

Plastic Surgery Resident Interest in Postgraduate Fellowship Training: A comparative analysis following the initiation of the Aesthetic Match

Demetrius Coombs, MD; Isaac James, MD MS; Isabel Ho, BA; Jacob Grow, MD; Andrew Kochuba, MD; James E Zins, MD FACS

Department of Plastic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, OH

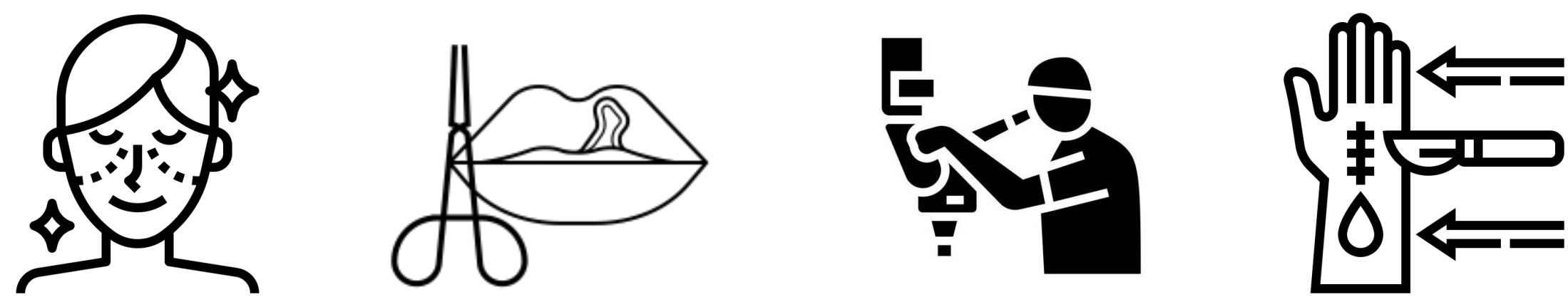
BACKGROUND

- In 2017-2018, the Aesthetic Society unified applications for endorsed fellowships using the San Francisco Match system
- Plastic surgery fellowship application, position, and match trends have not been evaluated since these changes

Objectives:

- Evaluate changes in Aesthetic Surgery fellowships since initiation of the match
- Evaluate changes in craniofacial, hand, and microsurgery since Aesthetics joined the match
- Evaluate number of residents pursuing fellowship overall

METHODS



- SF Match and NRMP data from 2018-2022 obtained for aesthetic, craniofacial, microsurgery, hand surgery
- Data points: number of programs, number of available positions, number of applications, match rates, unfilled positions
- Statistics: generalized linear models, $p < 0.05$

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Programs that participated in the Match

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Incomplete and unsubmitted applications

RESULTS

Figure 1: Number of Fellowship Programs

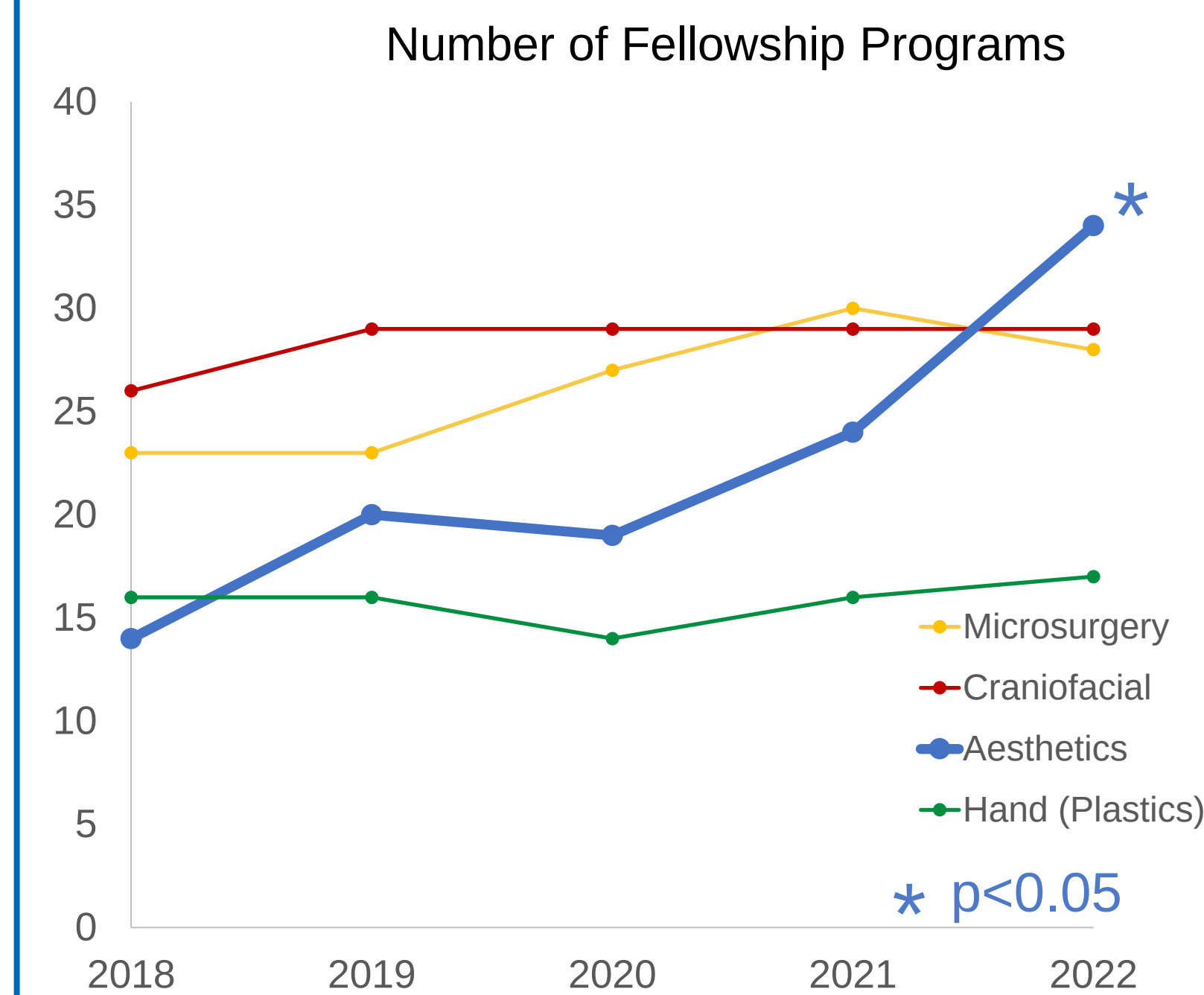


Figure 3: Number of Submitted Applications by Specialty

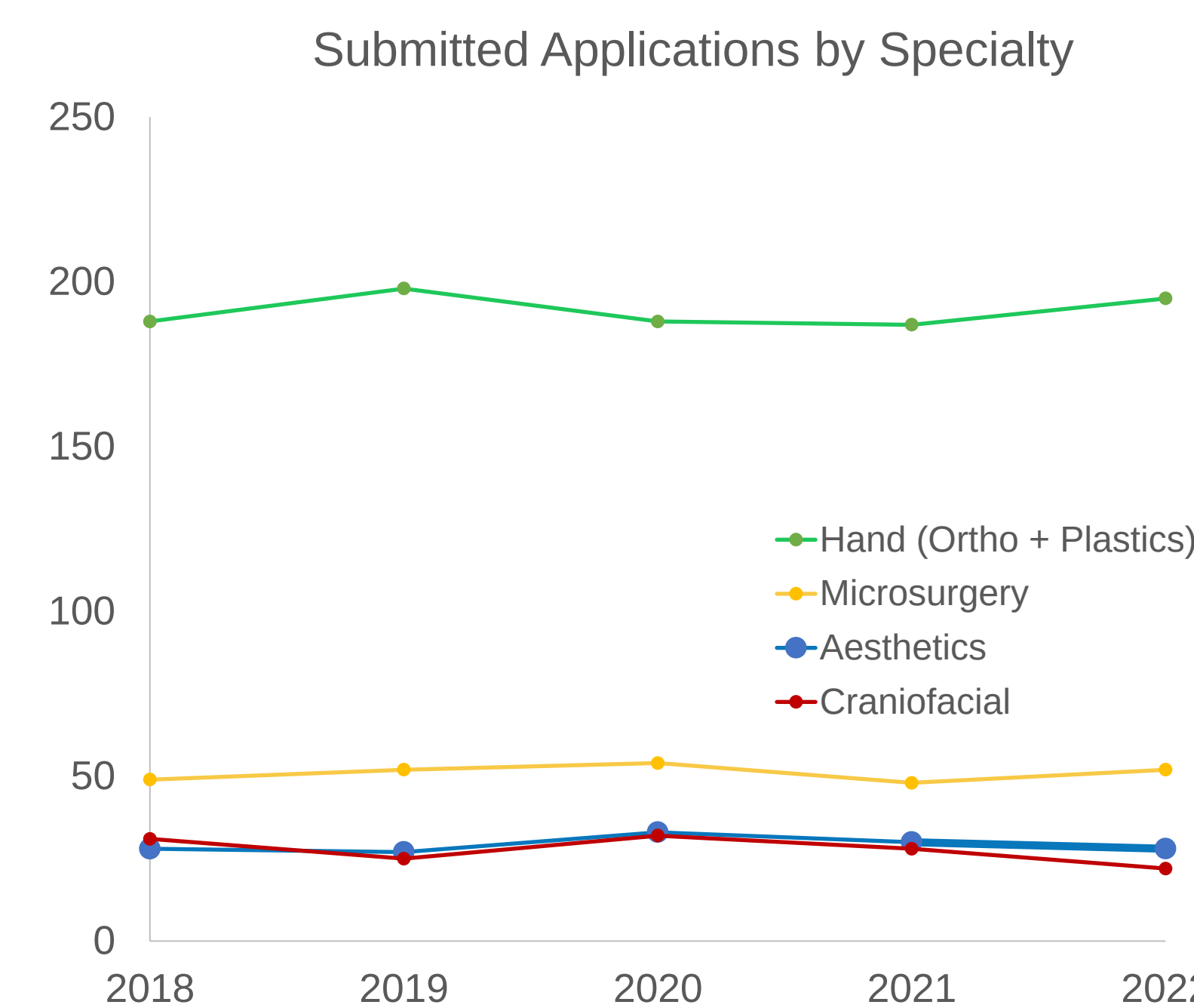


Figure 5: Percent of Applicants Who Matched

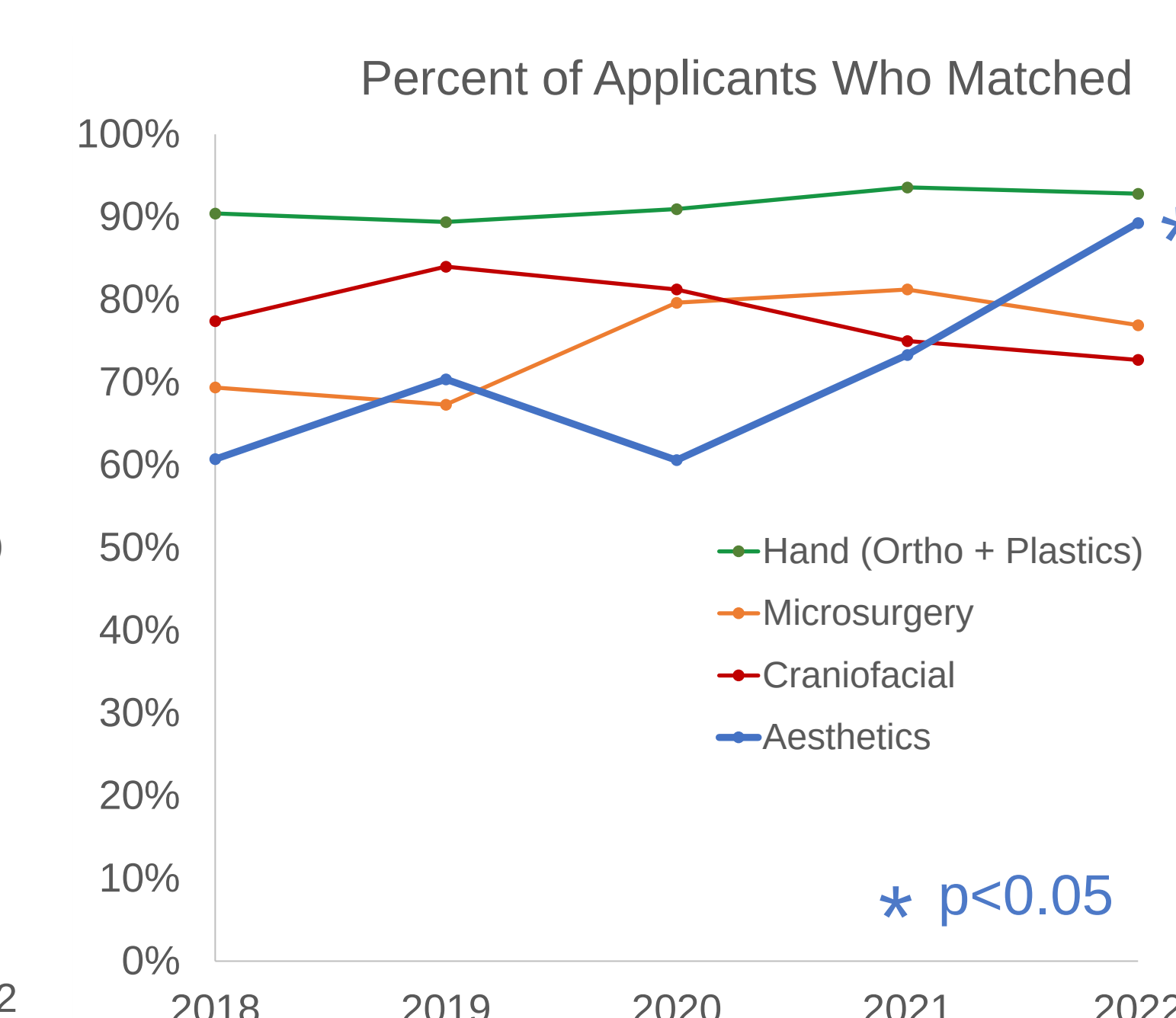


Figure 2: Number of Fellowship Positions

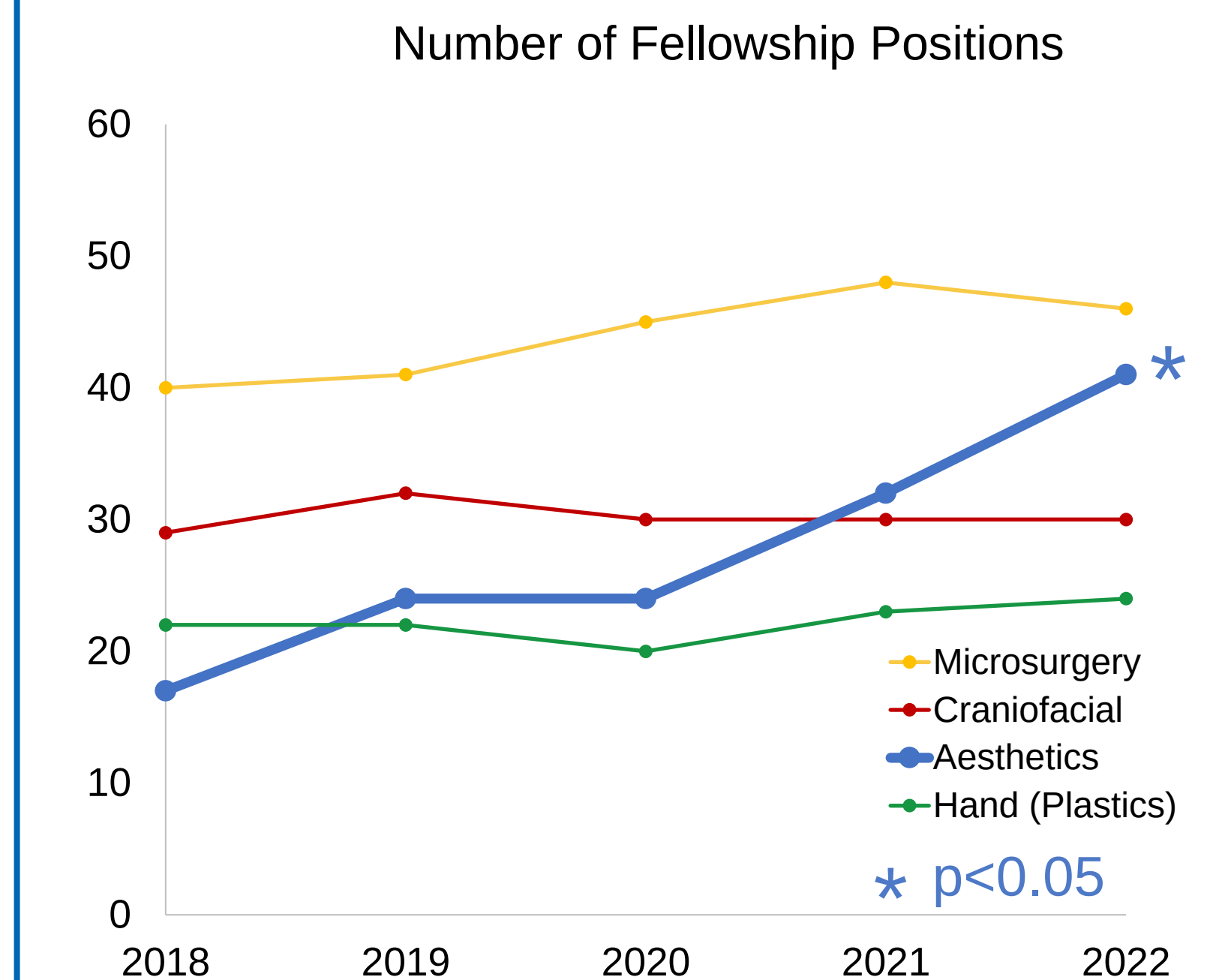


Figure 4: Distribution of Applications

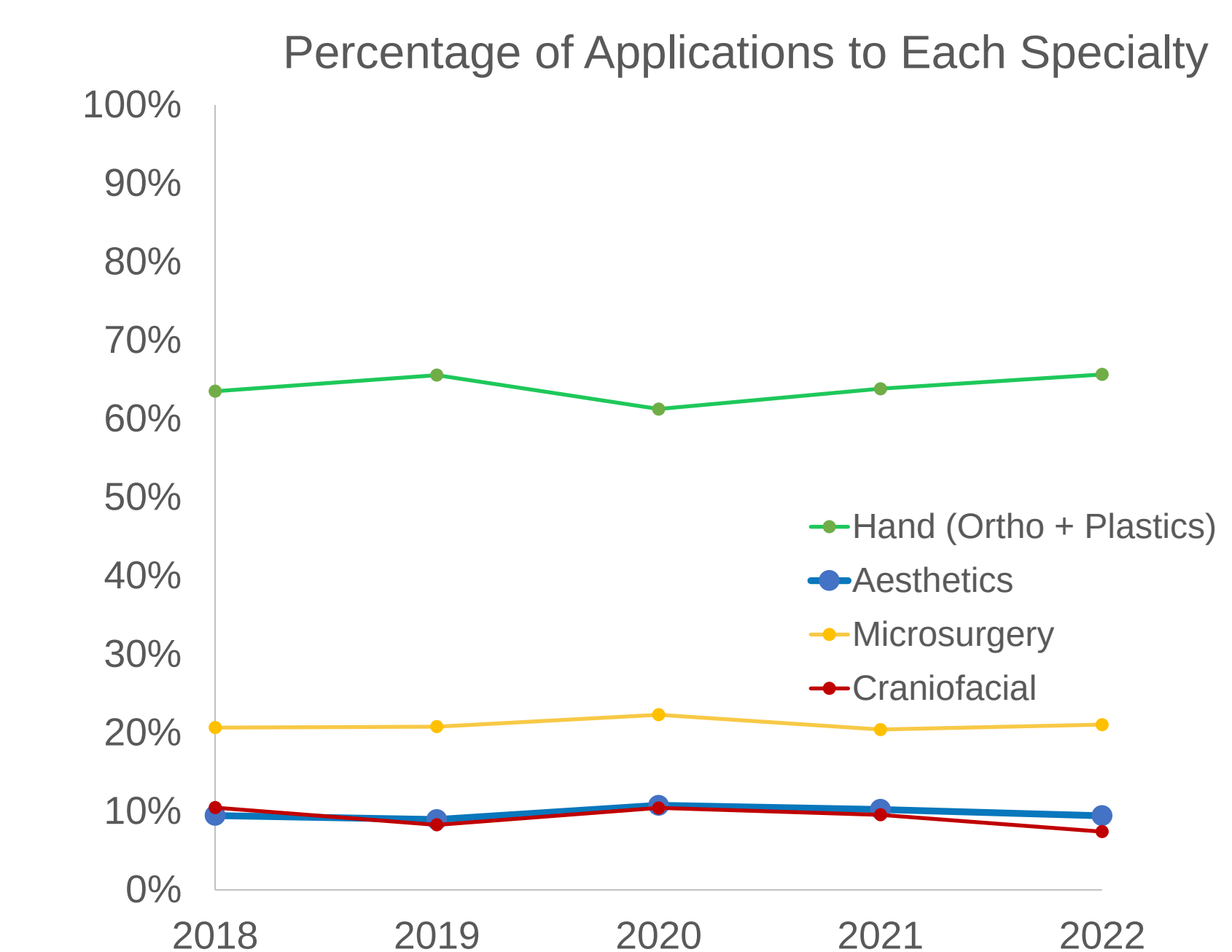
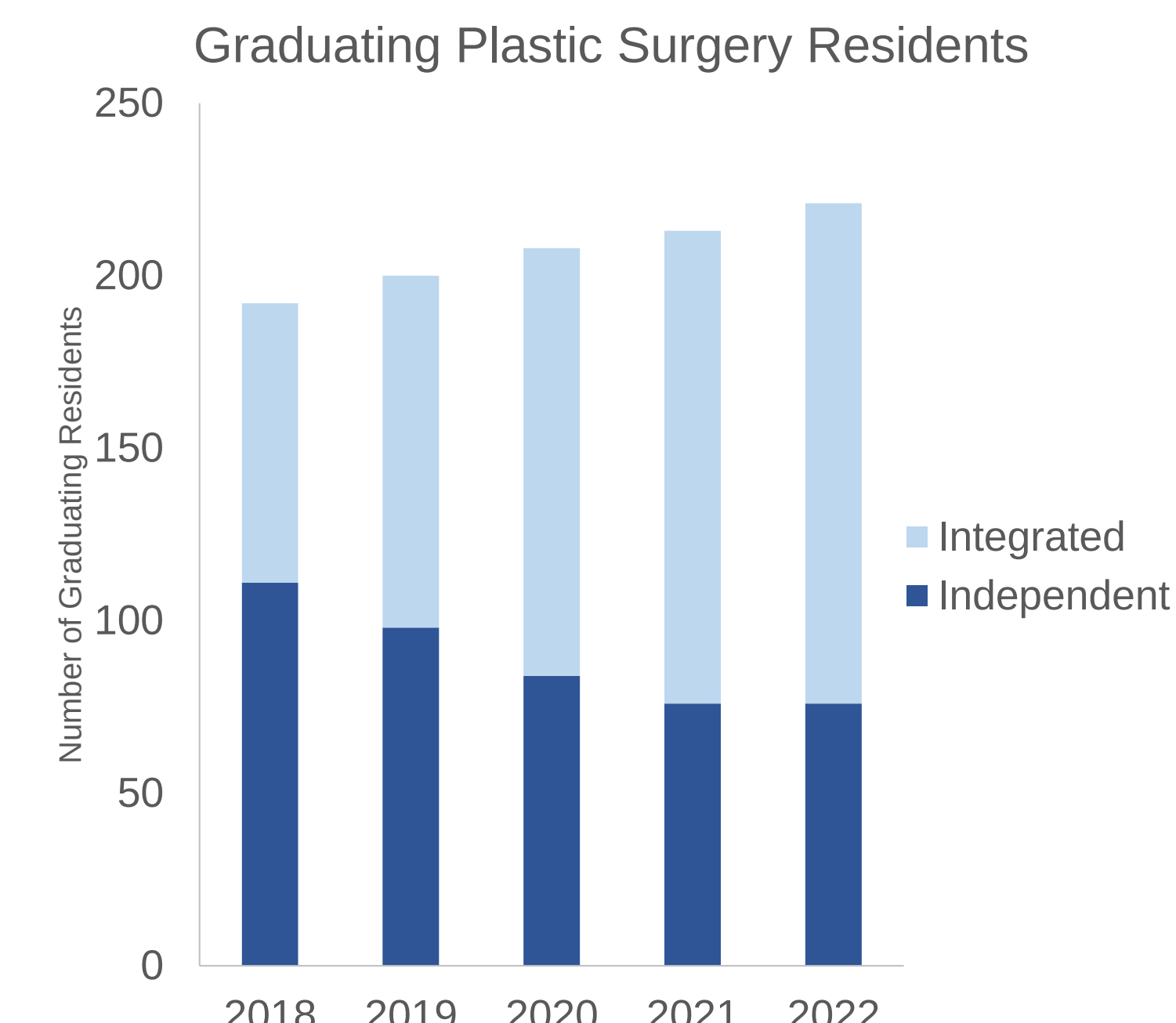


Figure 6: Composition of Graduating Residents



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DISCUSSION

Why are Aesthetic Surgery applications not increasing?

- Limited pool of fellowship-bound candidates
 - ~50% of graduates do a fellowship (106 in 2022)
 - Divided evenly, this yields only 26 residents per fellowship type
 - In 2022, only 28 applicants for 46 aesthetic positions
- Possible solutions
 - Enhance standardization of quality across programs
 - Increase resident outreach and mentorship

Why is fellowship interest unchanged among all major plastic surgery subspecialties?

- Counter to data that integrated residents do fellowships at greater rate than independent residents

CONCLUSIONS

- The number of aesthetic fellowship programs and positions increased dramatically since joining the match
- Applications to aesthetic fellowships have not increased
- Craniofacial, hand, and microsurgery applications, positions programs, and match rates remained stable
- Resident interest in fellowships has not increased despite an increasing number of integrated graduates