



Recent Trends in Research Collaboration and Implications for Future Academic Plastic Surgeons

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INTRODUCTION

Plastic surgery is a diverse field that frequently collaborates with other specialties.¹⁻³ This interdisciplinary approach benefits patient care and outcomes. However, despite the benefits of collaboration, the degree and impact of plastic surgeons engaging in interdisciplinary research has not been previously investigated.

AIM

Quantify interdisciplinary collaboration patterns and impact within academic plastic surgery programs.

METHODS



Article retrieval

PubMed Search
21,068 articles

Duplicates removed
14,590 articles

Inclusion Criteria Met
6686 articles



Data collection

- Title
- Authors
- Departmental affiliations
- Institutional affiliations
- Publication date
- Journal



Analysis

- Collaborative articles identified and characterized using descriptive statistics
- Linear regression and chi-square test for association with institutional productivity and journal type

44.8% OF ARTICLES WERE COLLABORATIVE

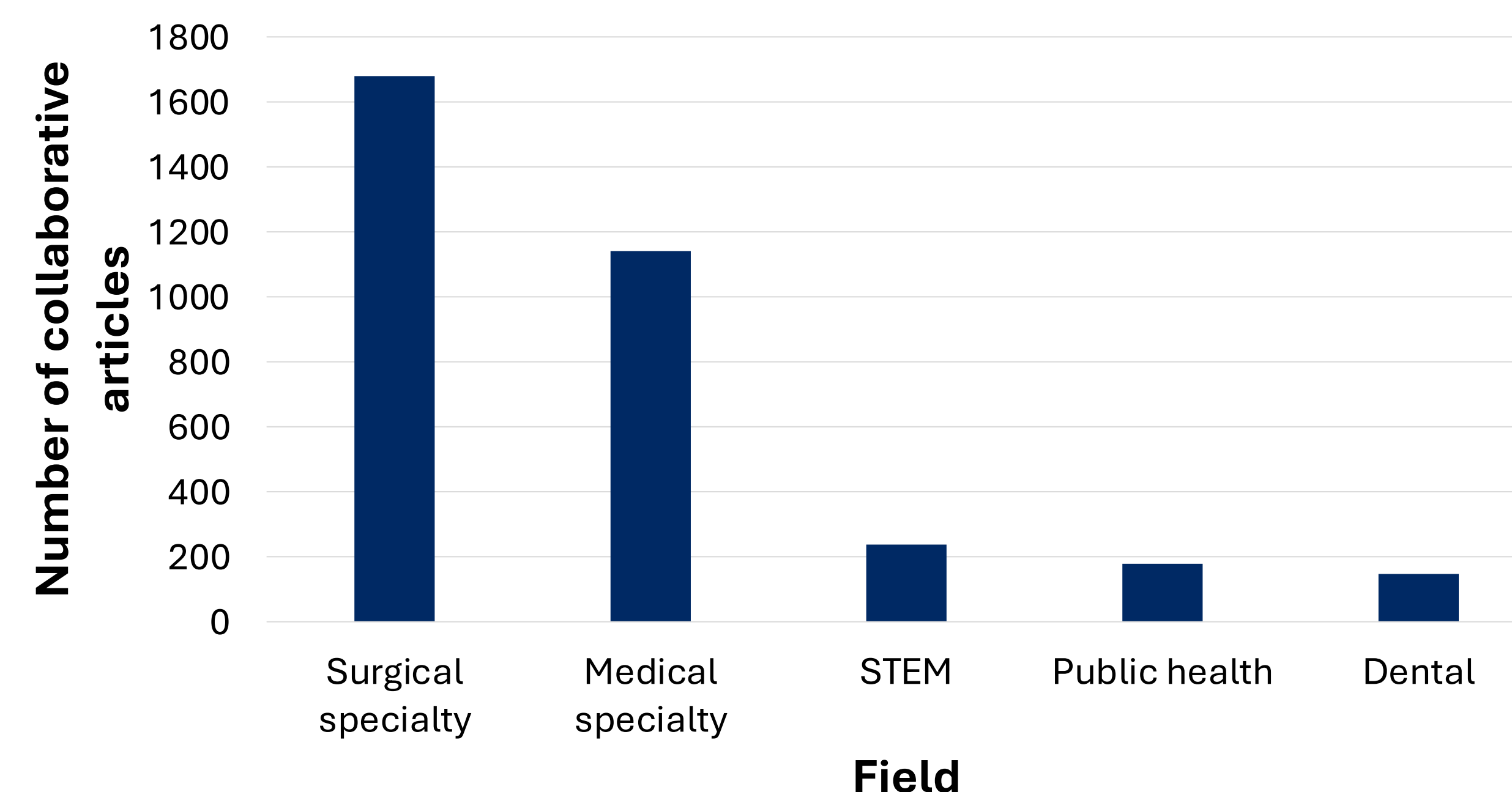


Fig 1. Number of collaborative articles with different non-PRS affiliations

WHO ARE OUR TOP COLLABORATORS?

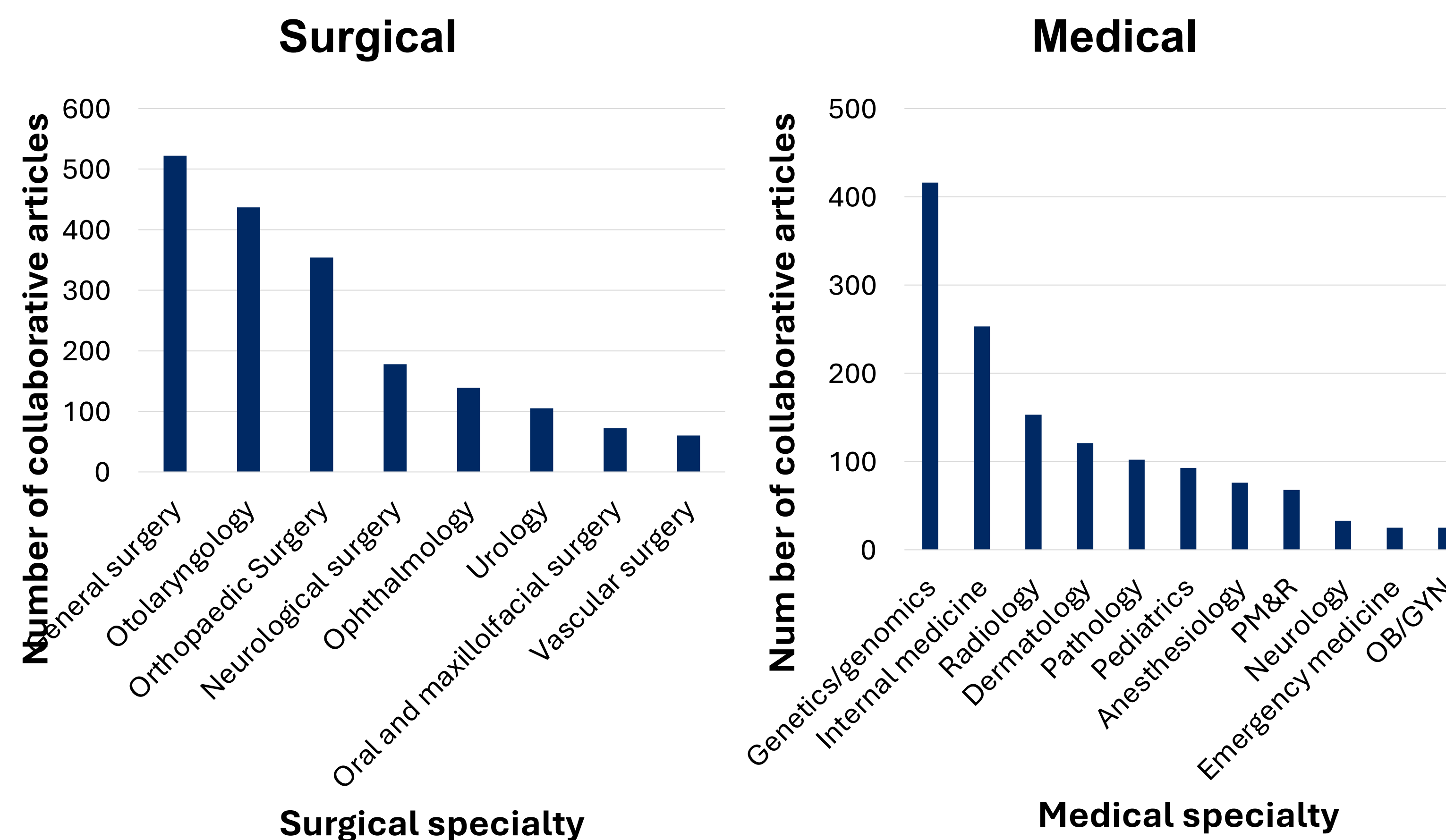


Fig 2. Number of collaborative articles with different surgical sub-specialties

Fig 3. Number of collaborative articles with different medical sub-specialties

WHICH JOURNALS PUBLISH COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH?

Collaborative articles were **1.8x** more likely to be published by **non-PRS journals**

	PRS Journal	Non-PRS Journal
Collaborative	1458	1534
Non-collaborative	2803	891

PRS journals with the highest % of collaborative articles were *Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery* (67.4%), *Journal of Craniofacial Surgery* (65.3%), and *Annals of Plastic Surgery* (64.3%).

HOW DOES COLLABORATION AFFECT PRODUCTIVITY?

Productivity at an institution and the proportion of their articles with collaboration were not correlated ($R^2=0.01$, $p=0.60$)

CONCLUSIONS

This study defines the diverse affiliations that contribute to plastic surgery being a highly productive field by examining trends in interdisciplinary collaboration in the literature. These findings provide valuable insights for plastic surgeons aiming to expand the reach and impact of their research.

REFERENCES

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