WHO IS PUBLISHING? AUTHORSHIP TRENDS IN GLOBAL SURGERY LITERATURE PUBLISHED IN HIGH-IMPACT GLOBAL HEALTH JOURNALS (2015-2024)

Reetwan Bandyopadhyay, BS[1], Cheryl Khaoya[2], BS, Grace Travers, BS[1], Linda Zhang, MD[3]

1. Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY. 2. Moi University School of Medicine, Eldoret, Kenya. 3. Department of Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY

BACKGROUND

- Researchers from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are the major stakeholders of global health research
- Currently, there is an over-representation of authors from high-income countries (HICs) and under-representation of women as first authors in published global health literature
- This study investigates authorship demographics in three high-impact global health journals

METHODS

- *BMJ Global Health, Annals of Global Health,* and *The Lancet Global Health* were selected for analysis (impact factor exceeding 2 and features greater than 85% of all global surgery articles featured in global health journals over the past decade)
- All author characteristics were obtained from publicly available data sources, including the author affiliations on PubMed and the authors' public profiles on ResearchGate and LinkedIn

RESULTS

- Since 2015, only 50 out of 7,689 total articles (0.65%) published in these three high-impact global health journals have been on global surgery topics
- Of these 50 articles, 18 articles (36%) feature a female first author, 12 articles (24%) feature a female last author, and only 5 articles (10%) feature a first author from an LMIC
- While there are single years that show relative increases (2017 and 2021), the overall trends of female authorship and LMIC authorship in the past decade have been stagnant

Included Articles		50
Journal	BMJ Global Health *(IF=8.1)*	26
	Annals of Global Health *(IF=2.9)*	9
	The Lancet Global Health *(IF=19.9)*	15
Year of Issue	2015	9
	2016	5
	2017	4
	2018	5
	2019	3
	2020	5
	2021	6
	2022	4
	2023	7
	2024	2
Sex of First Author	Male	32
	Female	18
LMIC/HIC of First Author	HIC	45
	LMIC	5

Table 1. Demographic factors of included articles.

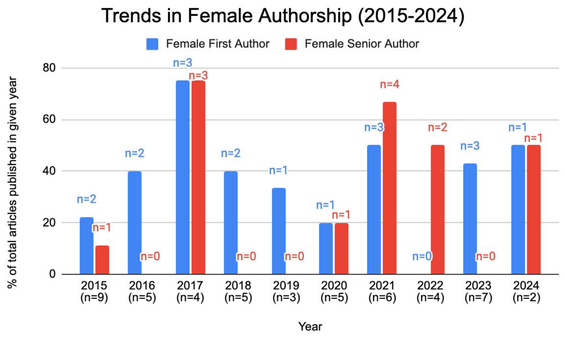


Figure 1. Female authorship trends in global surgery articles (2015-2024)

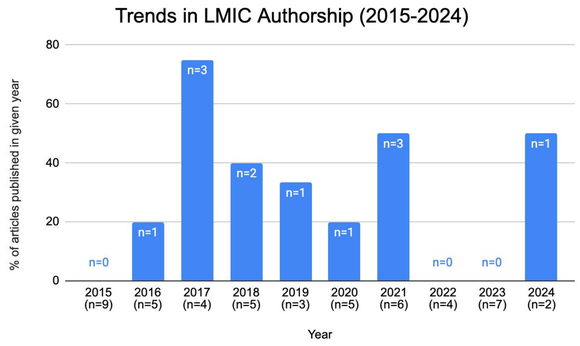


Figure 2. LMIC authorship trends in global surgery articles (2015-2024)

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- Despite increasing awareness of authorship inequities that exist in global health research, there has been minimal demographic change in female and LMIC authorship in global surgery literature published in top global health journals over the past decade
- Disparities in authorship can lead to the exclusion of important local context and perspectives
- Authorship may impede underrepresented researchers' career advancement and limit access to funding
- Further studies are needed to pinpoint gaps in authorship equity, allowing for the implementation of appropriate corrective measures

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