

## Percentage Distribution of Authorship According to Position in Editorial Board and Their Country

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Scientific journals are the pillars in providing research manuscripts to the community. Due to scientific bias and the trend of self-promotion among journals, there can be a relation between distribution of authorship and position in editorial board and their country.

**Objectives:** 1. To find the percentage of manuscript publications by authors who are highly accomplished and have fame or liaison. 2. To find the percentage of manuscript published according to the location of the author. 3. To find the percentage of manuscript with multiple authors from different countries. 4. To find the relationship between authorship and editorial board members.

**Material and Methods:** Articles from 2 highly renowned journals in the field of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics were extracted to obtain data about their authors and their country of origin. Data was arranged in excel sheets for the article count and country of authors.

**Results:** Authors with 10 or more articles published were either current editors in the same journal or some other mega journals. Authors from United States had the highest number of articles in both journals. Also, 27.07% of the articles in American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics and 20% of the articles in Journal of Clinical Orthodontics included authors from two or more different countries.

**Conclusions:** Editorial biases is highly common and it is crucial to recognize it. High stature or geographic location of the author influences the publication. To receive favorable outcome, one must evaluate various journals while submitting the manuscript.

**KEYWORDS:** Authorship; editorial bias; manuscript; journal.

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### INTRODUCTION

Knowledge dissemination is critical in the sphere of academic publication. Scientific journals serve as the guardians of knowledge, playing a crucial role in circulating research findings to the academic community and the public. Scholarly writings are supposed to be evaluated based on their quality, creativity,

and contribution to the area. However, there have been concerns regarding the presence of editorial bias in the publication of studies. Before unveiling the issue, it is necessary to understand the peer-review process, which is at the heart of scientific publishing. When a researcher submits a manuscript for publication, it is initially subjected to specialists in that field for thorough review. Peer reviewers are academic professionals who provide input, evaluate the merits of an article and make recommendations to the journal editor. The editor then chooses whether the piece should be accepted, rejected, or revised. The process ensures the quality and integrity of published research. In this era of intense competition, "self-centered journals" have emerged which may exhibit distinct features such as 1) peak percentage of articles authored by a particular group of individuals, 2) healthy bonds between said authors and the editorial board and 3) publication of research of substandard quality.<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, human biases are not exempt from the peer-review process. Editorial bias pertains to circumstances that influence the manuscript acceptance process and are related to the authors, either based on their educational or social background or attributes.<sup>2</sup> Authors with good rapport with editors or having influential position may receive privileged treatment throughout the evaluation process in specific situations. This bias might present itself in a variety of ways. Authors with significant associations may have their articles sped through the review process, resulting in speedier judgements and maybe faster publication. This advantage can offer them a loaded dice in terms of publicity and recognition over other researchers. Correspondence with authors may lead editors to decrease the review requirements for their submissions. This laxity may result in their manuscripts being accepted for publication. It can obscure both editor's and

reviewer's judgement, resulting in subjective appraisals of articles. This subjectivity may lead to biased evaluations that promote writers with ally over those without.

The geographical origin of the article also plays a role in determining the level of acceptance. Biased paper publication has far-reaching consequences that extend beyond the individual writers involved. The dominance of a select group of writers in the publication arena can impede the progress of upcoming researchers who encounter difficulties in gaining recognition for their work. This atmosphere restricts innovation and the diversity of opinions in scientific discourse. Biased publication practices undermine both researcher's and the general public's trust in the scientific community. The compromise of the peer-review process can raise questions regarding the credibility and integrity of scientific findings, thereby casting doubt on the reliability and validity of published research. The biased publication paradigm maintains disparities in the academic ecosystem. Researchers from marginalized groups or underrepresented regions face additional challenges in acquiring attention and funding, compounding existing imbalances in the research landscape. The significance of a research study's contributions can be significantly jeopardized by a solitary instance of human decision-making, specifically, the evaluation made by an editor of a scholarly journal.<sup>3</sup>

This article aims to explore the concept of editorial bias, its potential impact on scientific discourse, and the measures that can be taken to mitigate its effects.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. To find the percentage of manuscript publications by authors who are highly accomplished and have fame or liaison.

2. To find the percentage of manuscript published according to the location of the author.
3. To find the percentage of manuscript with multiple authors from different countries.
4. To find the relationship between authorship and editorial board members.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

### Inclusion criteria

1. Manuscript from the past 10 years from 2012-2022.
2. The manuscripts under the heading of Research articles, Case reports and Clinician's Corner, Pearls, Aligner's corner, The Cutting Edge, Technique Clinic and Clinical aid were included from 2 elite journals.

### Exclusion criteria

1. The manuscript did not include manuscripts exclusive to the editor only.

### Procedure

1. The data was manually obtained from the archive issue list only from 2012-2022.
2. For the inclusion criteria, Research articles, Case reports, Clinician's Corner,

Pearls, Aligner's corner, The Cutting Edge, Technique Clinic and Clinical aid were chosen.

3. The information includes authors names with their country of origin.
4. The data was afterwards organized in an excel sheet.
5. The names of the authors were separated from their country into another excel sheet.
6. Each manuscript of the authors was separated into different columns for the author count.

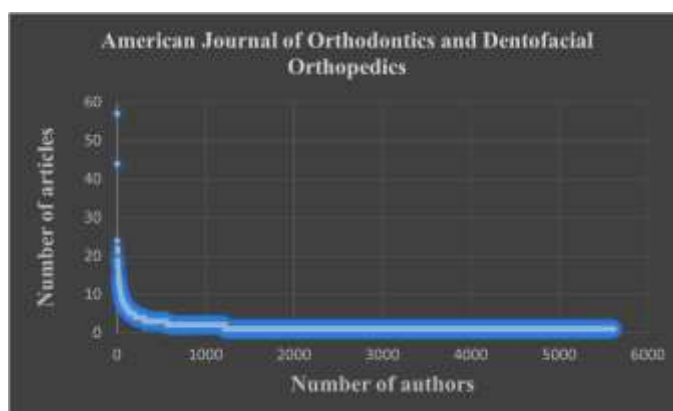
## RESULT

Using the archive issue list option, a total of 2402 manuscripts which satisfied the inclusion criteria from the two prominent journals were retrieved. Authors with more than 10 articles published were either current editors in the same journal or some other mega journals (Tables 1 and 2). A scatter chart was also plotted to depict its pictorial representation (Figures 1 and 2). This can be due to editorial board's higher knowledge about the editorial process.

**Table 1.** Authors with 10 or more articles published in American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics.

NAME	Count
JAE HYUN PARK	57
GUILHERME JANSON	44
YOON-AH KOOK	24
PETER H. BUSCHANG	22
KYUNG-HO KIM	21
CHOORYUNG J. CHUNG	19
KI BEOM KIM	19
SEONG-HUN KIM	19
CARLOS FLORES-MIR	18
JONG-MOON CHAE	18
RAVINDRA NANDA	18
TAKASHI ONO	17
PHILLIP M. CAMPBELL	16
DANIELA GARIB	15

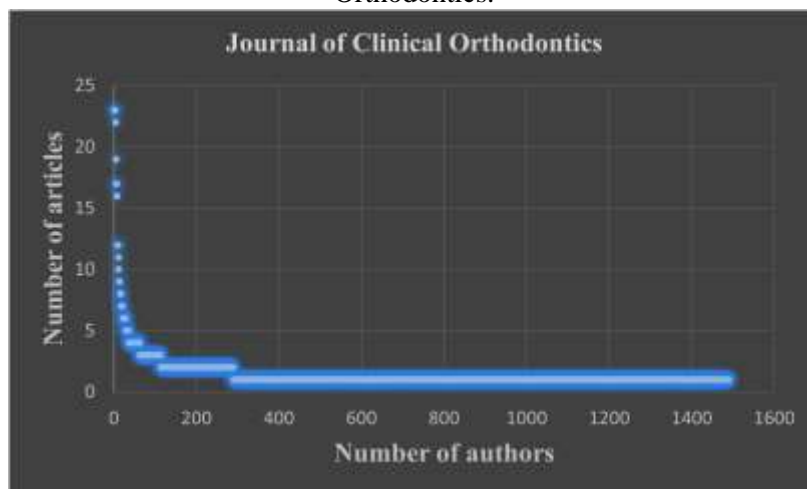
HENRY W. FIELDS	15
CHUNG-JU HWANG	14
FLAVIO URIBE	14
M. ALI DARENDELILER	14
ORLANDO MOTOHIRO TANAKA	14
MATHEUS MELO PITHON	13
NIKOLAOS PANDIS	13
TAKASHI YAMASHIRO	13
TORU DEGUCHI	13
WON MOON	13
YOON JEONG CHOI	13
ANTONIO CARLOS DE OLIVEIRA RUELLAS	12
JUNG-YUL CHA	12
KIYOSHI TAI	12
LORENZO FRANCHI	12
MADHUR UPADHYAY	12
MOHAMED BAYOME	12
MUBASSAR FIDA	12
SUMIT YADAV	12
ALLEN R. FIRESTONE	11
F. MICHAEL BECK	11
HEE-MOON KYUNG	11
KYU-RHIM CHUNG	11
ROLF G. BEHRENTS	11
SHINGO KURODA	11
TUNG NGUYEN	11
DANIELA GAMBA GARIB	10
EIJI TANAKA	10
EUSTAQUIO A. ARAUJO	10
GERALD NELSON	10
KELLY CHIQUETO	10
SERGIO ESTELITA BARROS	10
TERUKO TAKANO-YAMAMOTO	10
VEERASATHPURUSH ALLAREDDY	10



**Figure 1.** Scatter chart depicting Authors with 10 or more articles published in American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

Name	Count
JAE HYUN PARK	23
NEAL D. KRAVITZ	23
RAVINDRA NANDA	23
BENEDICT WILMES	22
LUCA LOMBARDO	19
DIETER DRESCHER	17
GIUSEPPE SICILIANI	17
FLAVIO URIBE	16
BJÖRN LUDWIG	12
NANDAKUMAR JANAKIRAMAN	12
MAURO COZZANI	11
MANUEL NIENKEMPER	10

**Table 2.** Article count of authors contributing 10 or more articles in last 10 years in Journal of Clinical Orthodontics.



**Figure 2.** Scatter chart depicting Authors with 10 or more articles published in Journal of Clinical Orthodontics

In American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, 30.68% of the articles published are from the United States followed by Brazil and China with around

Country	Count
United States	536
Brazil	302
China	220
Others	1257

**Table 3.** Country-wise description of articles published in American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

Similarly, in Journal of Clinical Orthodontics, authors from United States had a publication rate of around 31.75%, Indians owned 18.77% articles followed by Italy with 14.96% articles (As shown in Table 4 and

17.28% and 12.59% respective contribution in the journals (As shown in Table 3 and Figure 3).



**Figure 3.** Country-wise description of articles published in American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

Figure 4). This may indicate either promotion of the authors belonging to the country of the Journal or high research options and brilliant researchers in that country.

Country	Count
United States	203
India	123
Italy	98
Others	392

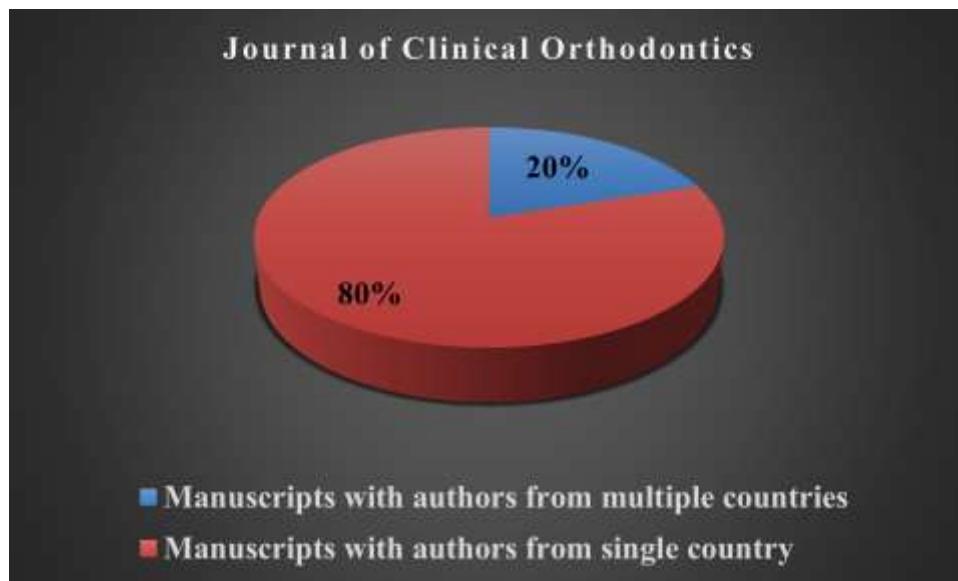
**Table 4.** Country-wise description of articles published in Journal of Clinical Orthodontics



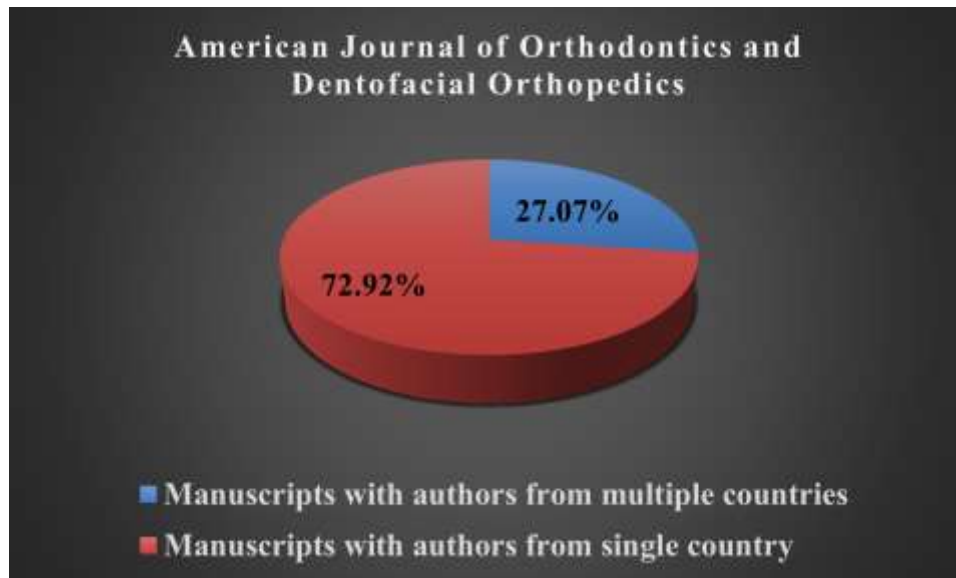
**Figure 4.** Country-wise description of articles published in Journal of Clinical Orthodontics

It is very intriguing to note that around 27.07% of the articles in American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics

and 20% of the articles in Journal of Clinical Orthodontics included authors from two entirely different country (Figures 5 and 6).



**Figure 5.** Manuscripts with authors from multiple countries in American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics



**Figure 6.** Manuscripts with authors from multiple countries in Journal of Clinical Orthodontics

These articles include clinical studies and was performed at a single Centre. There might be a possibility of Gift authorship wherein influential researchers “lend” their name in research for increasing the probability of publication, taking credits for a research article despite the fact that no contribution was given by them. This kind of act dis-balances the standards for promotion and also increases the publications of the highly famed author, while stealing the limelight given to the contributing researchers who actually deserve the accomplishments for authorship.<sup>4</sup>

## DISCUSSION

In this extensive analysis of two top-tier journals of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics, we explain numerous aspects of article-author connections, including the following:<sup>5</sup>

1. Occasionally, article publishing was largely driven by the prodigious position of a single author or a couple of authors.

2. High publication from authors from a specific country.
3. Over half of the prominent authors were usually editorial board members or were associated with the members of the Board.

In simplified terms, it is fair and justified to examine these publications closely because the editor's judgement may be questioned when approximately 3% of the articles published included the same author.<sup>5</sup> In few instances, sharing authorship with experienced authors is believed to grab attention of the editor thus increasing the chances of publication of the paper.<sup>6</sup> We should not presume that a hyper prolific researcher is always involved in immoral practices relating to publishing: Some people are extremely innovative and skilled, also the rate at which fruitful research may be accomplished varies greatly among research topics. Furthermore, as they participate in one of the crucial steps of the article, for instance statistical analysis of the data, authors may be represented in numerous



articles, also experienced academicians managing various projects may wind up authorship in multiple articles.<sup>5</sup> Despite this fact, few extremely prolific researchers bag a high percentage of publication by taking advantage of the system or participating in academic lawlessness which can be unjust for the budding researchers. It is critical to distinguish between highly prolific authors who have high publication rate among variety of scientific journals from those who rely on small batch of publications where their authorship appears frequently.<sup>5</sup>

In our investigation, it revealed that around 50% of the renowned authors were either Chief Editors or editorial board members of the same or other top journals.

Even though the results we obtained are based merely on a select group of journals, they offer essential indications that decision-making processes were unusually quick and also selective for a group of influential authors.<sup>5</sup> Complete knowledge of the publication criteria and their experience in research field can also be a reason for higher publications.

## CONCLUSION

1. Authors with high stature and alliance have the highest publication in both the journals.
2. United States based research bagging most of the publications or quality level research work in countries with high publications.
3. Influential researchers lending their name in research for increasing the probability of publication.
4. Editorial board members of the same journal or other elite journal has enormous publications.

Editorial bias is highly common.<sup>2</sup> Recognizing and addressing the presence of bias is crucial for fostering a more inclusive, diverse, and robust scientific discourse. Authors should conduct extraordinary

research work on their part. The aim should be on reaching the milestones achieved by renowned authors without focusing much on the existence of bias in scientific publications. Additionally, while submitting the manuscript, one must evaluate various journals in order to figure out where their paper will receive the most favorable treatment.<sup>2</sup>

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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