



Building A Striving Medical Journal

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Content Editor,
Journal of the Saudi Heart Association (JSHA)

Conflict Of Interest

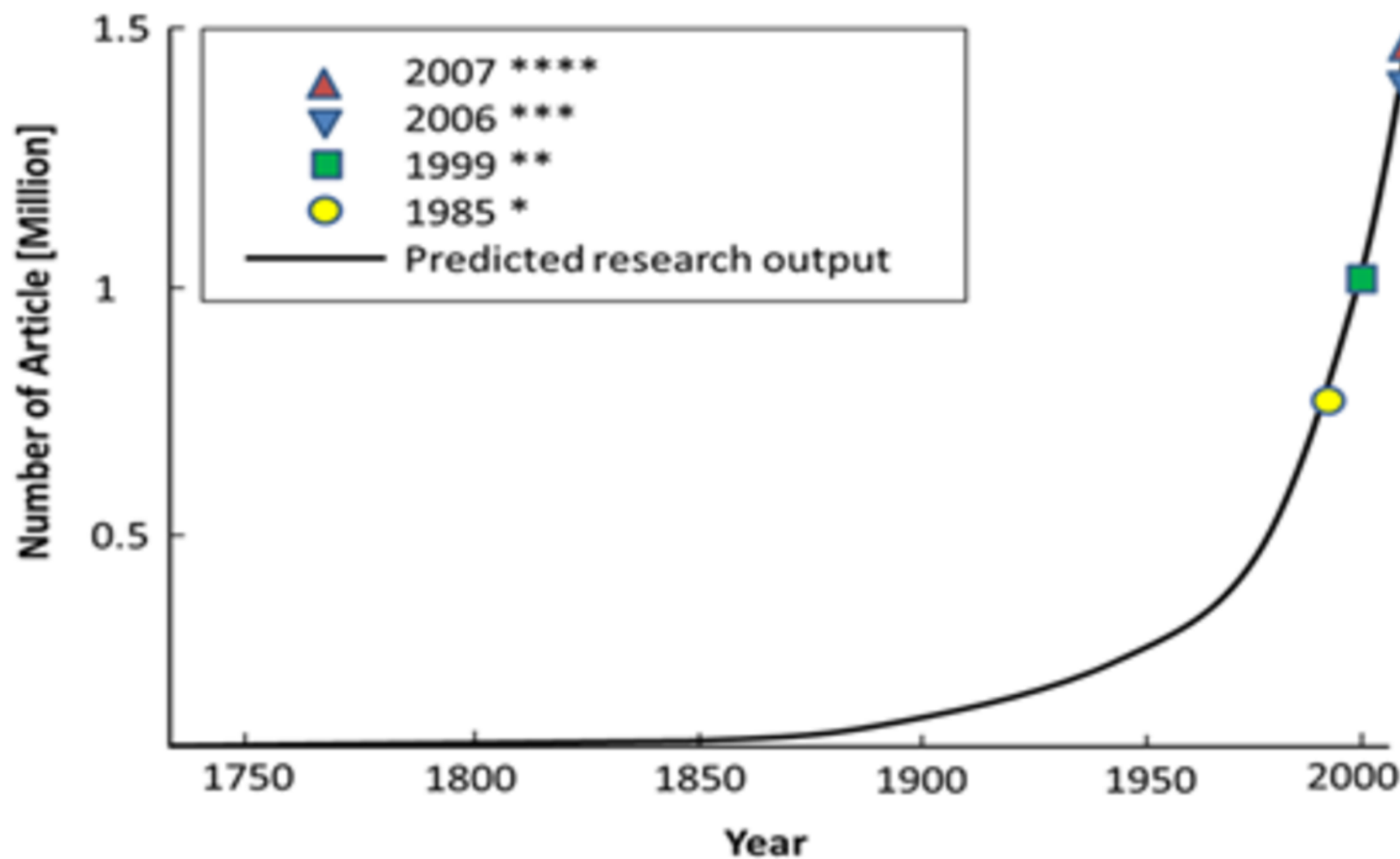
Past Editor-in-Chief: EJCTS, MMCTS, CTSNet

Editorial Board member in several cardiothoracic surgery and cardiology journals

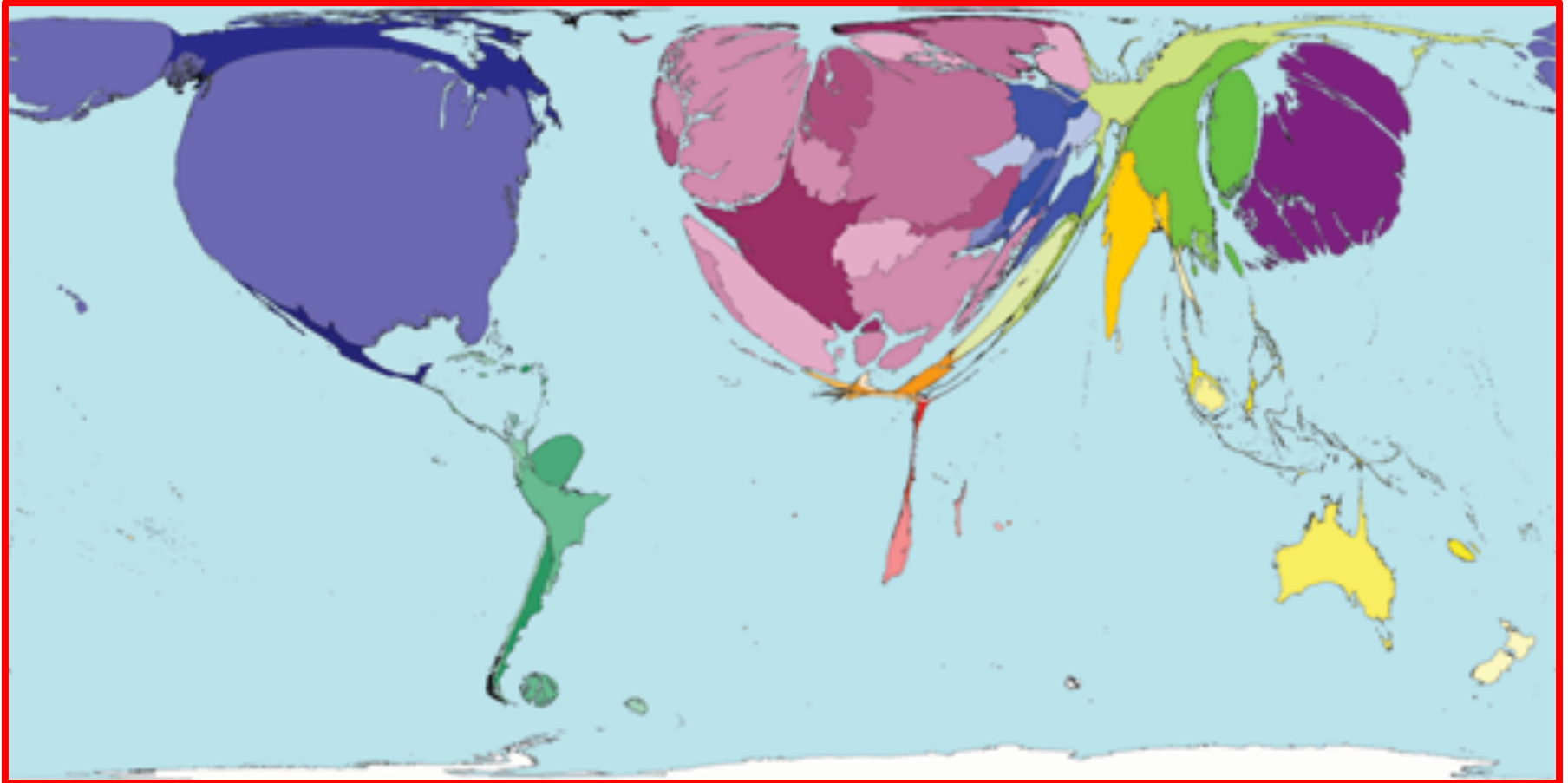
A word of caution when starting a new journal

World of science is drowning in the massive publication output, magnified by “easy” Open Access publishing

Annual Global Research Output 1726-2009

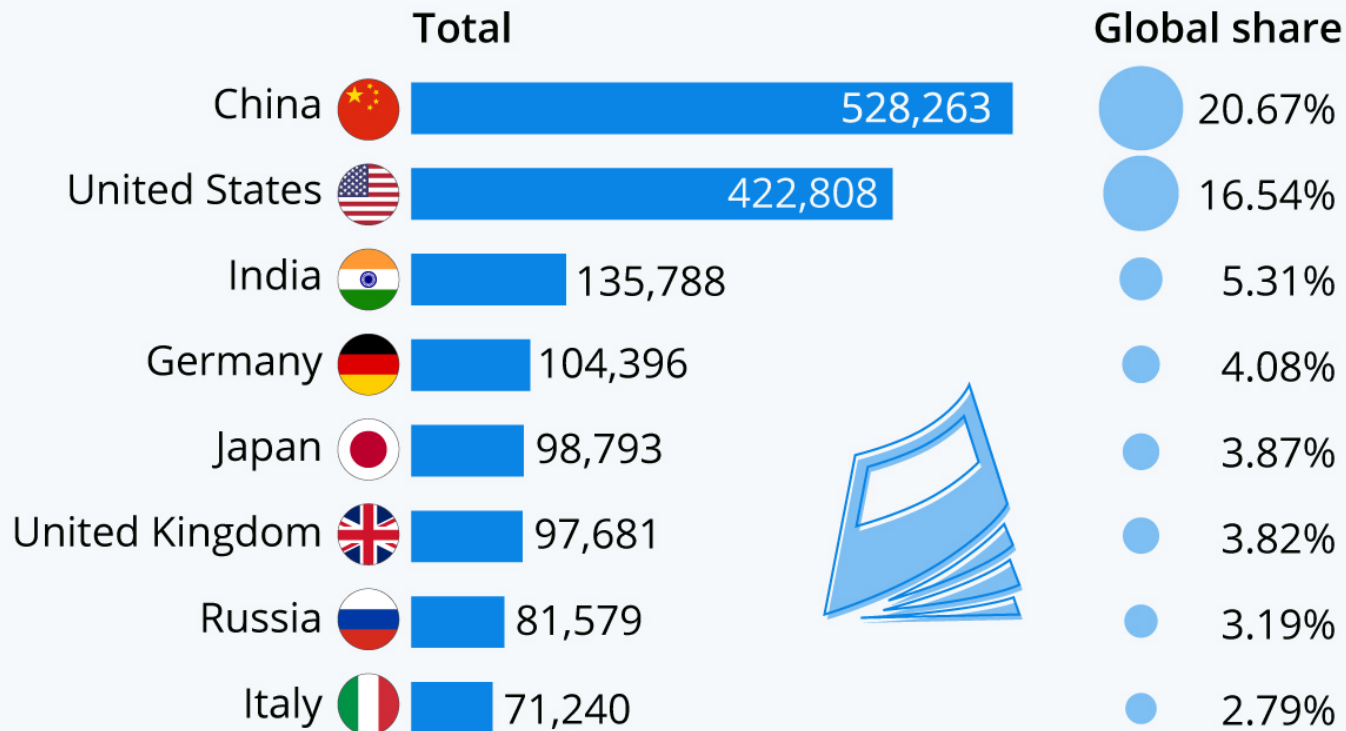


Size of countries adjusted to their scientific output (early 2000)



The Countries Leading The World In Scientific Publications

Number of science & engineering articles published in peer-reviewed journals in 2018



Source: National Science Foundation

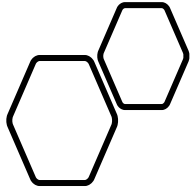


How to find high quality, original scientific material for a new journal?

- **Scientific association publishing**: ESC publishes EHJ, AATS publishes JTCVS, EACTS publishes EJCTS, SHA publishes JSHA
- **National societies**: National Medical Journal of India, Acta Neurologica Scandinavica, Chinese Medical Journal
- Publishing in a **specialized field**: Bone Marrow Transplantation; Calcified Tissue International, Current Gene Therapy
- Use founding association's **annual meeting** as source of publishing material

Financing The New Journal

- **Self-publishing**: initial attractive due to low cost, but needs a qualified staff; becomes difficult when the publishing volume increases, and quality suffers.
- **Open Access publishing** is rapidly increasing with obvious advantages: wide availability, access for the underprivileged, but drawbacks exist: Impact Factor, Copyright, Author Processing Charges
- Publishing through an **established publishing house** gives obvious advantages by using a recognized editorial manager/publishing system with quality controls and standard format of the journal; reviewer database might be available, but it is cost intensive

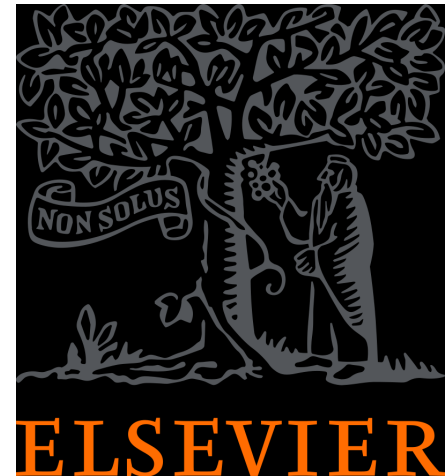


When dealing with a major publisher, a new journal is only a small item

- **Oxford University Press** has a net assets of 295.6 £ million
- **Elsevier**, drawing upon 15th century publishers (Elzevir), has a net income of £1.922 billion (2019)

The logo for Oxford University Press, featuring the word "OXFORD" in a large, blue, serif font, with "UNIVERSITY PRESS" in a smaller, blue, serif font directly below it.

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Basic essentials when starting a new journal

- Knowledgeable **designated editor** with previous publishing experience
- **Journal administrator** in a full-time position
- **Adequate offices**, not necessarily collocated
- **Financial base** for covering the inevitable costs: publisher fees, salaries, honoraria, etc

Assembling Qualified Editorial Board

- Most important task for the new editor-in-chief
- Usual method: “old boys club”, identifying qualified friends and colleagues willing to help in critical assessment of the submissions
- Alternative method: going through the literature by science areas of the new journal, and identifying qualified scientists who might agree to help the editor
- Helpful encouragement: editor might be able to offer a modest honorarium for the board members

Finding reviewers

Another critical point when starting a new journal:

- Major publishing houses keep a **list of qualified reviewers**, searchable by their keywords of expertise; but they are rarely willing to permit a newcomer journal the access to their precious database
- **Commercial databases** of reviewers (ProQuest Community of Scholars and similar) are presently practically useless
- Logical method: editor and the board search for **authors of similar articles** by keywords, or working through Pubmed or Google Science database

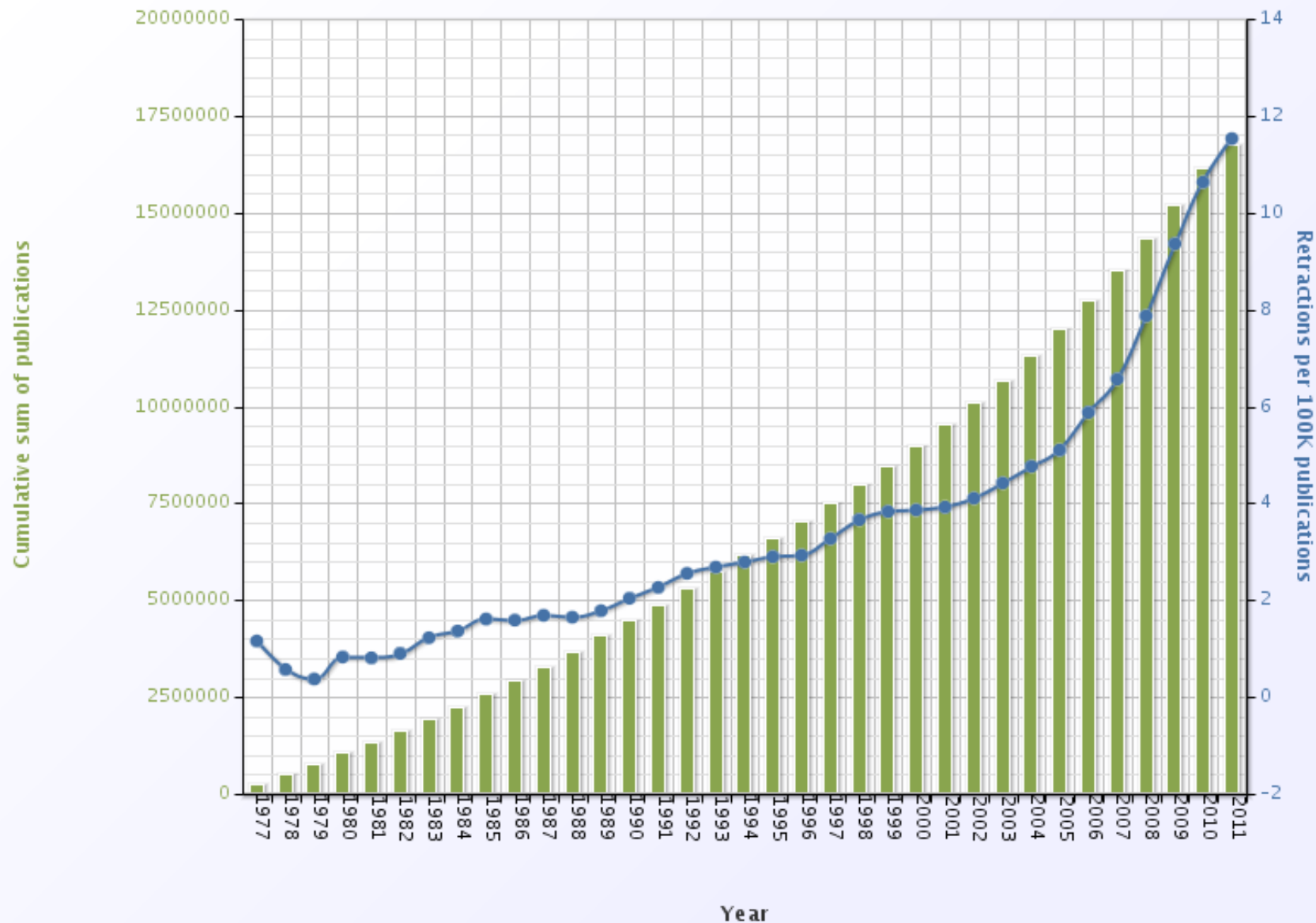
Practical difficulties after selecting a reviewer

- It sounds ridiculous, but difficulty arises when potential reviewers are identified: finding their E Mail addresses.
- Many journals do not show author's E Mail, and one can address the author only through the journal management.
- E Mail address might exist in the PDF or in other links to the article, but finding it can be difficult (privacy protection)
- When potential reviewers have been identified, expect a disappointment: their acceptance to review for a lesser known journal might lie in a low single digit percentage

Emerging problem
in all medical
journals:
Plagiarism



Cumulative increase in publications and retractions 1977-





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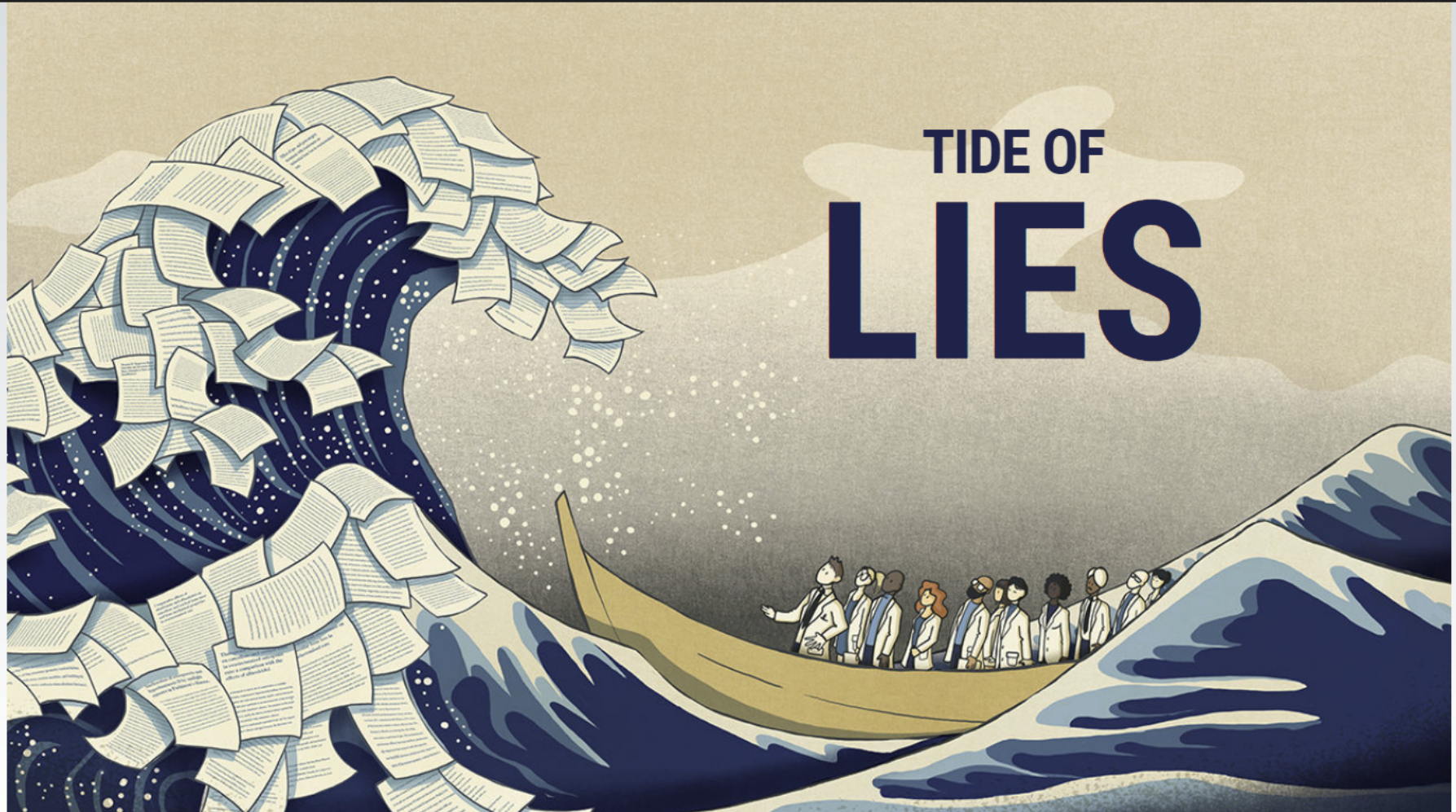
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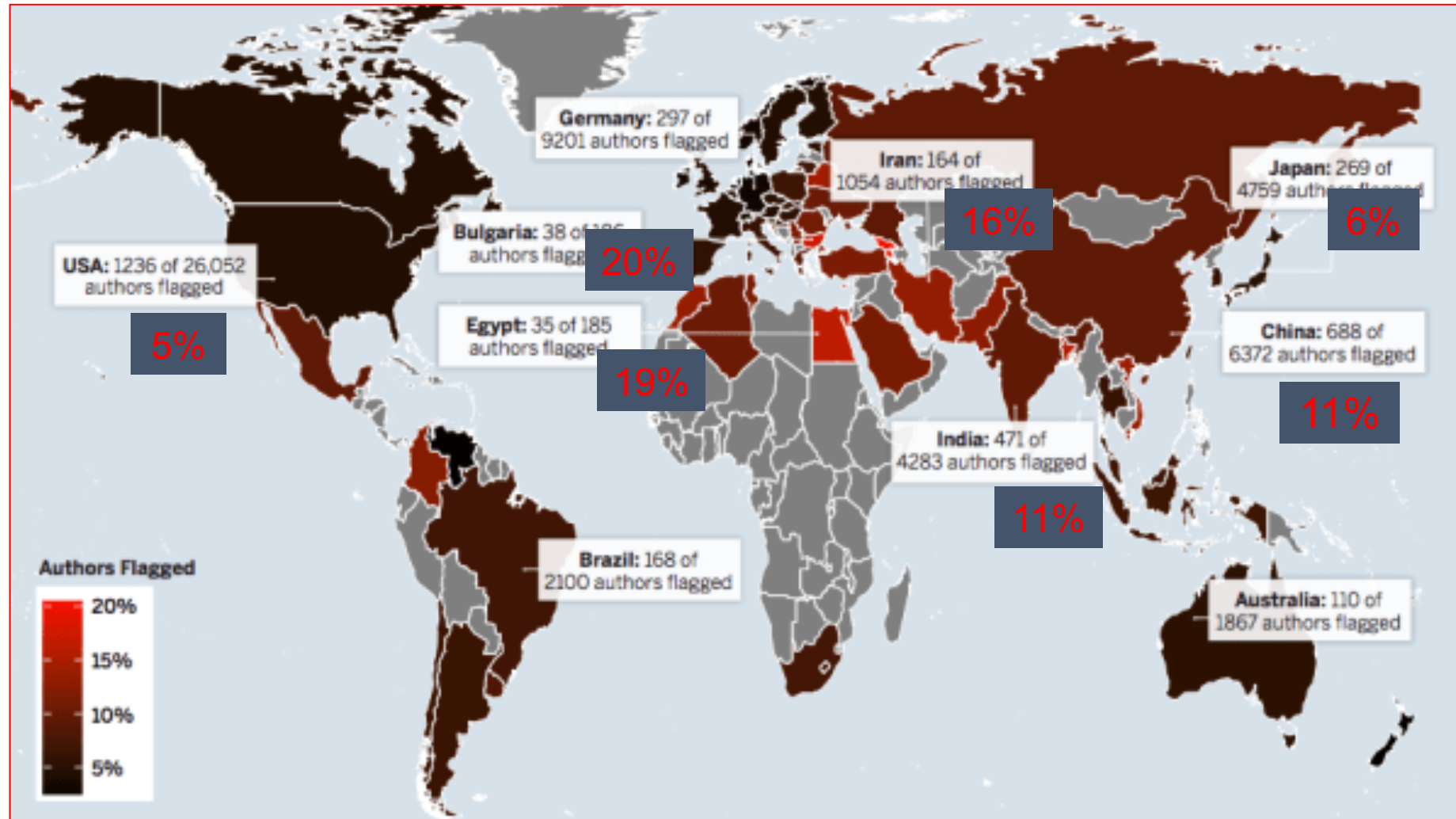
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The Great Wave off Kanagawa, by Hokusai

World map of plagiarism in science



COURTESY OF SCIENCE INSIDER

Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is defined as theft of another person's writings or ideas
- In scientific publishing this means stealing or copying material from other journals
- Due to modern text editing programs with their “copy-paste” method, it is ridiculously easy to “borrow” from other publications
- It seems to be lesser known that it is also ridiculously easy to identify such theft, by using modern plagiarism checkers, like iThenticate, Plagiarism Checker, Plagiarism Detector, or similar

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Example of a recent CrossCheck analysis of a submitted manuscript

05-Sep-2015 11:51AM

7418 words • 79 matches • 22 sources

FAQ

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Midterm outcomes of Mechanical versus bioprosthetic valve replacement in middle-aged patients

Quotes Excluded
Bibliography Excluded

33%
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² Data were analyzed with the software package SPSS (SPSS Inc, Chicago, Illinois, USA). All continuous data were expressed as mean (SEM) and compared by the Mann-Whitney test. Dichotomic variables were evaluated by the univariable χ^2 test and Fisher's exact test.

² As the scores for each section of the NHP were not normally distributed, we converted the scores into a binary variable. A score below the 75% quartile was coded as 0 and a score above or equal to this value was coded as 1, which corresponds to an impaired quality of life in the respective NHP section. Deterioration of the NYHA class after the operation was also coded as a binary variable: 0 was assigned to patients who were in the same or a lower NYHA class and 1 was assigned to patients who were in a higher NYHA class.

¹ **2.4 Choice of prosthesis:**

The selection of a mechanical or bioprosthetic valve was made following a detailed preoperative discussion between the surgeon, the patient, and family members (when applicable). The pros and cons of mechanical or bioprosthetic valves were described, including the need for anticoagulation after mechanical valve implantation or the possible need for reoperation after tissue valve implantation. The decision of

Match Overview

1	CrossCheck 1148 words Kulik, A., "Mechanical versus bioprosthetic valve replacement in middle-aged patients", European Journal of Cardio-T	15%
2	Internet 517 words crawled on 18-Mar-2009 www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov	7%
3	Internet 420 words crawled on 05-Nov-2014 www.annalsofdentalspecialty.net.in	6%
4	CrossCheck 84 words I Florath, "Mid term outcome and quality of life after aortic ... alve replacement in elderly people: mechanical versus sten	1%
5	Internet 78 words crawled on 16-Mar-2008 intl-content.nejm.org	1%
6	Internet 36 words crawled on 17-Mar-2010 ejcts.ctsnetjournals.org	<1%
7	Internet 18 words crawled on 25-Apr-2009 ats.ctsnetjournals.org	<1%
8	Internet 16 words crawled on 16-Aug-2009 www.bioline.org.br	<1%
9	CrossCheck 16 words Jones, J., "Repeat heart valve surgery: Risk factors for ope ... rative mortality", The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascul	<1%
10	CrossCheck 12 words "Abstracts of ESCVS 2003", Cardiovascular Surgery, 2003	<1%

10 OF 31

Text-Only Report

Scientific level of the new journal

- **Basic scientific criteria** must be maintained, even when submissions are not frequent
- **“Office rejection”** by the editor/staff should be freely used when finding gross deficiencies in a submission: plagiarism, duplicate publication, outdated material, English language, erroneous study design
- Sending inferior material for reviewing should be avoided: gives the journal a bad name among reviewers
- **Less frequent publishing** (bimonthly or quarterly) is an alternative when good submissions are rare
- **Rejection rate > 50 %** might be expected



Summary

Building a striving medical journal is a challenging task, and creators are advised to rely on scientists with previous editorial experience: editing a journal is a trade to be learned



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Growing a Healthy and Thriving Medical Journal

Developing a New Journal to reach New Horizons Personal Experience on Archives of Neurosurgery



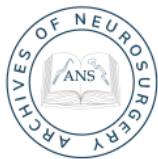
JA Israel Romero R MD MSc, Estados Unidos Mexicanos

Minimally Invasive Neurosurgeon and Spine Surgeon, Neurological Center, The American-British Cowdray Medical Center IAP

Associate Professor of Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery ABC Medical Center – National Autonomous University of Mexico

Managing Editor Archives of Neurosurgery

International Peer-Reviewer in



ARCHIVES OF
NEUROSURGERY



Objectives

- Global Publishing Patterns Among Medical Professionals
- Current Status of Neurosurgical Journals
- Publishing Spectrum of Interest
- Trends and Barriers in Local Neurosurgical Publishing
- Required Researcher Profile for Publishing
- Conceiving a New Journal
- Developing a Journal from Scratch
- Developing New Horizons
- Developing New Goals
- Making Archives of Neurosurgery Alive

Global Publishing Patterns among Medical Professionals

- Just 15% of physicians keep up-dated
- Just 5% of global physicians perform research
- Less than 50% of founded research do not get published
- Nevertheless, there exist almost 55 million papers among 30,000 Cientific Journals, but it is low quality-research derived from the well-known policie of “to publish or to perish”
- Less than 5% what is published reach the body of significant knowledge
- That means that Science as we know it, reflects no more than 0.125% of what is performed in health globally as a result of low quality research and a lack of policies that encourage publishing. In other words, 98.875% of the world’s experience remains in the shadows.

1. Baravarian, Babak. 2010. “To Publish or Not to Publish?: How We Answer That Question.” *Foot & Ankle Specialist* 3(3):107.
2. Halpering, E. 1999. “Publish or Perish - and Bankrupt the Medical Library While We`re at It.” *Academic Medicine* 74(5).
3. Pulverer, Bernd. 2018. “Publication Catalysis—Lowering Activation Energy.” *The EMBO Journal* 37(8):2–3.
4. Joshi, Rayanta, Ashish Agrawal, and Vatsal Shah. 2014. “Scientific Non-Publishing: The Addressed, the Unaddressed and the Unexplored.” *Pharmacology* 93(3–4):126–28.

Current Status of Neurosurgical Journals

Top 10 Neurosurgical Journals and Profiles

Rank	Journal	Country	H-Index	Publisher	SJR 2019	Impact Factor	Quality	Scheme	Peer-Reviewing Process	Author Support
1	Spine	United States	243	Lippincot Williams and Wilkins Ltd.	1.589	2.679	Q1 Journal	Subscription	Double-Blind	None
2	Journal of Neurosurgery	United States	200	American Association of Neurological Surgeons	1.645	3.724	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-OA 1000 USD	Double-Blind	None
3	Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psichiatri	United Kindom	200	BMJ Publishing Group	3.265	8.486	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-OA 2,400 GBP	Double-Blind	None
4	Neurosurgery	United States	192	Lippincot Williams and Wilkins Ltd.	1.530	4.870	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-OA 2669 GBP	Double-Blind	None
5	Journal of Neurotrauma	United States	141	Mary Ann Liebert Inc.	1.547	4.033	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-OA None-Spec	Single-Blinded	None
6	European Spine Journal	Germany	128	Springer Verlag	1.387	2.723	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-OA 2560 GBP	Double-Blind	None
7	The Spine Journal	United States	102	Elsevier	1119	3.217	Q1 Journal	Subscription Gold-OA 3150 USD	Double-Blind	None
8	Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine	United States	93	American Association of Neurological Surgeons	1.467	3.076	Q1 Journal	Subscription	Double-Blind	None
9	World Neurosurgery	United States	90	Elsevier	0.727	1.820	Q2 Journal	Subscription Gold-OA 2600 USD	Single-Blind	None
10	Neurosurgical Focus	United States	90	American Association of Neurological Surgeons	1.292	3.089	Q1 Journal	Gold-OA 1000 USD	Double-Blind	None

80% United States

90% Subscription-Based
80% Gold-OA Option

80% Double Blind

There exist 193 Countries as for the World Health Organization, Yet...



Liu, Weiming, Ming Ni, Wang Jia, Weiqing Wan, and Jie Tang. 2018. "Evidence-Based Medicine in Neurosurgery: An Academic Publication View." *Neurosurgical Review* 41(1):55–65.
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93% of them publish less than 1% of Global Neurosurgical Papers

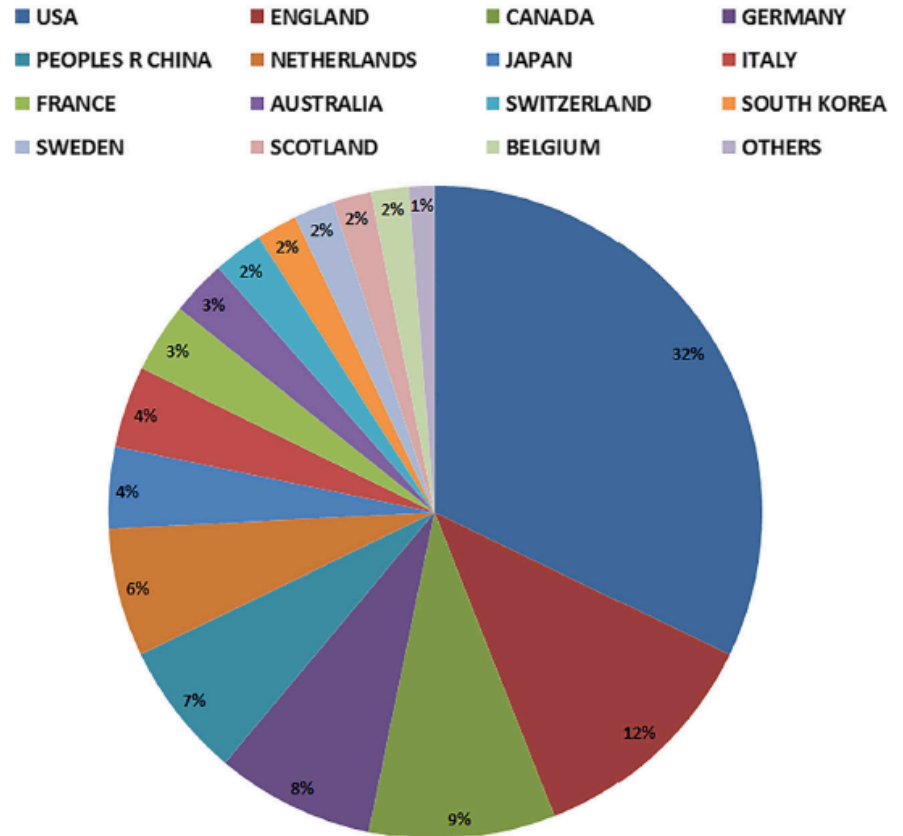


Liu, Weiming, Ming Ni, Wang Jia, Weiqing Wan, and Jie Tang. 2018. "Evidence-Based Medicine in Neurosurgery: An Academic Publication View." *Neurosurgical Review* 41(1):55–65.
https://static.vecteezy.com/system/resources/previews/000/080/455/non_2x/polygonal-world-map-vector.jpg

Global Distribution of Neurosurgical Publications Top 14 Countries & Rest of the World

USA	32%	
England	12%	
Canada	9%	
Germany	8%	
China	7%	
Netherlands	6%	
Japan	4%	
Italy	4%	
France	3%	
Australia	3%	
Switzerland	2%	
South Korea	2%	
Sweden	2%	
Scotland	2%	
Belgium	2%	
Rest of The World	1%	(M&LIC)

Neurosurgical EBM Publications Countries Distribution



Publishing Spectrum of Interest

TABLE 1. Characteristics of Clinical Trials in Neurosurgery	
Variable	n (%); mean \pm STD (range) n = 709
Discipline	
Spine	292 (41.2%)
Tumor	114 (16.1%)
Cranial	114 (16.1%)
Vascular	76 (10.7%)
Functional	58 (8.2%)
Other	53 (7.5%)
Peripheral nerve	2 (0.3%)

Wilde, Herschel W., Jared C. Reese, Mohammed A. Azab, Michael Karsy, Jian Guan, and John D. Rolston. 2019. "Evaluating the Landscape of Clinical Research in Neurosurgery." *Clinical Neurosurgery* 85(3):E485–93.

TABLE 1. Characteristics of Clinical Trials in Neurosurgery	
Study category	
Drug	198 (27.9%)
Procedure	177 (25.0%)
Device	168 (23.7%)
Other	53 (7.5%)
Diagnostic	49 (6.8%)
Biological	24 (3.4%)
Behavioral	22 (3.1%)
Radiation	11 (1.6%)
Genetic	7 (1.0%)
Combination	1 (0.1%)

Wilde, Herschel W., Jared C. Reese, Mohammed A. Azab, Michael Karsy, Jian Guan, and John D. Rolston. 2019. "Evaluating the Landscape of Clinical Research in Neurosurgery." *Clinical Neurosurgery* 85(3):E485–93.

Publishing Funding in Neurosurgery

Industrial Funding 54%

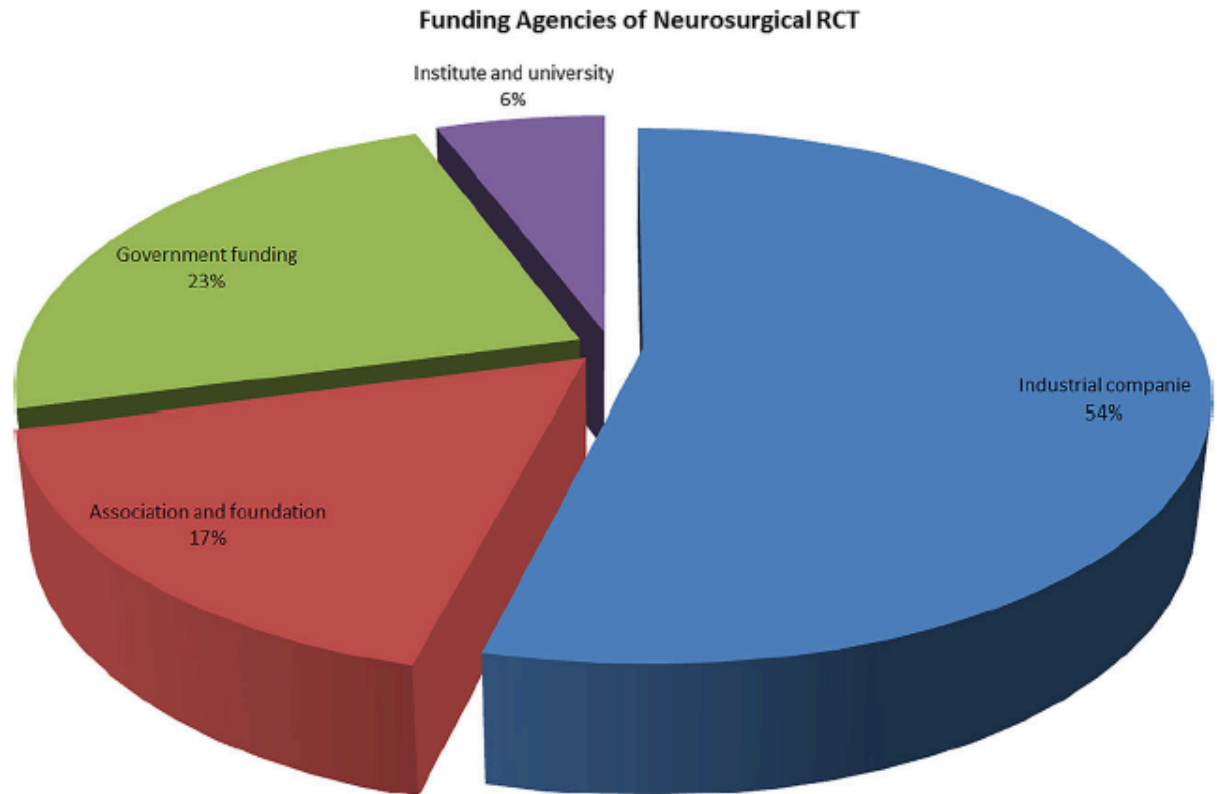


TABLE 2. Breakdown of Study Types and Funding for Each Discipline

	Cranial n = 114	Functional n = 58	Other n = 53	Peripheral nerve n = 2	Spine n = 292	Tumor n = 114	Vascular n = 76	P-value
Study type								
Behavioral	6 (5.3%)	2 (3.4%)	3 (5.8%)	0 (0.0%)	9 (3.1%)	1 (0.9%)	1 (1.3%)	.0001
Biological	1 (0.9%)	2 (3.4%)	1 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (4.8%)	6 (5.3%)	0 (0.0%)	
Combination	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.3%)	
Device	15 (13.2%)	22 (37.9%)	10 (19.2%)	0 (0.0%)	89 (30.5%)	9 (7.9%)	23 (30.3%)	
Diagnostic	6 (5.3%)	3 (5.2%)	4 (7.7%)	0 (0.0%)	21 (7.2%)	6 (5.3%)	8 (10.5%)	
Drug	48 (42.1%)	4 (6.9%)	14 (26.4%)	1 (50.0%)	70 (24.0%)	48 (42.1%)	13 (17.1%)	
Genetic	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.7%)	2 (3.8%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.7%)	1 (0.9%)	1 (1.3%)	
Other	7 (6.1%)	3 (5.2%)	11 (21.2%)	0 (0.0%)	14 (4.8%)	9 (7.9%)	9 (11.8%)	
Procedure	30 (26.3%)	20 (34.5%)	8 (15.4%)	1 (50.0%)	72 (24.7%)	26 (22.8%)	20 (26.3%)	
Radiation	1 (0.9%)	1 (1.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)	8 (7.0%)	0 (0.0%)	
Funding								
Industry	3 (2.6%)	9 (15.5%)	3 (5.7%)	0 (0.0%)	94 (32.2%)	10 (8.8%)	16 (21.1%)	.0001
NIH	0 (0.0%)	3 (5.2%)	1 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.3%)	3 (2.6%)	1 (1.3%)	
Combination ^a	7 (6.1%)	11 (19.0%)	8 (15.1%)	0 (0.0%)	26 (8.9%)	21 (18.4%)	10 (13.2%)	
Private	104 (91.2%)	35 (60.3%)	41 (77.4%)	2 (100.0%)	171 (58.6%)	80 (70.2%)	49 (64.5%)	

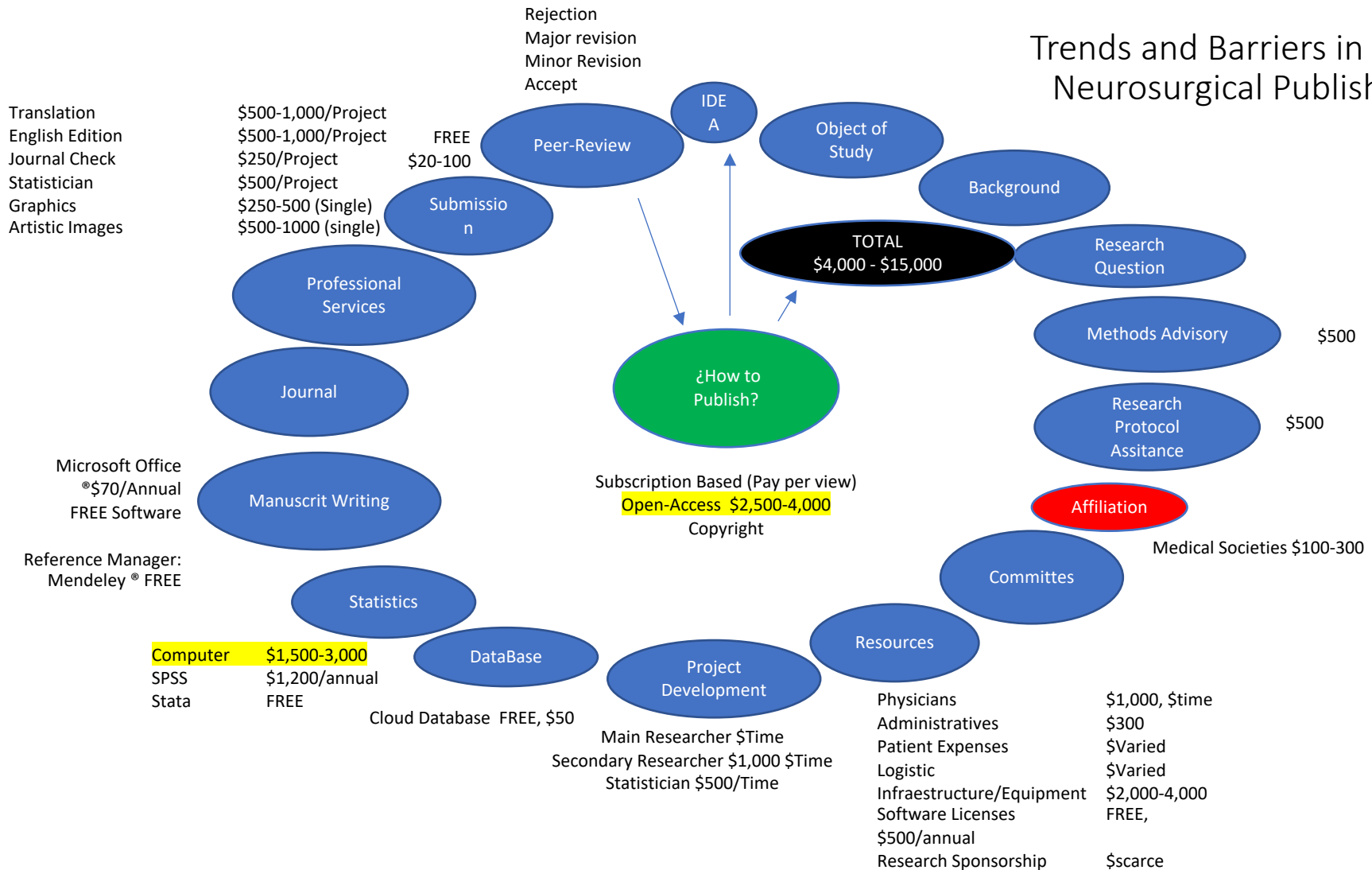
NIH, National Institutes of Health.

^aCombination funding sources included mixed industry/NIH, mixed private/industry, mixed private/NIH, mixed private/NIH/industry, mixed private/NIH/government other, mixed private/government other, and other (government).

Wilde, Herschel W., Jared C. Reese, Mohammed A. Azab, Michael Karsy, Jian Guan, and John D. Rolston. 2019. "Evaluating the Landscape of Clinical Research in Neurosurgery." *Clinical Neurosurgery* 85(3):E485–93.

Trends and Barriers in Local Neurosurgical Publishing

Trends and Barriers in Local Neurosurgical Publishing



Required Research Profile

Required Research Profile

- Neurosurgeon (Specialty)
- Medical Writing Education (Continuous Medical Education)
- Statistics Education (Statistics Accreditation)
- Research Education (Master or Doctorate Degree)
- English Language Reading /Writing (Language Accreditation)
- Software Management (Computer-Based Education)
- Graphics and Illustration (Software Training)
- Investor (\$4,000/project)

Conceiving a New Journal

Conceiving a New Journal

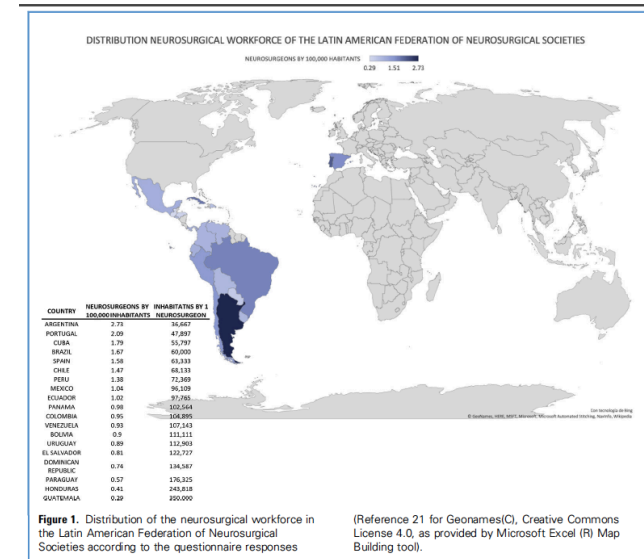


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DEVELOPING A JOURNAL FROM SCRATCH

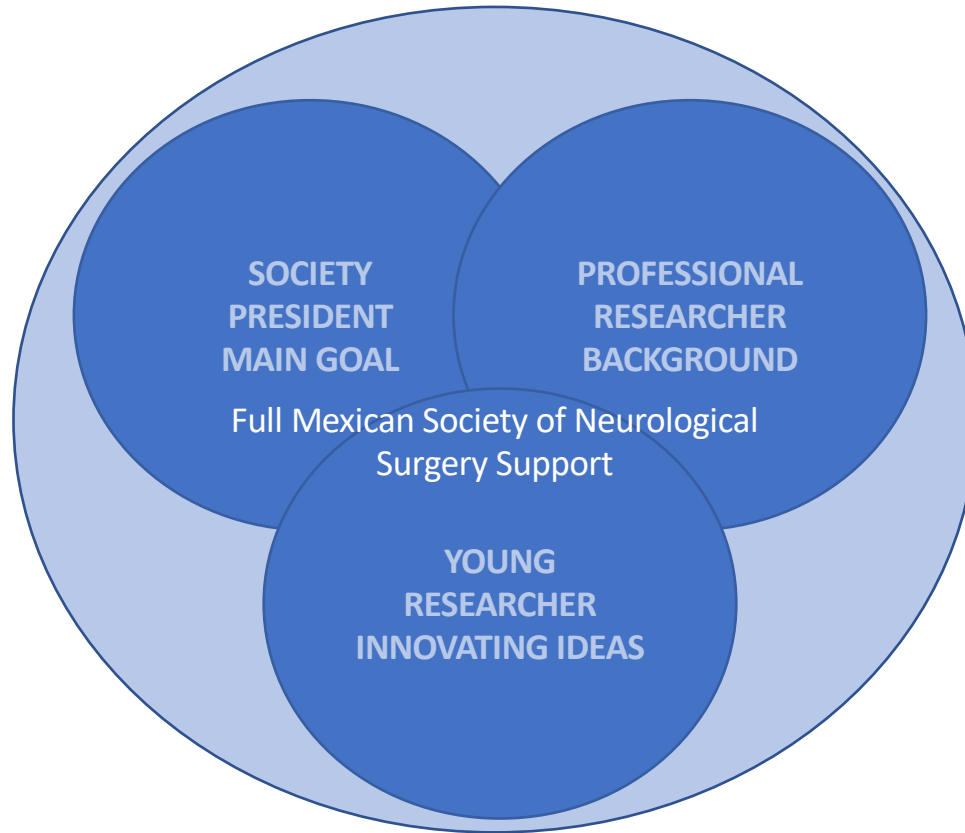
- Life-long history of the Mexican Society of Neurological Surgery to have its own Scientific Journal

- Founded in 1954
- 37 Past-Presidents
- Over 1285 Neurosurgeons
- 123,500,000 Inhabitants
- Over 16 Neurosurgical Training Centers
- World-Class Neurosurgeons

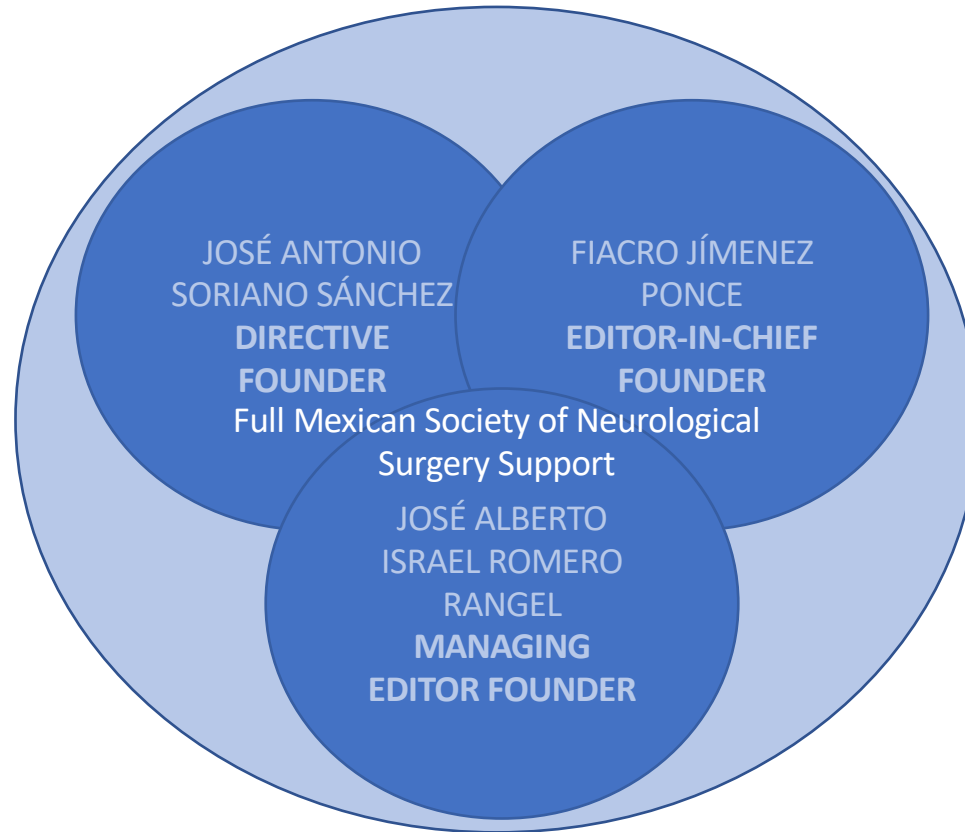


Soriano Sánchez, José Antonio, Tito Arcadio Perilla Cepeda, Luis Alencar Birrium Borba, Manuel Eduardo Soto García, and José Alberto Israel Romero Rangel. 2020. "Current Workforce Status of the Neurosurgery Societies Belonging to the Latin American Federation of Neurosurgical Societies: A Survey of the Presidents of These Neurosurgery Societies." *World Neurosurgery* 143:e78–87.

DEVELOPING A JOURNAL FROM SCRATCH



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Developing New Horizons

Developing New Horizons



Author Friendly

Designed to Increase Scientific Value of Papers to Develop High Quality Research
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Developing New Goals

Developing New Goals



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GOAL	METHOD
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DESIGNED TO BREAK THE BARRIERS OF PUBLISHING IN SCIENCES	METHODS, STATISTICS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE, ILLUSTRATION ASSISTANCE, NO CHARGES AT ALL
TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLISHING	FROM SINGLE-BLIND TO NO-BLIND PEER-REVIEWING PROCESS
SCIENCE AT NO COST	BEING THE UNIQUE DIAMOND OPEN-ACCESS JOURNAL IN NEUROSURGERY



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