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Are congresses recognizing the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in their guidelines?

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Few congresses provide adequate guidance on the use of AI for development of abstract or presentation content; increased clarity and more details on the acceptable use of AI tools are needed

Call to Action

Greater clarity on the use of AI

- Given the increased prevalence and use of AI tools, including large language models, specific guidance on acceptable use in the development of content for congresses is needed

Alignment with journal guidelines

- As congress presentations are often the precursors of peer-reviewed manuscripts, clear and consistent guidance on the acceptable integration of AI would help authors ensure compliance of content development from the onset and facilitate timely and efficient publication

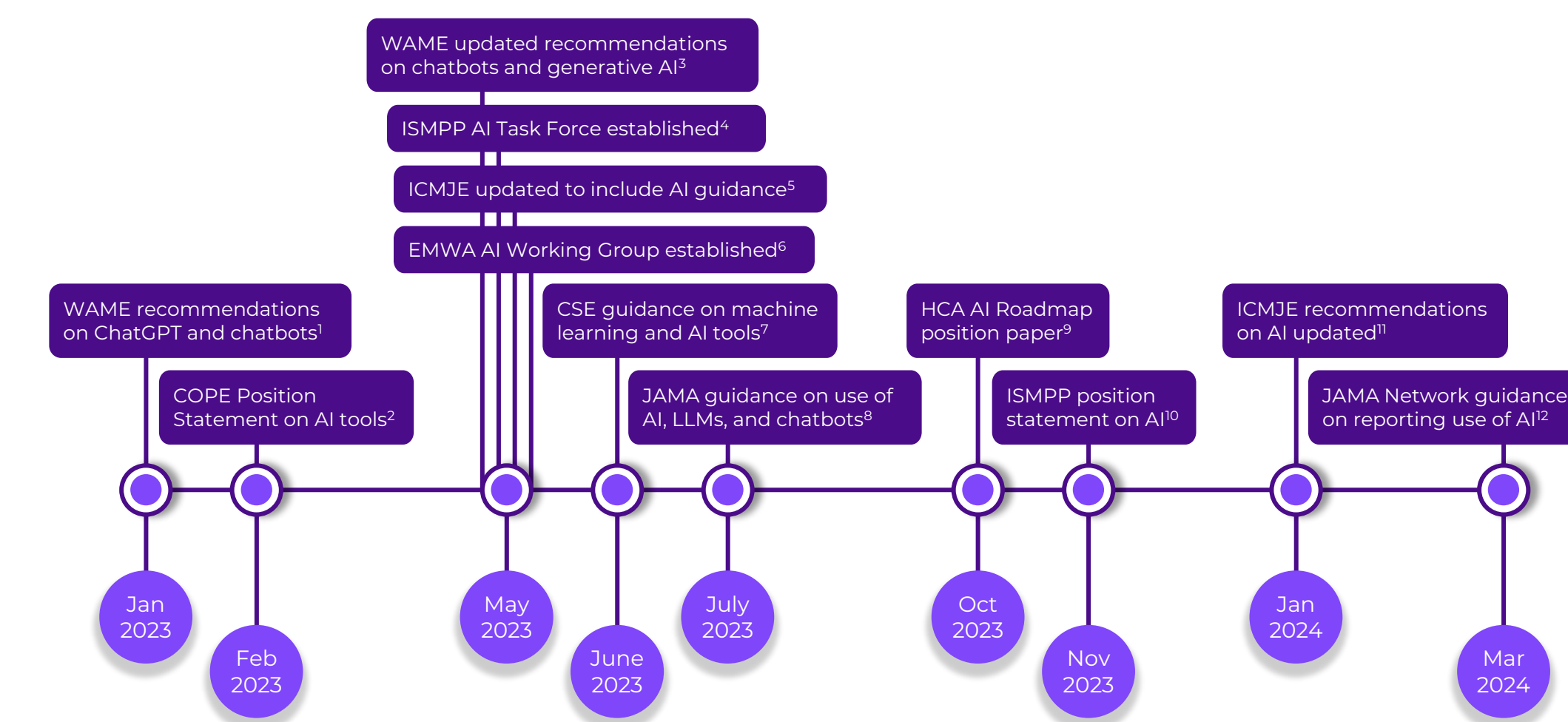
Cross-functional harmonization

- Partnership between various stakeholders, such as journals/publishers, congress organizers, and professional organizations (eg, ISMPP), can help establish best practices for the appropriate and transparent use of AI

Background

- The widespread availability and rapid adoption of AI tools are having transformative effects on medical communications
- Multiple medical publishing and communication professional organizations have issued guidance, recommendations, and position statements to help guide the use and integration of AI in healthcare communications (**Figure 1**)¹⁻¹²
- Previously, a survey of biomedical journals found that most (75%) had guidelines for the use of AI in the development of peer-reviewed manuscripts¹³

Figure 1. Key Recommendations and Position Statements on Use of AI*



AI, artificial intelligence; COPE, Committee on Publication Ethics; CSE, Council of Science Editors; HCA, Healthcare Communications Association; ICMJE, International Committee of Medical Journal Editors; ISMPP, International Society for Medical Publication Professionals; JAMA, Journal of American Medical Association; LLM, large language model; WAME, World Association of Medical Editors.
*January 2023 to March 2024.

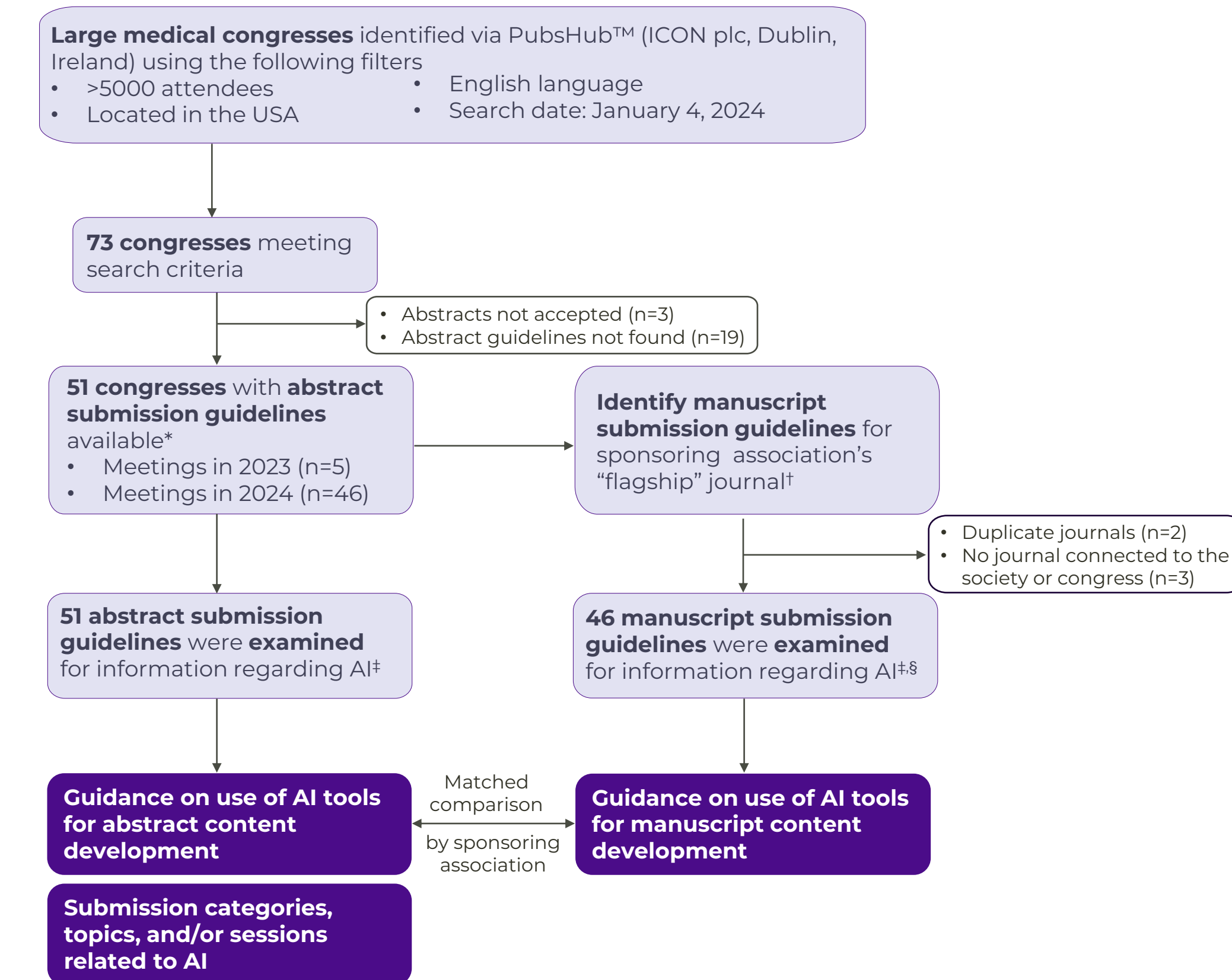
Objectives

- To examine congress abstract submission guidelines for information regarding AI
- To compare availability of guidance on use of AI tools for content development for congresses with that of the sponsoring association's journal guidance on AI

Methods

- Congress abstract submission guidelines were manually reviewed for guidance on use of AI (any type) for content development or submission categories, topics, and/or sessions related to AI (**Figure 2**)
- For the congresses searched, manuscript submission guidelines for the sponsoring association's "flagship" journal (eg, *Blood* for the American Society of Hematology) were reviewed for information on use of AI tools in manuscript development

Figure 2. Search Strategy



AI, artificial intelligence.
*Searched January 5, 2024, to March 21, 2024.
†"Flagship" journal qualitatively determined based on factors such as highest impact factor and/or largest circulation within the sponsoring association's journal offerings.
‡Any mention of AI guidance in the author information or journal/congress policies.
§Searched March 7-21, 2024.

Results

- Only 4 of 51 (8%) congress abstract submission guidelines examined contained language regarding use of AI tools for the development of abstract content; more (29%) had submission categories, topics, and/or sessions related to AI (**Figure 3**)
- There was inconsistent guidance on the ability to use AI-generated text when guidance on AI tools was specified in congress guidelines, but guidance on other aspects of AI was generally consistent (**Figure 4**)

Figure 3. Information on AI in Congress Abstract Submission Guidelines (n=51)



AI, artificial intelligence.

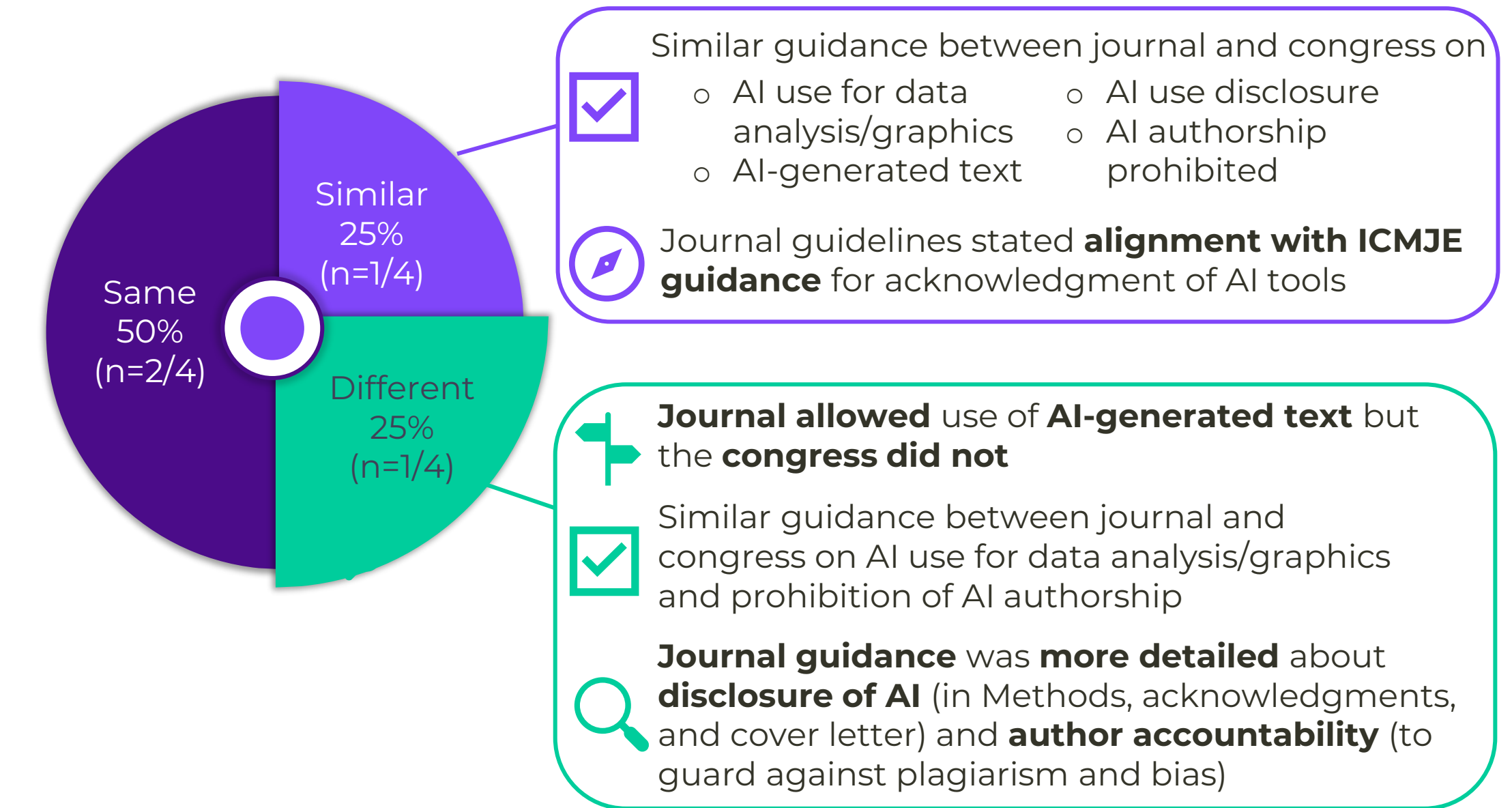
Figure 4. Summary of Guidance on AI Use for Content Development Found in Congress Abstract Submission Guidelines (n=4)



AI, artificial intelligence.

- For the 4 congresses with AI guidance, all corresponding journals had policies on use of AI; for most (75%; n=3/4), journal guidance on AI was the same as or similar to that of the congress (**Figure 5**)
- In 1 case, the journal allowed use of AI-generated text, but the associated congress did not
 - This discrepancy appeared to be due to a recent change in journal policy to adapt and conform with guidance from several medical publishing and communication professional organizations¹⁴
- For the 47 congresses without AI guidance in the abstract submission guidelines, 42 corresponding journals were identified
 - Most (81%; n=34/42) of these journals contained guidance on AI (**Figure 6**)

Figure 5. Congresses With AI Guidance: Comparison With AI Policies of the Corresponding Journal* (n=4)



AI, artificial intelligence; ICMJE, International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.
*Corresponding journal was selected as sponsoring association's "flagship" journal based on factors such as highest impact factor and/or largest circulation.

Figure 6. Congresses Without AI Guidance: Availability of Guidance on AI in the Sponsoring Association's Corresponding Journal* (n=42)



AI, artificial intelligence.
*Corresponding journal was selected as sponsoring association's "flagship" journal based on factors such as highest impact factor and/or largest circulation.

Conclusions

- Our results indicate that few congresses provide specific guidance on use of AI for the development of meeting content
 - Inclusion of submission categories, topics, and/or sessions related to AI was more prominent, suggesting that congresses recognize the impact of AI in science and medicine
 - We found that most associations that sponsor congresses have included guidance on use of AI tools for development of manuscripts in their corresponding journals
- As AI will play an increased role in medical communications, greater clarity and more details are required in congress guidelines to ensure best practices, transparency, and appropriate integration
 - We noted that guidance from professional organizations on appropriate implementation of AI has been adopted into the guidelines of some journals, indicating the influence of these bodies on forming AI policies in healthcare communications

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Disclosures

LMH, CE, LG, AR, and WF are employees of Nucleus Global, an Inizio company. ML is a partner in and employed at Inizio; has equity interests in Inizio; and has minority equity interests in AI-powered digital health startups AVOMD and Diviner.

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