

Characteristics of Current Professional Podiatric Organization Leaders as Students

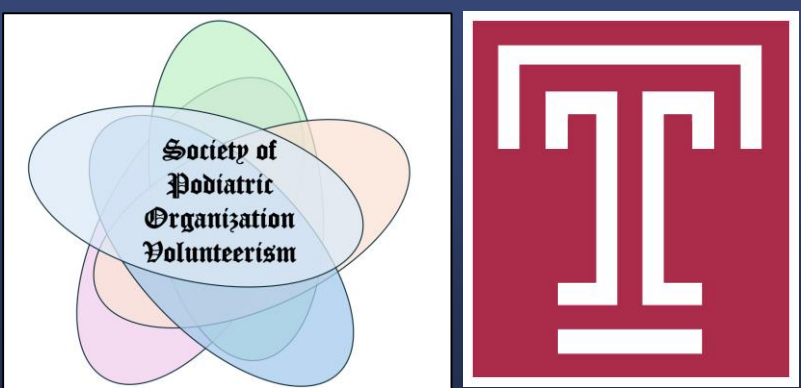
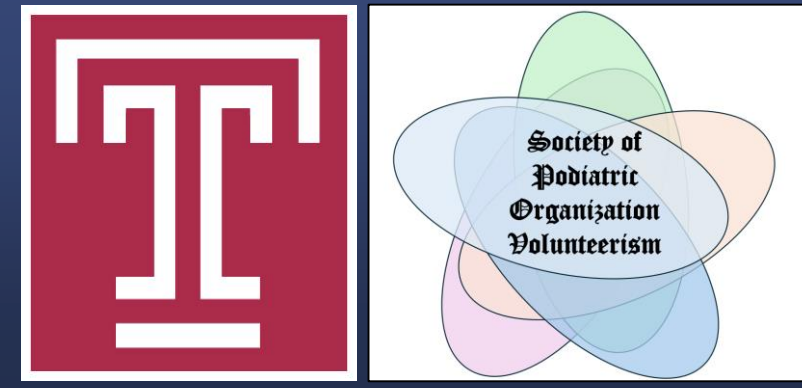
Presented by the *Society of Podiatric Organization Volunteerism*

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Statement of Purpose and Literature Review

The *Society of Podiatric Organization Volunteerism* was founded in 2024 to investigate, recognize, encourage and support the concept of volunteerism throughout the podiatric profession [1-4].

The objective of this specific investigation was to survey contemporary podiatric organizational leaders in an attempt to elucidate characteristics of these individuals when they were medical students.

Methodology

An electronic anonymous survey was developed by all study authors attempting to determine student characteristics and volunteer organizational involvement during medical school. The survey was sent to the executive directors of leading national podiatric organizations who were asked to consider forwarding it to their leadership boards. This included the AACPM (American Association of Colleges of Podiatric Medicine; n=14 Deans and other Board of Directors), ABFAS (n=10 Board of Directors), ABPM (n=10 Board of Directors), ACFAS (n=11 Board of Directors), APMA (n=13 Board of Trustees), COTH (n=8 regional residency program director representatives), and the CPME (n=8 members of the Council). Only DPM responses were included. In total, the survey was sent to approximately 69 potential individuals in 74 total positions.

Results

A total of 55 organizational leaders completed the survey for an approximate response rate of 79.7%. Results are displayed in the following graphs and tables.

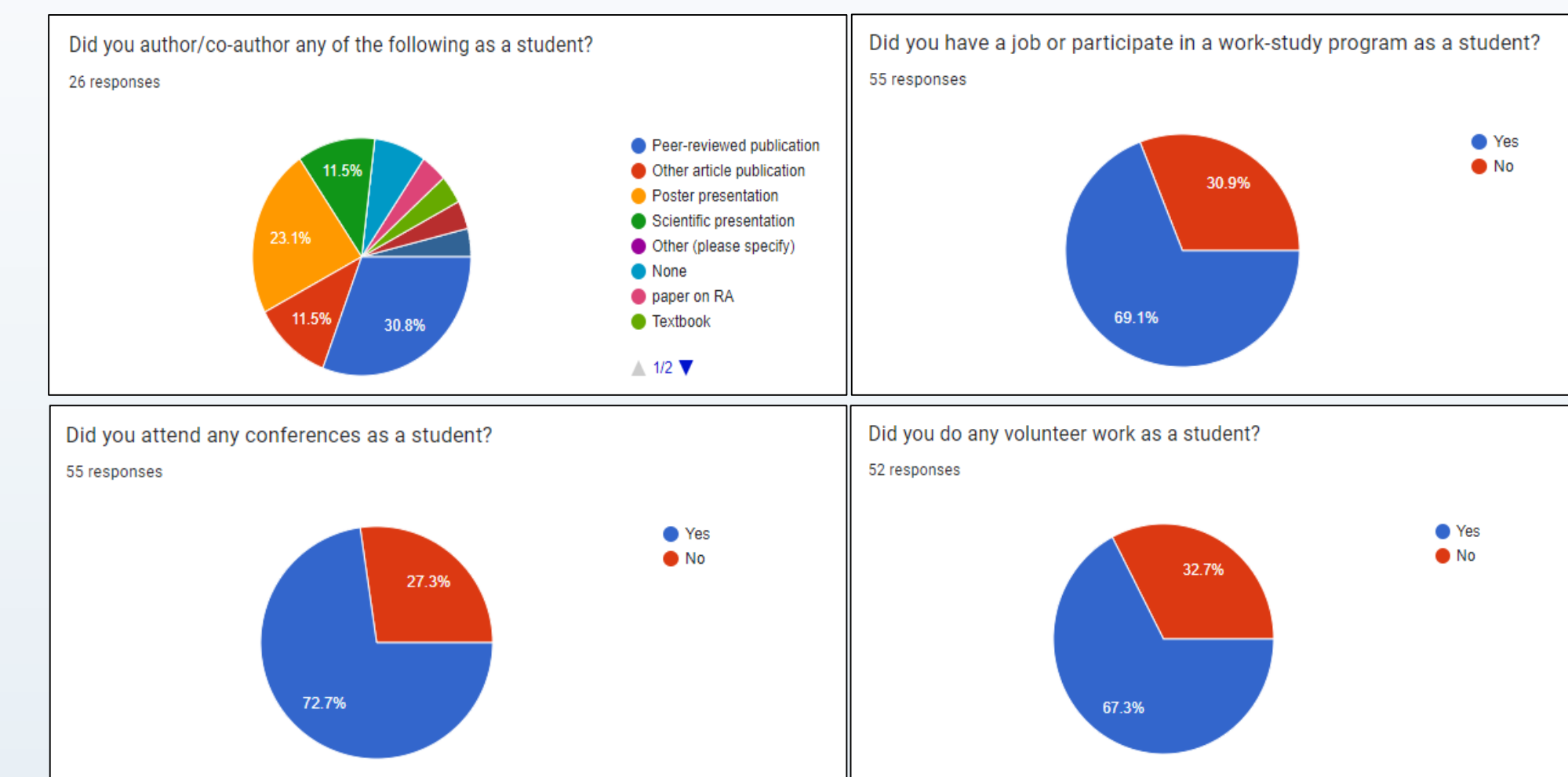
Table 1 (below): Perhaps unsurprisingly, this group demonstrated a high rate of organizational volunteerism both during school and in their professional careers. During school, it was most common for them to report involvement with ACFAS student chapters (63.3%), APMSA (44.9%), and with student government/class council (28.6%). During their professional careers, it was most common for them to report volunteerism with a state society (81.8%), APMA (63.0%) and ACFAS (51.9%).

With which organization(s) have you participated since residency graduation?	With which organization(s) were you involved as a student?
-State/local society: 81.8%	-ACFAS student chapter: 63.3%
-APMA: 63.0%	-APMSA: 44.9%
-ACFAS: 57.4%	-Student Government and/or Class Council: 28.6%
-ABFAS: 51.9%	-Pi Delta: 24.5%
-CPME: 33.3%	-Journal Club: 24.5%
-COTH: 24.1%	-SNPMA: 14.3%
-AACPM: 22.2%	-AAPSM: 14.3%
-NBPME: 22.2%	-AAWP: 12.2%
-ABPM: 18.5%	-ACPM: 6.1%
-ACPM: 11.1%	-AAPP: 4.1%
-ASPS: 7.4%	-None: 4.1%
-AO North America: 3.7%	-APHA: 2.0%
-AAWP: 3.7%	-Biomechanics club: 2.0%
-Hospital medical executive committee: 3.7%	-Anatomic Honor Society: 2.0%
-Council of Faculties: 1.9%	
-State Licensing Board: 1.9%	
-Podiatry Institute: 1.9%	

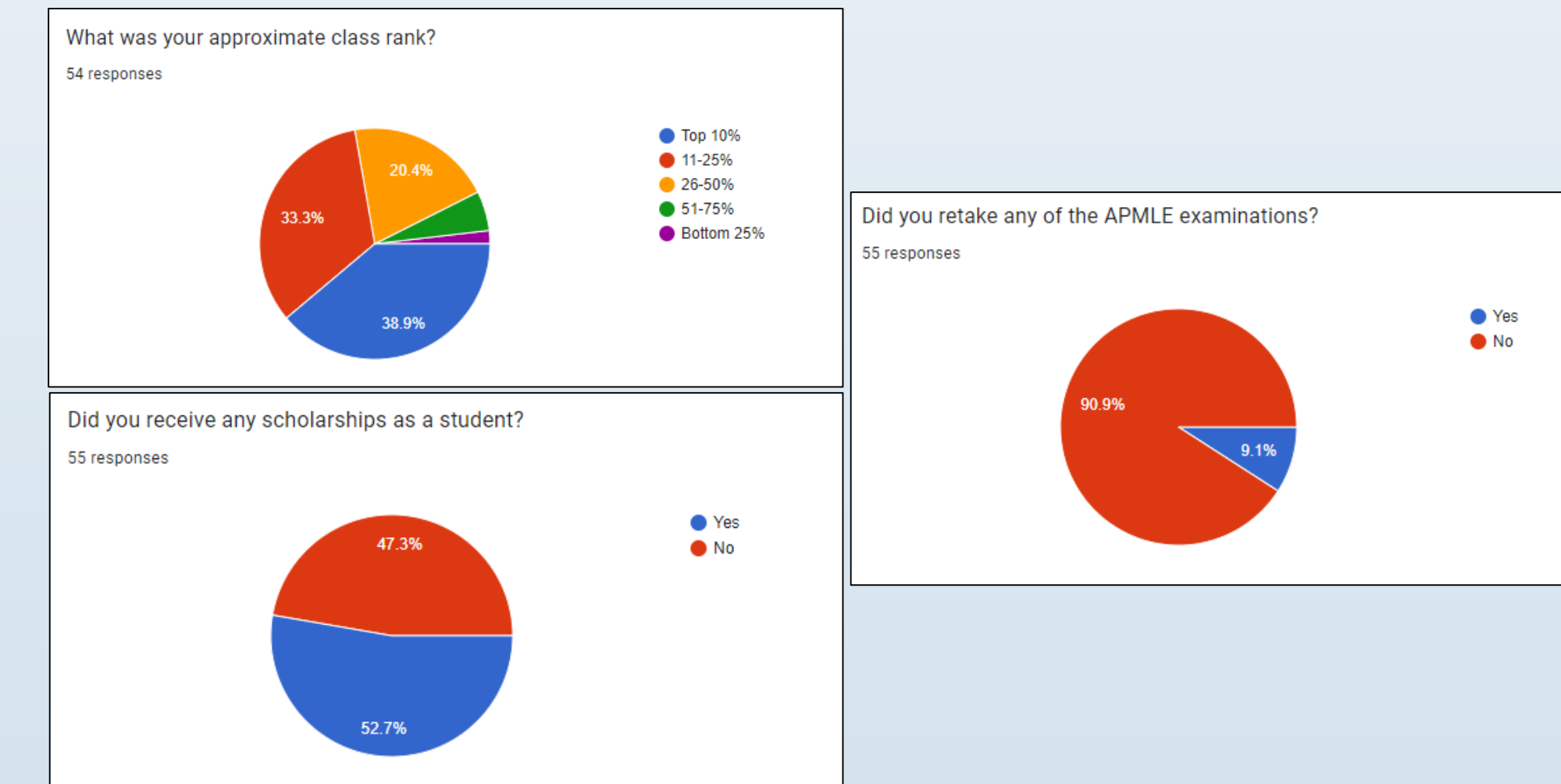
Figures 1 and 2 (below): With that said, and perhaps somewhat surprisingly, a majority of respondents reported that they did not serve in a leadership role with these student organizations (54.5%), and that they did not anticipate going on to a leadership role during their professional careers (58.2%).



Figures 3-6 (below): If not overwhelmingly serving in leadership positions during school, this group did demonstrate high levels of academic activity and volunteerism.



Figures 7-9: Current organizational leaders also tended to be academically inclined.



What was your most formative school/mentorship experience that informs your current leadership? (representative responses listed)

- Attending ACFAS conference
- Mentoring through women of AAWP
- APMSA involvement
- Student government involvement
- College faculty encouragement
- Developed through residency training / Residency program faculty encouragement
- Competition between students
- Interactions with national organizational leadership
- Obligation to "pay it forward"
- Didn't really have any

Discussion

As with any scientific investigation, critical readers are encouraged to review the study design and specific results in order to reach their own independent conclusions, while the following represents our conclusions based on the preceding results. We also never consider data to be definitive, but do think that these results might be worthy of attention and future investigation.

-This investigation aimed to describe characteristics and volunteerism of current podiatric organizational leaders as students. Our conclusions are intentionally anonymous, generalized, broad, non-comparative, and supportive of all organizational volunteerism.

---Current podiatric organizational leaders tend to demonstrate widespread volunteerism within the profession with described involvement in state/local societies (81.8%), APMA (63.0%), ACFAS (57.4%), ABFAS (51.9%), CPME (33.3%), COTH (24.1%), AACPM (22.2%), NBPME (22.2%), ABPM (18.5%) and ACPM (11.1%). They also tended to demonstrate broad participation as students with described involvement in ACFAS student chapters (63.3%), APMSA (44.9%), and Student government/Class councils (28.6%).

---Interestingly, only 45.5% described organizational leadership roles as students and only 41.8% envisioned future activity in national organizational leadership.

---Current podiatric organizational leaders tended to demonstrate other academic activities during school including scientific publications/presents, conference attendance, work study, and other volunteer work.

---They also tended to be academically inclined an overwhelming majority coming from the top half of the class, receiving scholarships, and passing APMLE examinations.

-There are certainly some limitations to consider with this project: ---This is a cross-section methodology describing a single period of time and does not demonstrate or describe patterns or trends. However, it is our intention to repeat this project every 2-3 years in order to elucidate potential trends.

---There likely are other important national podiatric organizations with leaders not included here. If you are a part of an organization that would like to be recognized by our Society, please don't hesitate to send us an email. Our aim is encourage and support organizational volunteerism in all forms.

References

- [1] Shahr H, Yazdani S, Afshar L. Professional socialization: an analytical definition. J Med Ethics Hist Med. 2019 Dec 7; 12: 17.
- [2] Thevendran G, Glazebrook M, Eastwood D, Weber K, Kit S, Johari A, Rajasekaran S, Khanduja V. Rising within the leadership of an orthopaedic society: learning from the presidents. Int Orthop. 2022 Mar; 46(3): 443-447.
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- [4] Mun F, Suresh KV, Pollak AN, Morris CD. Professional society opportunities and involvement for early-career orthopaedic surgeons. J Am Acad Orthop Surg. 2023 Feb 15; 31(4): 167-180.