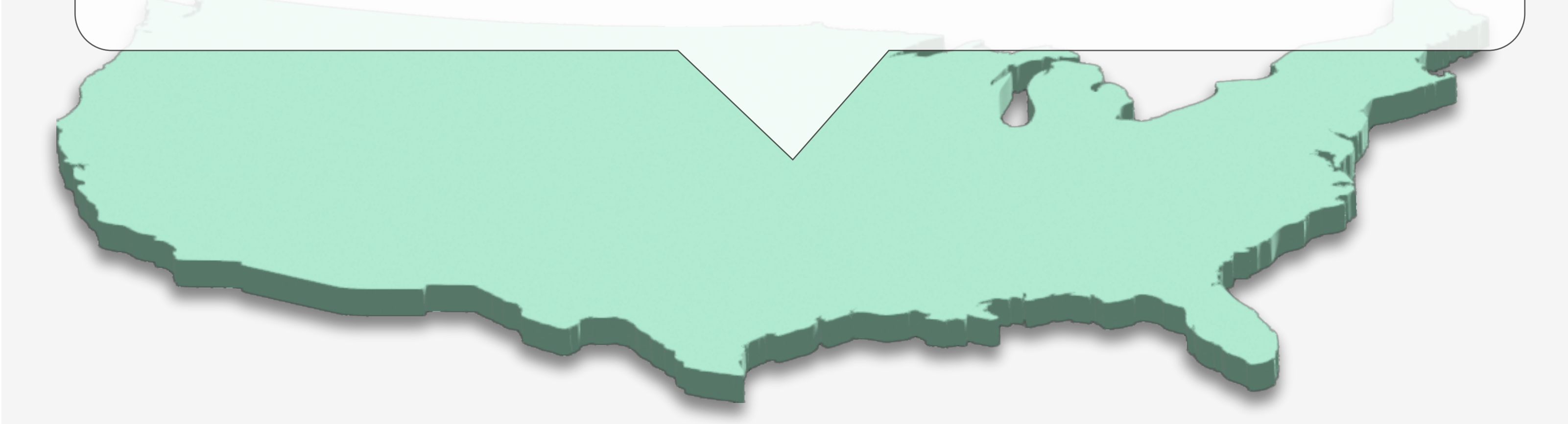





The 2019-2020 Faculty Salary Report contains total compensation for 122,732 full-time faculty from 154 accredited medical schools in the United States.

The report included a total of **84,980 faculty (40.8% female)**, which comprised:

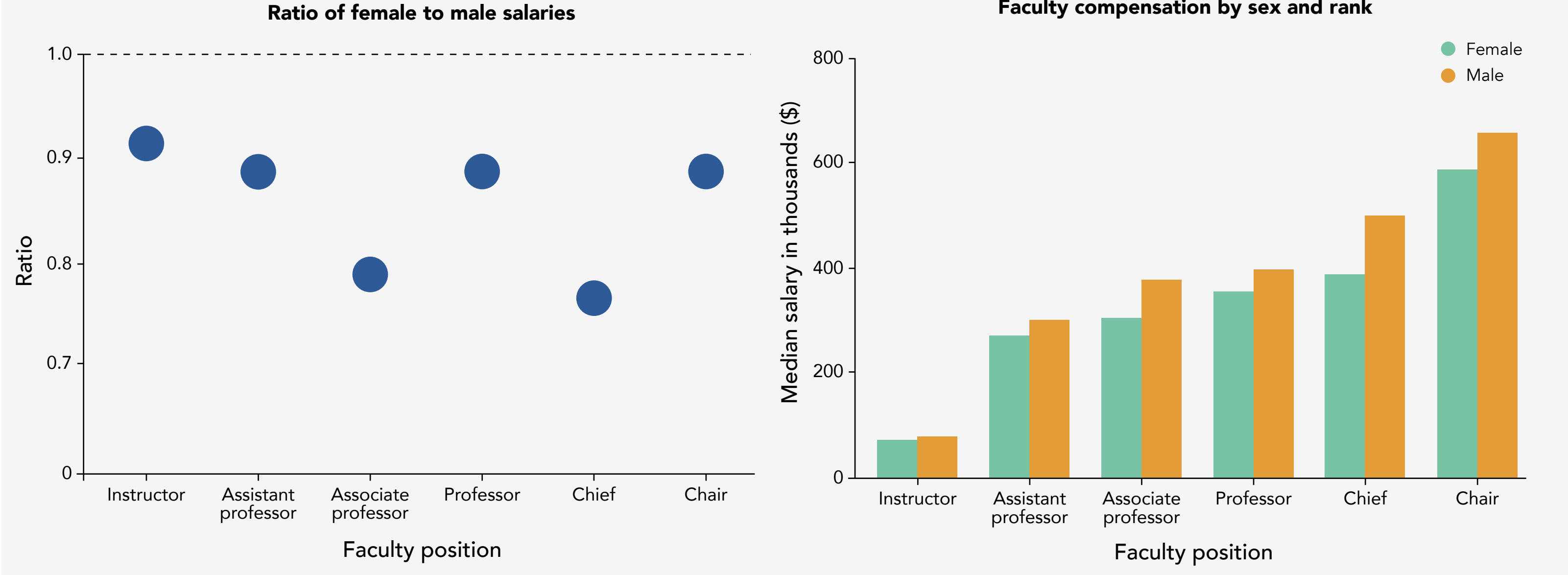
- **1,607 faculty (39.8% female) in ophthalmology**
- **16,142 faculty (32.5% female) in other surgical specialties**
- **67,231 faculty (42.8% female) in nonsurgical specialties**



Non-surgical specialties include: anesthesiology, dermatology, emergency medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, pathology, pediatrics, physical medicine and rehabilitation, psychiatry, and radiology (and respective subspecialties).

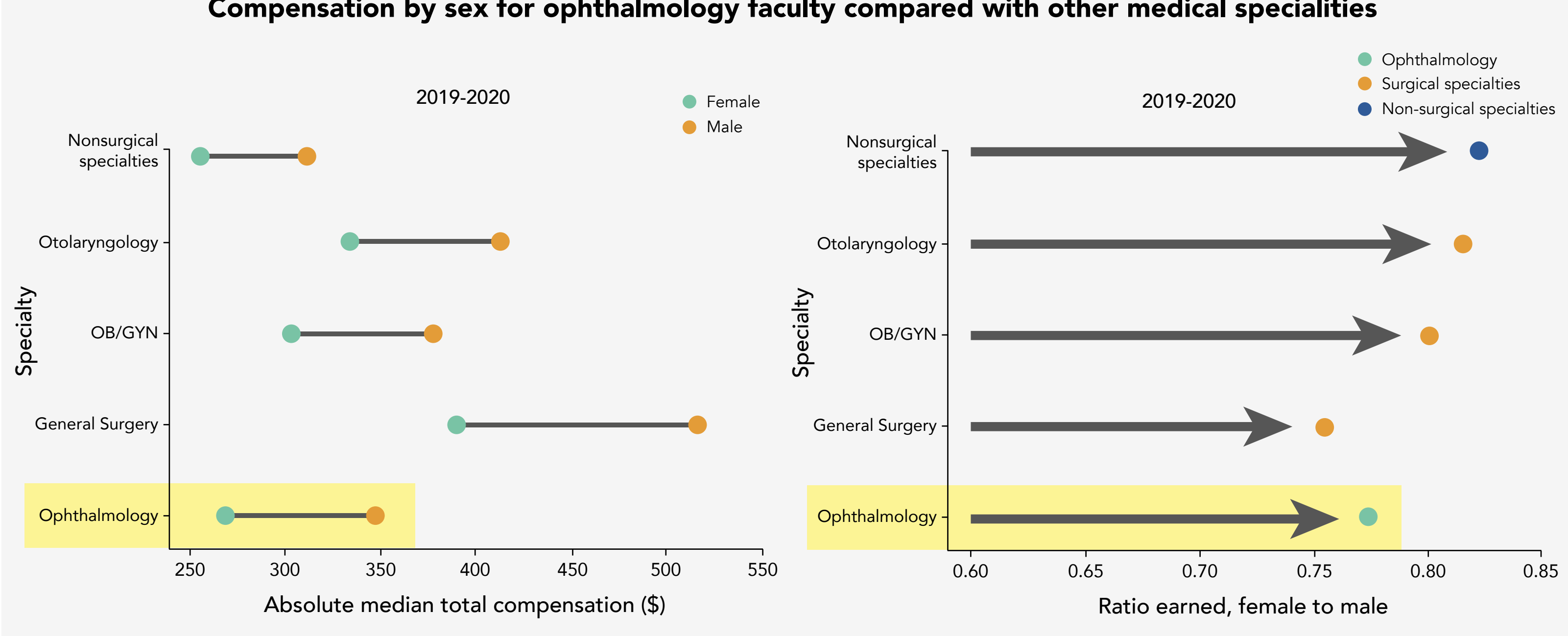



The total compensation of female ophthalmologists was lower than that of their male counterparts across all faculty ranks.



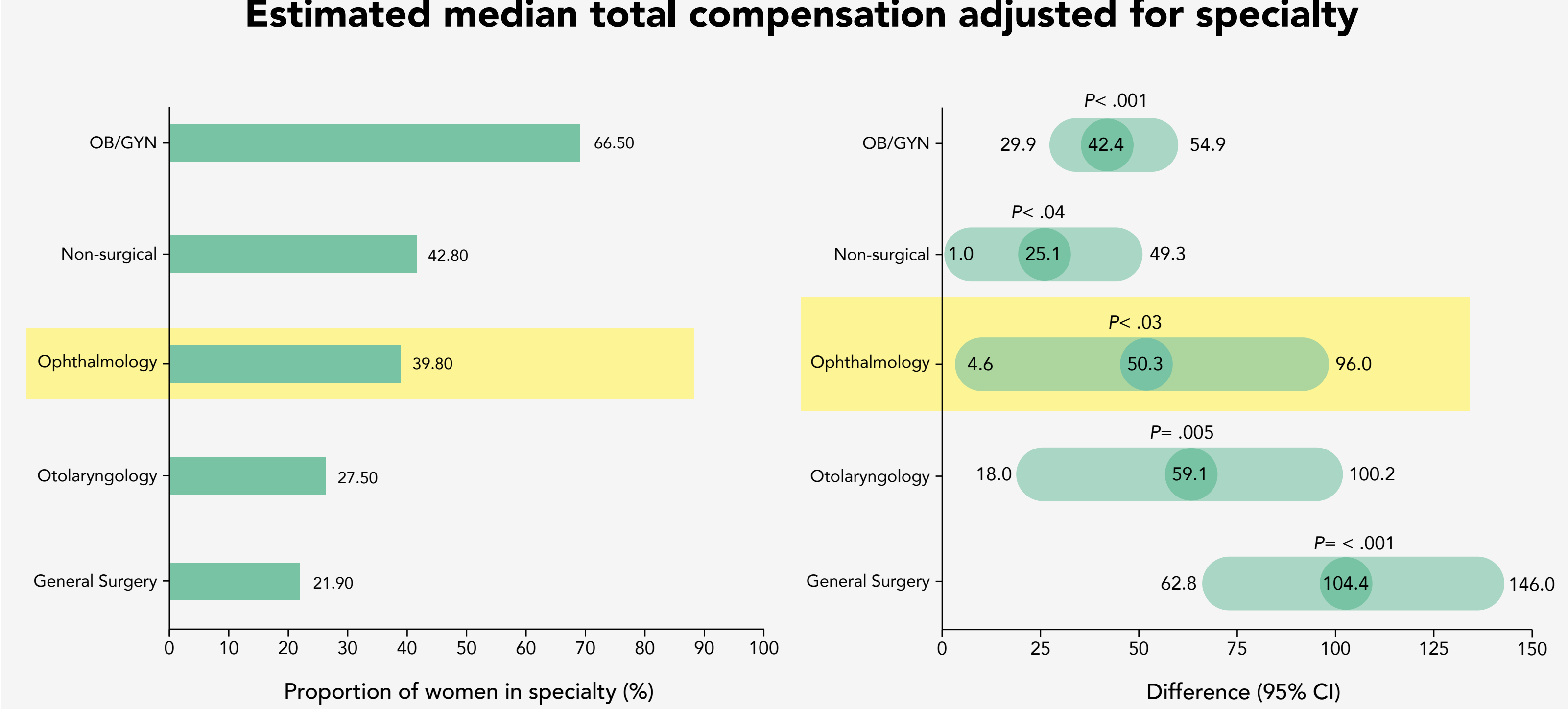


When compared with other specialties, ophthalmology had the second lowest ratio of female-to-male salary (after general surgery) at 75%. The earned ratio was highest among nonsurgical specialties at 82%.





Women were paid significantly less than men in all specialties, and specialties with with a lower representation of women (including ophthalmology) were found to have higher pay gaps.





Conclusions

This study showed that female academic ophthalmologists are paid less than their male counterparts. These results highlight the importance of women's representation and empowerment in the field. Future research and efforts to increase awareness and close the pay gaps are warranted to encourage more women to pursue ophthalmology and achieve parity in compensation.