

Dissemination of the ACCORD reporting guidelines: bibliometric analysis

7



Christopher C Winchester,^{1,2} William T Gattrell,^{3,a} Patricia Logullo,⁴ Keith Goldman,⁵ Amy Price,^{6,7} Paul Blazey,^{8,9} Esther J van Zuuren,¹⁰ Mark J Rolfe,¹ Niall Harrison¹¹

1. Oxford PharmaGenesis, Oxford, UK; **2.** Green Templeton College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; **3.** Independent Medical Communications Professional, Oxfordshire, UK; **4.** Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK; **5.** Medical Affairs + Health Impact, AbbVie, North Chicago, IL, USA; **6.** Dartmouth Health's Department of Community and Family Medicine (CFMED), Dartmouth Hitchcock Clinics, Lebanon, NH, USA; **7.** Journal of Participatory Medicine, Toronto, ON, Canada; **8.** School of Kinesiology, Department of Education, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada; **9.** Centre for Aging SMART, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada; **10.** Leiden University Medical Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands; **11.** OPEN Health Communications, London, UK
^aAt the time of the study. Now an employee of Bristol Myers Squibb, Uxbridge, UK

A copy of this poster can be accessed via the QR code above.

More information can be found on the ACCORD website: <http://www.ismpp.org/accord>

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

- The ACCORD (ACcurate Consensus Reporting Document) reporting guideline, applicable to any consensus method used in biomedical studies, was published in January 2024.¹
- Thoughtful dissemination plans facilitate the adoption of reporting guidelines by authors, journals, and funding sources.² However, in an analysis of the EQUATOR (Enhancing the QUALity and Transparency Of health Research) Network's guideline database, only 18% of records mentioned a dissemination plan.³
- We aimed to assess the impact of our dissemination plan on adoption of the ACCORD guideline (**Figure 1**).

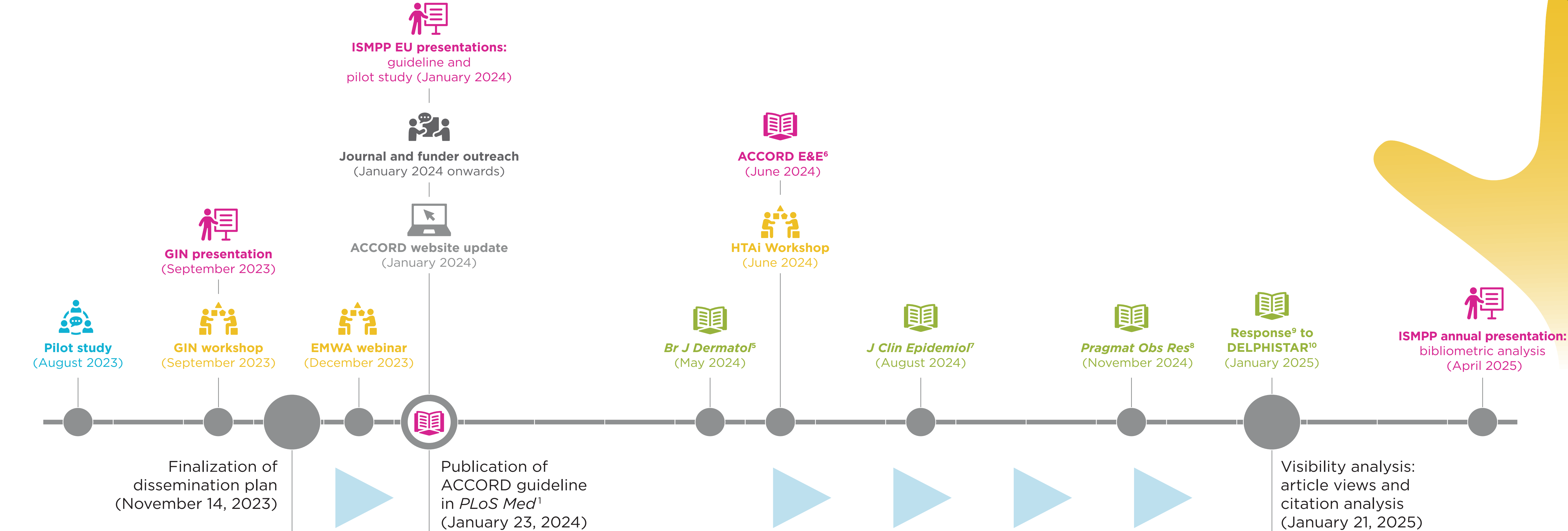
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

- Members of the ACCORD steering committee⁴ met online and in person in Uxbridge, UK, on November 14, 2023, to finalize the dissemination plan.
- The plan included developing supporting materials, presenting at congresses, and writing explanatory editorials (**Figure 1**).^{1,5-10}
- The 10 journals publishing the greatest volume of consensus studies were identified by a PubMed search, and the journal editors were contacted to request incorporation of the guideline into their author instructions.
 - Steering committee members also contacted other journal editors and publishers that they believed would be important in the dissemination of consensus studies.
- The steering committee agreed to measure the impact of disseminating the ACCORD guideline.
- Journal adoption of the guideline was monitored from publication of the ACCORD article (January 23, 2024) to January 2, 2025.¹ Article views were obtained from the journal website and Altmetric; citations were acquired from the Dimensions database (Digital Science & Research Solutions Inc.).
 - Metrics were compared with those for other recently published new reporting guidelines approximately 1 year after their publication. Updates and extensions to existing guidelines were excluded.

RESULTS

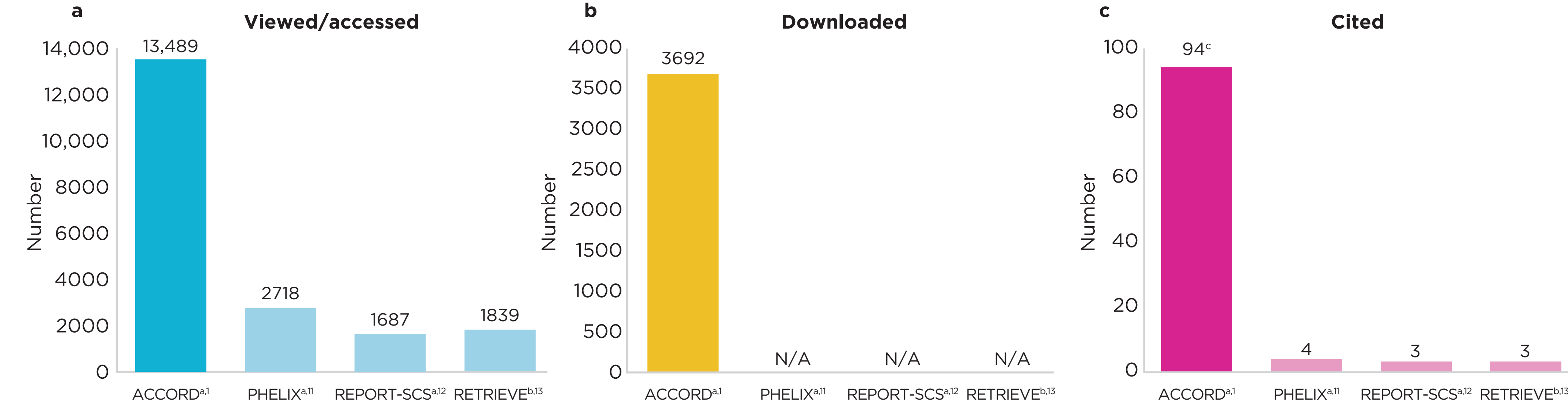
- In the first year of publication, views and citations of the ACCORD checklist compared favorably with those of other recently published reporting guidelines (**Figure 2**).
- Most articles citing ACCORD were consensus studies (66.0% [62/94]) (**Figure 3a**).
 - The most commonly discussed consensus method was Delphi panels (71.3% [67/94]) (**Figure 3b**).
 - The most common reason for citation was use of the ACCORD checklist (55.3% [52/94]; **Figure 3c**).
- As of January 2025, six journals have included the ACCORD reporting guideline in their author instructions:
 - BMJ Open*, *British Journal of Dermatology*, *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, *Internal Medicine Journal*, *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, and *Pragmatic and Observational Research*.

Figure 1: ACCORD guideline: dissemination and adoption timeline



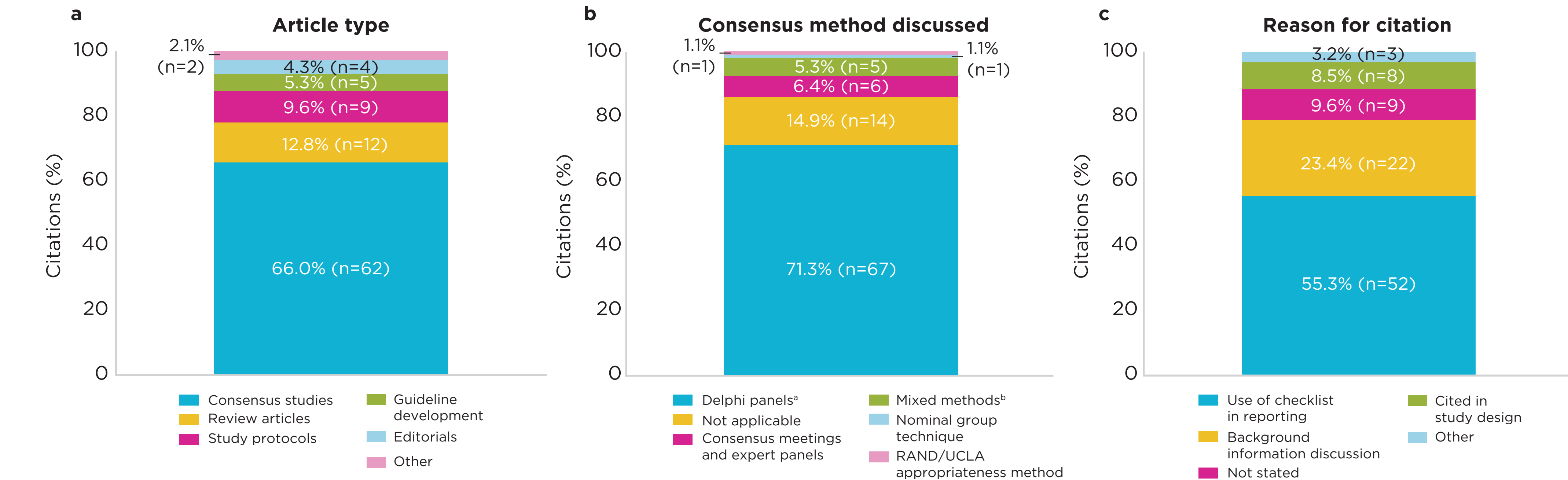
ACCORD, Accurate Consensus Reporting Document; E&E, Explanation and Elaboration; EMWA, European Medical Writers Association; EU, European Union; GIN, Guidelines International Network; HTAI, Health Technology Assessment International; ISMPP, International Society for Medical Publication Professionals.

Figure 2: Publication metrics for ACCORD versus other recently published reporting guidelines (first year of publication)



^aOver >1 year. ^bOver 1 year and 2 months. ^c88 journal articles and six preprints; four citations were supporting articles published by the ACCORD authors,⁵⁻⁸ including the Explanation and Elaboration document.⁶
ACCORD, Accurate Consensus Reporting Document; N/A, not available; PHELIX, PHEnotype Listing fix; REPORT-SCS, minimum REPORTing standards for studies using Spinal Cord Stimulation; RETRIEVE, REporting invenToRy child hEalth ValueS.

Figure 3: Citation analyses of the ACCORD guideline publication¹



^aIncluding modified Delphi panels. ^bIncluding general consensus methods.
ACCORD, Accurate Consensus Reporting Document; UCLA, University of California, Los Angeles.

REFERENCES

1. Gattrell WT, Logullo P, van Zuuren EJ et al. *PLoS Med* 2024;21:e1004326. 2. Moher D, Schulz KF, Simera I, Altman DG. *PLoS Med* 2010;7:e1000217. 3. Schluskel MM, Sharp MK, de Boyer JA et al. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2023;159:246-56. 4. Gattrell WT, Hungin AP, Price A et al. *Res Integr Peer Rev* 2022;7:3. 5. van Zuuren EJ, Br J Dermatol 2024;191:31-14. 6. Logullo P, van Zuuren EJ, Winchester CC et al. *PLoS Med* 2024;21:e1004390. 7. van Zuuren EJ, Price A, Blazey P, Hughes EL, Fedorowicz Z, Logullo P. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2024;174:11490. 8. Rolfe MJ, Winchester CC, Chisholm A, Price DB. *Pragmat Obs Res* 2024;15:201-7. 9. Gattrell WT, Tovey D, Logullo P et al. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2023;160:11682. 10. Niederberger M, Schifano J, Deckert S et al. *PLoS One* 2024;19:e0304651. 11. Alhaili A, Jamjoom A, Pan A et al. *MSD Genom Med* 2024;9:27. 12. Malik RN, Samejima S, Shackleton C et al. *J Neural Eng* 2024;21:016019. 13. Bailey C, Howell M, Raghunandan R et al. *Pharmacoeconomics* 2024;42:435-46.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Editorial support was provided by Jessica Greatrex (PharmaGenesis London, UK); with administrative support from Mehraj Ahmed, Ryan Gamble, and Jessica Miller (PharmaGenesis Oxford, UK).

DISCLOSURES

CCW is an employee, Director, and shareholder of Oxford PharmaGenesis; a Director of Oxford Health Policy Forum CIC, UK; a Trustee of the Friends of the National Library of Medicine, MD, USA; and an Associate Fellow of Green Templeton College, University of Oxford, UK. WTG was an independent medical communications professional at the time of this study, and is currently an employee of Bristol Myers Squibb. **RL**, **AP**, **PB**, and **EBZ** have no potential conflicts of interest to declare. **KG** is an employee of AbbVie. **MJR** is an employee of Oxford PharmaGenesis. **NH** is an employee of OPEN Health Communications. No authors were reimbursed for participating in the initiative.