

33. AUTHORSHIP DIVERSITY IN GENERAL SURGERY RELATED COCHRANE SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS.

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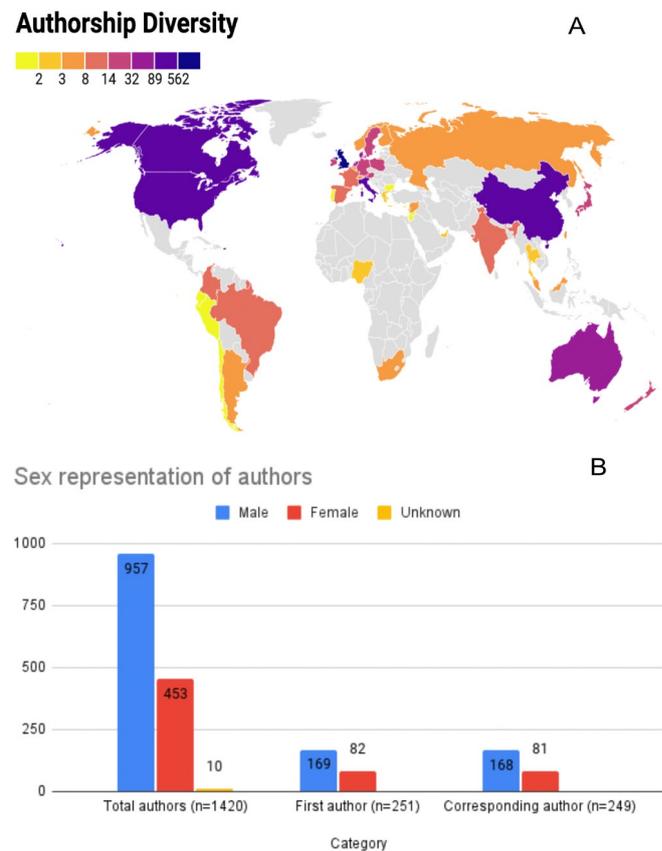
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JIMP5Fyl7s&t=24178s>

INTRODUCTION: This study sought to determine the gender and country diversity in authorship representation in the authorship of Cochrane systematic reviews related to General Surgery. **METHODS:** We searched and extracted data from the Cochrane Library on 3 September 2022 using 'keyword:General surgery', and included published reviews, protocols, and withdrawn publications. We extracted authors' details and searched online to determine their gender, attempting to capture at least one webpage demonstrating it. Authors whose gender could not be ascertained were excluded from gender-based analyses. For graphical representation, we used a choropleth-style map. We treated a collaborative author group belonging to a single country, e.g., MRC Clinical Trials Unit (UK), as a single author. A second author independently cross-verified the extracted data. **RESULTS:** Two hundred and fifty publications with a total of 1420 authors were included in the current study. Four authors had affiliation to two countries. The leading five represented nations (Figure 1A) in authorship were United Kingdom (n=562, 39.4%), China (n=163, 11.5%), Italy (n=144, 10.1%), Canada (n=91, 6.4%), and United States of America (n=89, 6.2%). Syria is the only country among all the low-income countries which had authorship representation and constituted 0.34% (n=5) of all the authors. India (n=8, 0.6%) and Nigeria (n=2, 0.1%) were the only countries from lower-middle income groups who had representation. Male (n=957) to female (n=453) ratio in this study was 2.11:1 (Figure 1B). Sex data for ten authors couldn't be retrieved and were categorized as 'unknown' group. There were 169 (67.3%) male and 82 (32.6%) female first authors (sex ratio 2.06:1). One study had designated two authors as co-first authors. Women (n= 81) constituted 32.4% of all the corresponding authors (sex ratio 2.06:1). One article didn't have any designated corresponding author. One hundred and fifty (60%) studies didn't have any female representation in any lead author (corresponding or first author) position. Fifty-eight (23.2%) studies didn't have any female authors at all, whereas in contrast there were only eight studies (3.2%) which did not have any male authors. **CONCLUSION:** Authors from high-income countries continue to be the largest contributors to Cochrane systematic reviews in General Surgery, source of one of the highest quality evidence. There is extremely poor representation of female authors and authors from low and low-middle-income countries. Active capacity-building efforts are needed in several countries for advancing authorship diversity.

Figure. (A) Choropleth-style Map Demonstrating the Authorship Diversity Across Countries; (B) Gender Distribution in Authorship.



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