

INTRODUCTION

- Publishing in a high impact, top tier journal is a marker of the scientific impact of scholarly work and reflects a scholar's reputation.
- Publication is linked to professional growth and influence.

PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

- The purpose of this study was to determine how likely a team of first-time authors can successfully publish original and review articles in top tier medical journals.

METHODS

- All articles published in 2019 were extracted through the PubMed database for the following top tier general medicine journals: The New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), The Lancet, Nature, Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA), and British Medical Journal (BMJ).
- Article types were identified through the categorization listed on each journal's database.
- Individual authors pertaining to each article were then searched on PubMed (ie. Jolene P Reid AND Nature[journal]) and within the article's correlating scientific journal, to determine whether any had previously published an original article or review.
- For author name disambiguation, each author's full name was searched (ie. Jolene P Reid, rather than Reid JP).
- Author institution(s) and location(s) were utilized to aid in identification of ambiguity.

RESULTS

- The number of original research and review articles published by teams of all first-time authors in NEJM, Lancet, JAMA, Nature, and BMJ during 2019 were determined.
- Approximately 10-13% of original/review articles published in NEJM, Lancet, JAMA or Nature were from a team of all first-time authors.
- The likelihood of publishing an original article in NEJM by a group of all new authors was 3% vs 17% in BMJ.
- The journal with the highest and lowest impact factor both have the top % of review articles from a team of all new authors (65% for BMJ and 47% for NEJM respectively).

RESULTS

Journal (2019 Impact Factor)	Total Article Count (2019)	All new authors team/ Original & Reviews articles (%)	Original Research articles with all new author team (%)	Review articles with all new author team (%)
NEJM (74.70)	1520	27/258 (10.47)	7/215 (3.26)	20/43 (46.51)
Lancet (60.39)	803	16/133 (12.03)	13/123 (10.57)	3/10 (30.00)
JAMA (51.30)	1334	30/249 (12.05)	24/217 (11.06)	6/32 (18.75)
Nature (43.07)	1554	41/324 (12.65)	37/306 (12.09)	4/18 (22.22)
BMJ (27.60)	2028	39/178 (21.91)	28/161 (17.39)	11/17 (64.71)

Table 1: Percentage of all new author teams publishing original and review articles in top tier journals for the first time.

The chaperone effect can increase the likelihood of publishing in a top tier medical journal as a first-time author.

DISCUSSION

- First-time authors are less likely to be published in a top-tier medical journal.
- Early co-authorship alongside a senior author has shown success in improving publication rates.
- Senior authors provide structural guidance on the publication process and opportunities to establish important affiliations.
- For first-time authors with less than a 22% chance of publishing among top-tier medical journals, the chaperone effect positively impacts the publishing success of a manuscript.