

The background of the slide is a photograph of a microscope, overlaid with a solid red color. The microscope's body, eyepiece, and objective lenses are visible, though the details are somewhat obscured by the red tint and the focus on the text.

# Congress attendance and its predictive value for future congress contribution

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So what is a congress really about?

The South African Society for Blood Transfusion congress is hosted bi-annually in South Africa. Selection of attendees from the SANBS are based on congress contribution through presentation, chairing of sessions, previous attendance, position held, quotas allocated per department and budget allocated.





Showing off your talent!







Listening to senior management







Meeting up with international experts and sharing knowledge







Keeping up with what's new in the industry and liaising with stakeholders





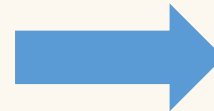


...and who knows what else

# Introduction



- Congress attendance provides a unique learning opportunity and has the potential to motivate attendees to do research in their own areas and develop scientific skills for personal development and to the benefit of SANBS
- **AIM** - to describe previous congress attendance and evaluate if congress attendance is a predictor for contribution to future congresses through presentation or related contributions





# Methods



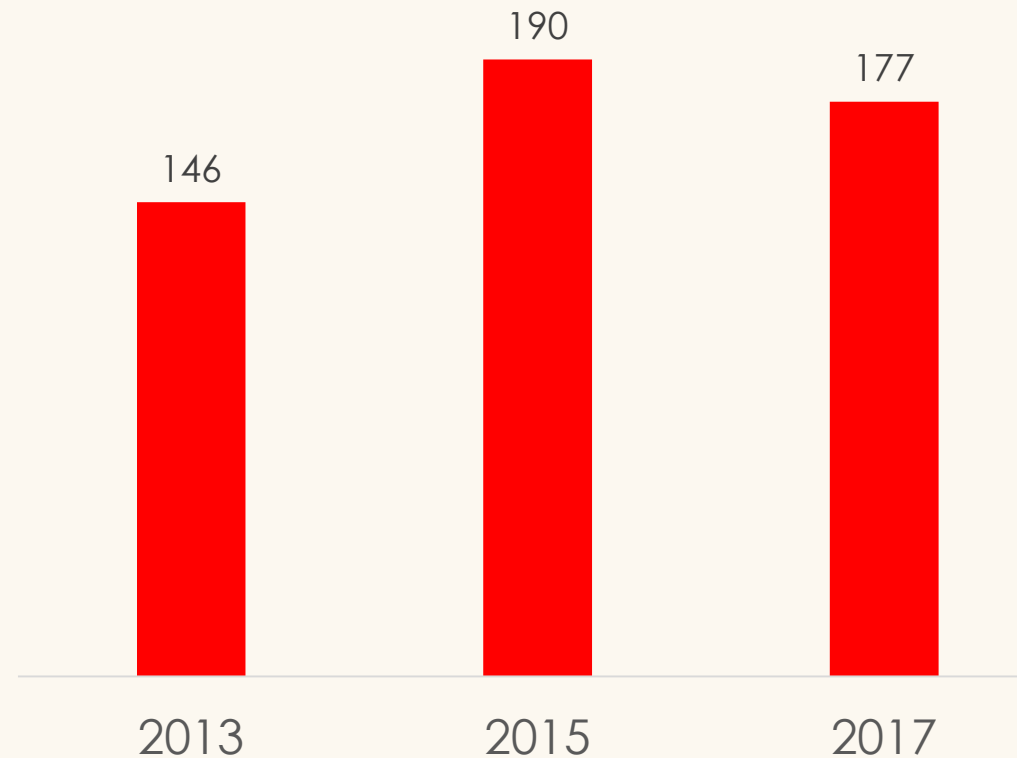
- Congress attendance data for three consecutive congresses (2013, 2015 and 2017) were analyzed per zone, department and gender
- Previous attendance and subsequent presenter status were noted
- Chairing a session or being part of the organizing committee was classified as a contribution similar to presentation
- Statistical significance were analyzed using the chi-square test



# Results



Total number of attendees from SANBS



2013 to 2015 - 30% increase

2015 to 2017 - 7% decrease

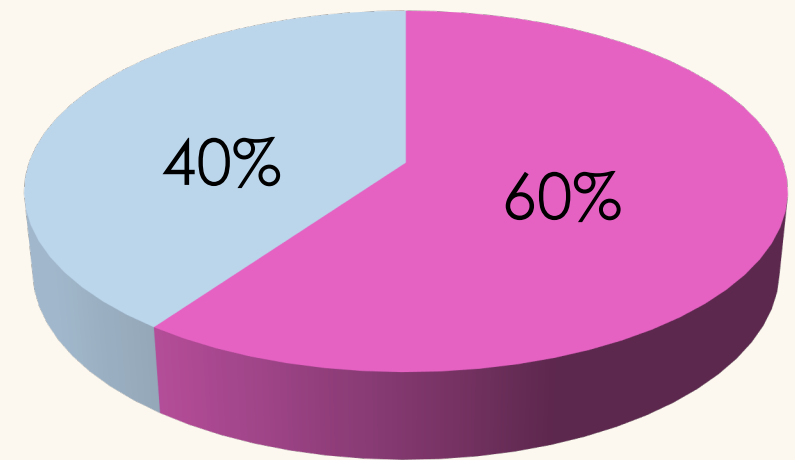




# Results



**Gender distribution**

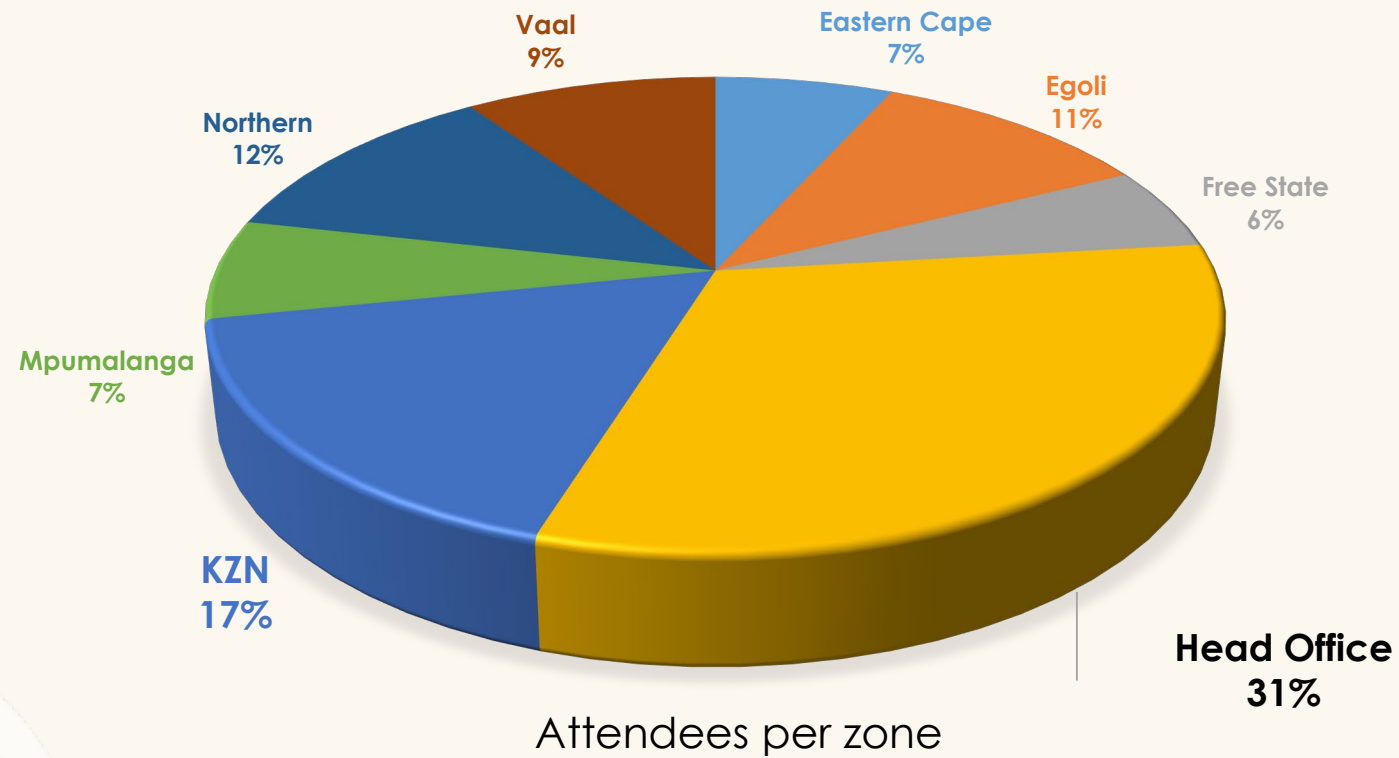


■ Female ■ Male

- This distribution remained relatively unchanged across all three congresses ( $p=0.96$ )



# Results



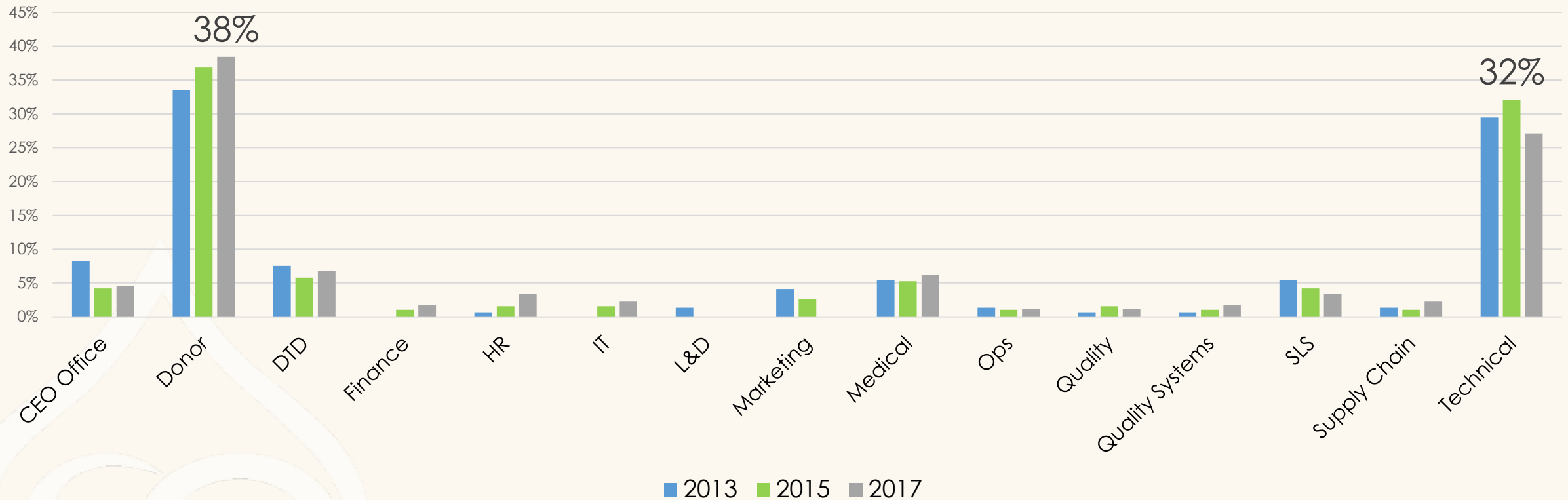
- Head office constantly a third of attendees with KZN 2<sup>nd</sup> highest
- No Zone showed a significant increase in representation over time



# Method



Representation by department over three congresses



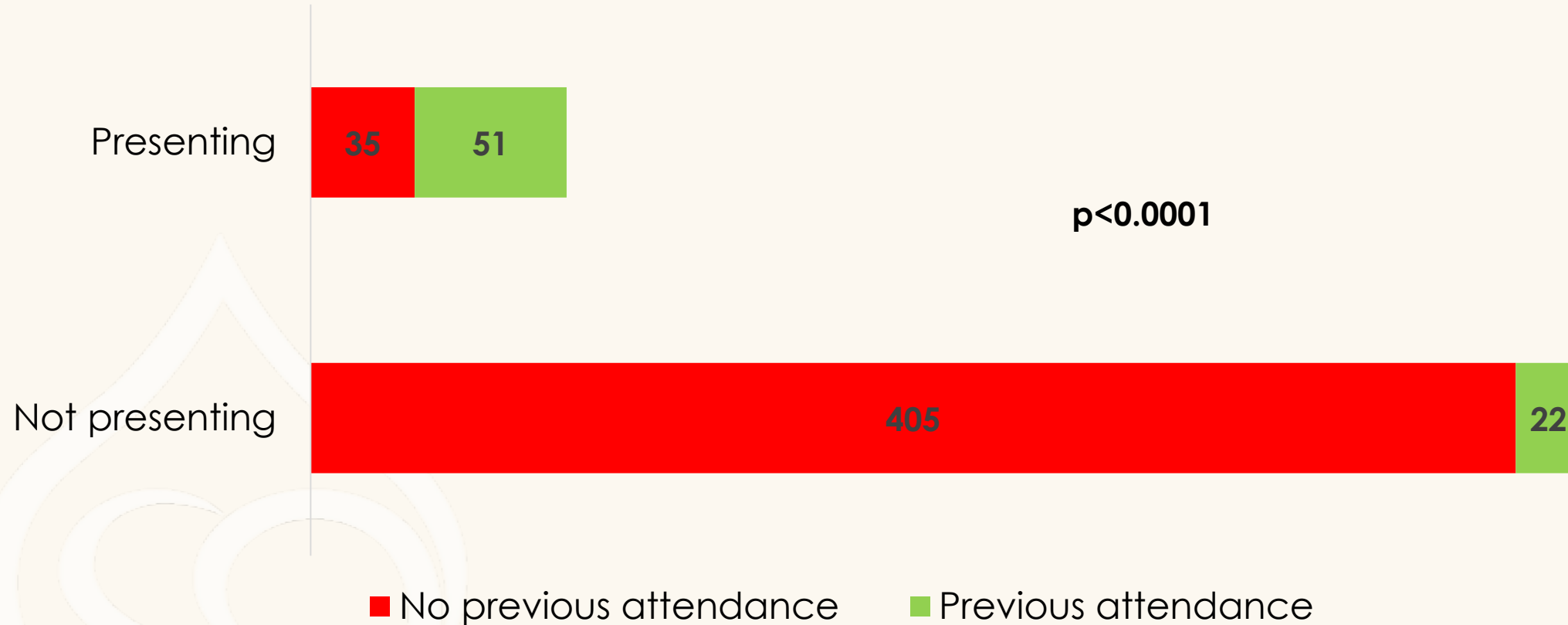
- No department showed significant increase in representation over time
- There was a year to year increase in representation from the donor division but it was not statistically significant ( $p=0.09$ )
- Within the donor division, KZN and Northern constantly had the highest representation (19%) followed by Egoli (17%)
- Within the Technical division, this trend continued with the Northern zone and KZN averaging 18% and Egoli 17%.



# Results



## Previous congress attendance vs current presentation



- Total attendance over three years 513 with 86 people presenting
- A significant 51 of these 86 attended a previous congress, while 35 did not attend previously
- All department showed a significant increase in presenters amongst those who previously attended a congress

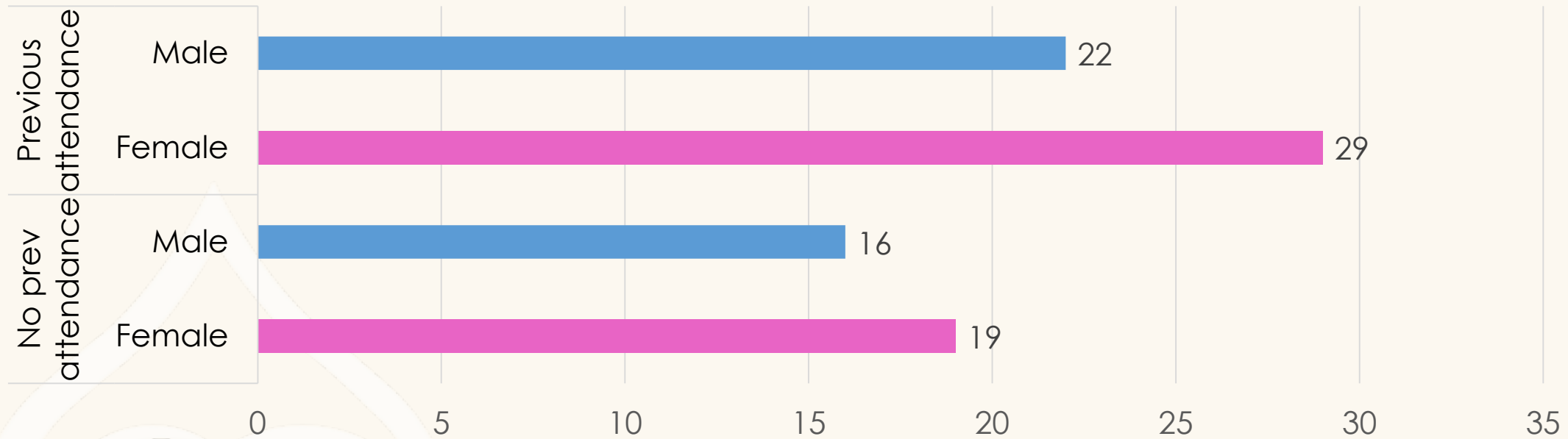




# Results



Gender distribution of all 86 presenters in relation to previous congress attendance



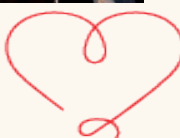
- Is it perhaps better to send males or females to congress? No significant difference ( $p=0.81$ )



# Discussion



- This analysis showed a significant association between previous congress attendance and future congress participation
- Limitation of not taking into account other motivators for presenting at congress
- Bias exists related to the congress attendance selection as most delegates who attended a previous congress will not be selected to attend the next congress unless they were presenting
- Important development tool to be included in personal development plans
- Contribution through presentation at a national congress can be seen as an important first step towards development of personal scientific analysis and writing skills
- Contribute to developing a much needed scientific skill base within the organization







Thank you...