

The financial relationship between the medical industry and OBGYN and Urology residency leadership

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Introduction

- Industry payments to physicians over the past decade has exceeded hundreds of millions of dollars
- Industry payments can affect physician practices and prescribing patterns
- Surgical subspecialties receive more payments than non-surgical subspecialties
- Financial relationships between program directors or department chairs and industry can influence medical education

Aim

Examine the magnitude of industry payments to obstetrics and gynecology (OBGYN) and urology residency directors and department chairs between 2013 and 2020

Methods

- 296 OBGYN and 146 urology residency programs were identified through the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) in 2021
- Department chairs and program directors were identified for each residency program
- Non-research payments from 2013 to 2020 were collected from the CMS open payments website and matched to residency leadership
- Payments were divided into seven categories: non-continuing education, consulting fees, honoraria & faculty compensation, food & beverage, charitable contribution, travel & lodging, and royalties
- Wilcoxon Rank-Sum and Kruskal-Wallis tests were used to analyze data
- Multivariable linear regression was used to evaluate the role of physician demographics on the payments

Results

- Over 8 years, \$8,467,051 was paid to 599 physicians
- Urologists received significantly more payments
- Urologists received three times the dollar amount of OBGYNs
- Residency program directors received more payments than department chairs
- Department chairs received two times the dollar amount of program directors
- Physicians in California received the highest payments and dollar amounts
- Food and beverage payments were the most common
- Non-continuing education and consultant payments received the highest dollar amounts

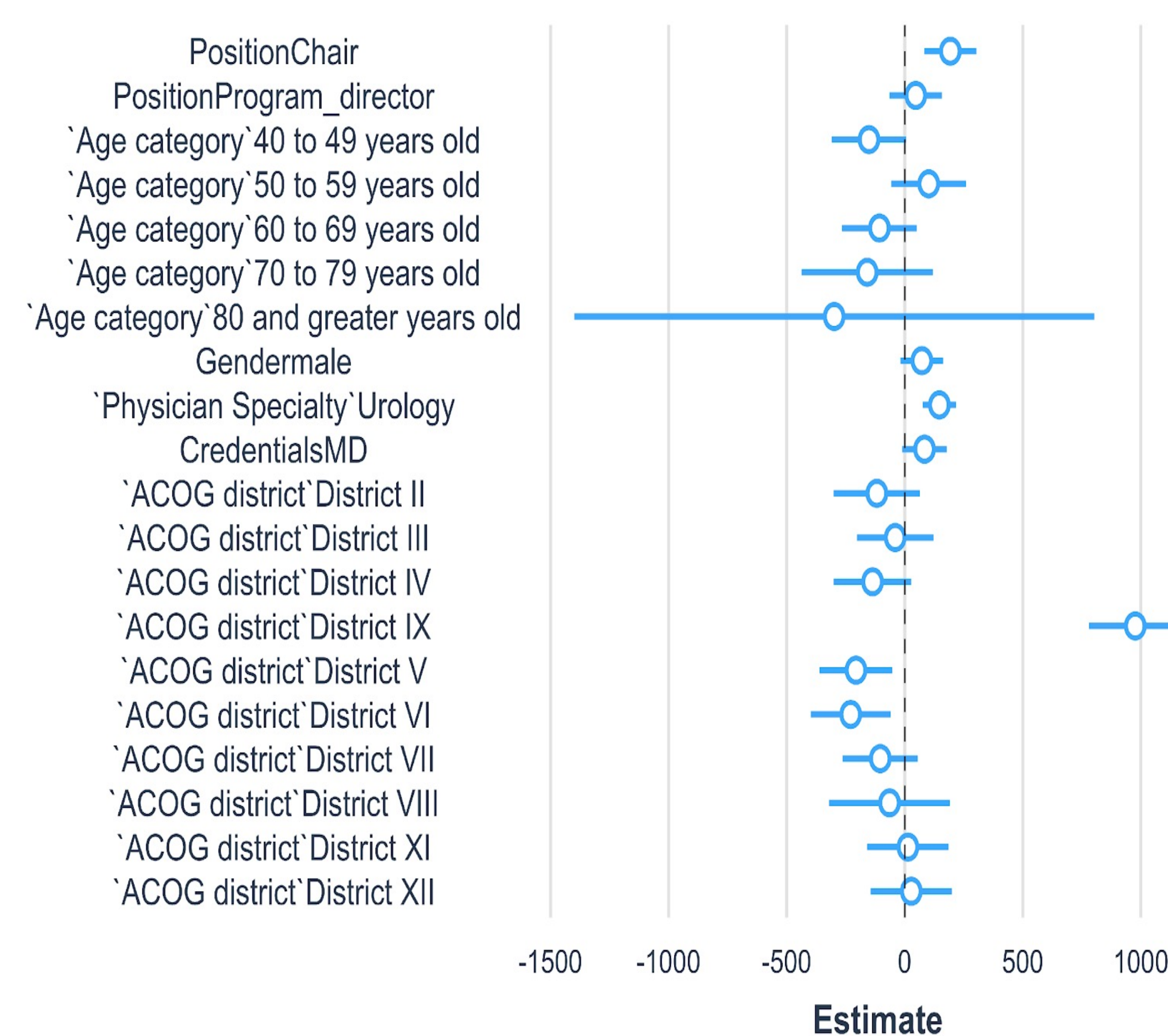


Figure 1: Forest plot boxes represent regression coefficients demonstrating the effect of each predictor variable on the non-research payment amount received. The horizontal bars indicate 95% confidence interval.

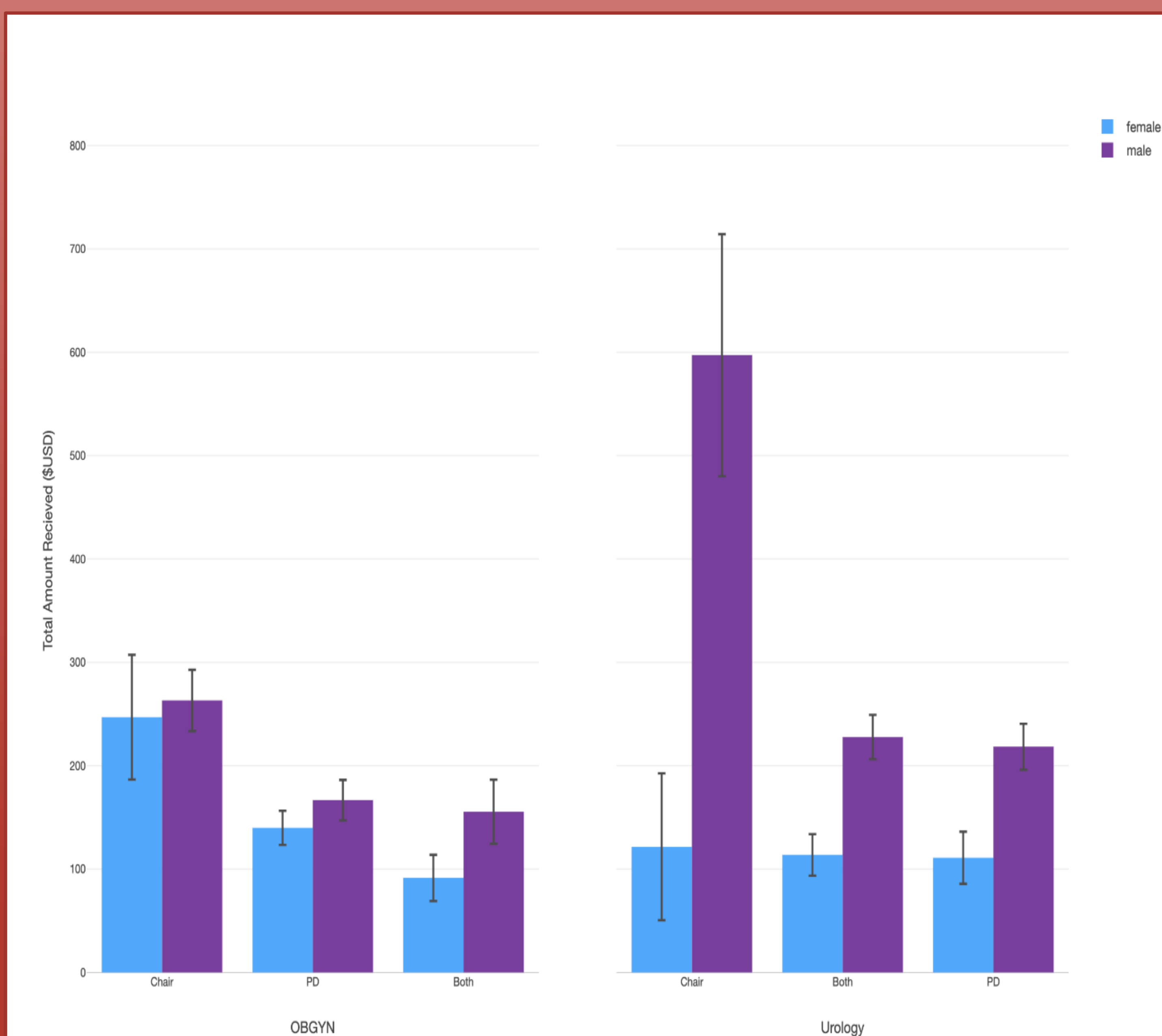


Figure 2: Sum of non-research payments received by specialty and position, colored by gender.

Conclusion

- Four variables were predictive of the magnitude of industry payments: male gender, department chair, specialty of urology, and practicing in California
- The findings are consistent with previous studies that male gender and department chairs receive higher payments
- Non-research payments to residency leadership positions in OBGYN and urology programs can impact trainees and should be disclosed
- Further studies should be performed to interpret the relationship between industry and department leadership