

# O-6

## Empowering Participation: Trends in APP/AHP Authorship and the Impact of Travel Grants in Neuroendocrine Tumor Research

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### BACKGROUND

The involvement of Advanced Practice Providers (APPs) and Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) in academic research, particularly within the neuroendocrine tumor (NET) field, has gained increasing attention. To understand their expanding role in interdisciplinary research, it is crucial to evaluate trends in authorship and conference participation. This study examines APP/AHP authorship trends in abstracts submitted to NANETS from 2018 to 2023, assessing changes over time and comparing involvement before and after the introduction of travel grants.

### METHODS

We analyzed 616 abstracts submitted between 2018 and 2023, categorizing them into those with APP/AHP authors (n=225) and those without (n=392). Travel grants, introduced in 2022, were awarded to 12 individuals in 2022 and 21 in 2023. We conducted a cross-tabulation analysis to compare APP/AHP involvement over the years, with statistical significance determined by pairwise comparisons ( $p < 0.05$ ). Additionally, the percentage of APPs participating as attendees and speakers during this period was assessed, using mean and median values to identify trends.

### RESULTS

The analysis revealed a significant increase in APP/AHP authorship, rising from 21 abstracts in 2018 to 66 in 2023 ( $p < 0.0001$ ). First-author contributions also grew from 3 and 5 in 2018 and 2019, respectively, to 14 and 19 in 2022 and 2023 ( $p < 0.002$ ). Five APP/AHPs who submitted first-author abstracts in 2022 and 2023 were first-time attendees who received travel grants. Meanwhile, the number of abstracts without APP/AHP authorship declined, suggesting broader inclusion of APPs/AHPs in research. Among the 33 travel grant recipients, 4 had previously attended NANETS conferences, and 5 first-time attendees in 2022 returned in 2023. The mean percentage of APP/AHP attendees per year was 11.93%, with a median of 12.83%. APP/AHP speakers had mean and median percentages of 11.05% and 11.17%, respectively. Despite the introduction of travel grants, these percentages remained consistent over the years, though overall APP/AHP engagement increased significantly.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

This study highlights a significant upward trend in APP/AHP authorship and conference involvement in NANETS from 2018 to 2023. The introduction of travel grants in 2022 likely supported this increased participation, as seen by the return of first-time attendees and the rise in first-author contributions. This growing involvement underscores the need for academic institutions and industry partners to increase support and resources for APPs/AHPs, fostering greater inclusion and collaboration within the NET field. Further research is recommended to explore the full impact of these grants on research quality and scope.

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