A comparison of the top 10 publishing journals for UK ophthalmology research

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Introduction

One of the major barriers in converting research disseminated as conference abstracts to peer-review journal publication is the time and resources required to (re-)submit manuscripts.

A recent survey of the impact of COVID-19 on research activities among UK ophthalmologists has shown that research time has become more constrained.[1] This may obstruct the Government's 'Research for All' agenda and the new 2024 Ophthalmology Specialty Training Curriculum in their aims to widen workforce engagement in conducting and publishing research.[2,3] To support ophthalmologists in targeting journals for their research, this bibliometric study aims to identify and characterise journals publishing abstracts presented at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists' (RCOphth) Annual Congresses from 2013-19.

Methods

Title, first author and last author fields were extracted from 1504 abstracts presented at RCOphth Annual Congress from 2013-2019 and searched for in PubMed and Google Scholar. Peer-reviewed publications of any of these abstracts were noted and the journal, its 2021 2 year impact factor and any associated article processing charge (APC) were extracted.

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Journal	Frequency	IF
Eye	94	4.456
British Journal of Ophthalmology	44	5.907
Ophthalmology	19	14.277
Acta Ophthalmologica	13	3.988
Journal of American Association for Paediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus	13	1.325
Clinical Ophthalmology	12	2.140
Journal of Cataract & Refractive Surgery	11	3.528
American journal of ophthalmology	8	5.488
Graefe's Archive for Clinical and Experimental Ophthalmology	7	3.538
Orbit	7	1.212

Table 1: Number of 2013-2019 abstracts published by the top 10 publishing journals. IF = Impact Factor

Results

Of the 1504 abstracts presented at 7 congresses, 411 abstracts went on to be published in 125 different peer-reviewed journals. The 10 most frequently accepting journals published between 7 (Orbit) and 94 (Eye) of these abstracts, with a median of 12.5 publications (IQR 7.75-25.25). The highest impact factor of these journals was 14.277 (Ophthalmology), with a median of 3.763 (IQR 1.936-5.593).

Among the top 10 journals, publishing without an article processing charge (APC) is possible independent of affiliation at 9 journals, with only 1 journal with a high acceptance rate of 50% (Clinical Ophthalmology) requiring an APC (£1880).

Conclusions

Eye is by far the most common publisher, but other journals commonly publish work presented at RCOphth congress. Seven of the 10 most common target journals invite submissions concerning all ophthalmic subspecialties. Although open access may not be feasible, the absence of grant funding should not limit ophthalmologists' ability to publish their research.

References

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