Factors Associated with Industry Payments in Academic Spine Surgery

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Introduction
- The Open Payments Database (OPD) has allowed for a more transparent record of industry payments to physicians
- The objective of our study was to investigate predictors for different types of industry payments

Methods
- All orthopaedic/neurosurgical spine fellowship selection committee members were identified from 2021-2022
- Payment records were collected from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CSM) open payments website from 2015-2021

Results
- 310 spine surgeons were identified from 76 programs
- Regression analysis identified total publications ($p<0.001$), attending years ($p<0.001$), and publication rate ($p=0.017$) as predictors of greater general payments
- Total publications ($p<0.001$), attending years ($p<0.001$), and publication rate ($p=0.040$) were also predictors of higher royalties
- Having a twitter account ($p=0.018$), being a director ($p=0.034$), total publications ($p<0.001$), and publication rate ($p<0.001$) were all predictive of greater consulting payments

Conclusion
- Spine surgeons who are experienced, academically productive, fellowship directors, and engage with social media receive greater payments on average
- Experienced leaders in their respective fields will shoulder the responsibility to integrate private innovation in an effective and scientifically rigorous manner

	Gen. Payments		Gen. Payments #		Research		Royalties		Consulting		Education		Faculty/CME Speaking	
	Estimate	p-value	Estimate	p-value	Estimate	p-value	Estimate	p-value	Estimate	p-value	Estimate	p-value	Estimate	p-value
Sex	-619,069	0.467	-132	0.116	-51,524	0.475	-470,110	0.564	-92,304	0.120	-584	0.487	-1,944	0.463
Geo. Location														
Southeast	204,070	0.656	-33.15	0.460	80,043	0.038*	239,475	0.585	-33,833	0.290	-304	0.502	-928	0.510
Midwest	-6,406	0.988	-40.27	0.317	-2,877	0.934	20,998	0.957	-5,247	0.855	412	0.308	-1,958	0.121
West	-151,680	0.734	40.36	0.356	17,257	0.646	-157,202	0.713	4,455	0.886	-398	0.365	2,699	0.049*
Twitter/X (Y/N)	317,500	0.390	69.2	0.057	611	0.984	210,407	0.552	60,800	0.018*	45.31	0.902	1,996	0.084
Director (Y/N)	193,465	0.579	63.52	0.064	79,874	0.007*	121,592	0.716	51,605	0.034*	70.73	0.837	2,007	0.064
Total Publications	8,203	<0.001*	0.49	0.001*	216	0.099	7,409	<0.001*	492	<0.001*	-0.41	0.788	7.64	0.113
Attending Years	48,823	<0.001*	-2.263	0.113	445	0.718	47,100	<0.001*	1,025	0.312	4.65	0.746	-6.929	0.878
Publication Rate	57,528	0.017*	8.424	<0.001*	3,176	0.122	47,511	0.040*	6,444	<0.001*	-3.55	0.882	126	0.096
Program Rank														
Middle 26-50	-82,017	0.850	73.71	0.084	-53,968	0.142	-117,359	0.777	27,354	0.368	-131	0.759	-672	0.619
Middle 51-100	-321,600	0.581	20.286	0.723	-72,097	0.144	-314,849	0.573	4,446	0.913	-344	0.550	-1,116	0.545
Below 100	442,604	0.251	7.37	0.846	-9,125	0.779	421,176	0.254	3,670	0.892	-578	0.131	-975	0.419

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