Driving real-time equity analysis to enhance the impact of medical publishing

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Help shape the future of impactful publishing—view the complete initial framework via the QR code to provide feedback or receive updates as we continue to refine.

Background

- There is a growing global focus on health equity in clinical research to ensure that studies are intentionally designed, conducted, and communicated inclusively[1,2]
- However, no comprehensive resource has been established that provides medical researchers, industry, publishers, and associations with the necessary guidance to support them in developing fit-for-purpose medical publications that deliver true impact
- With human oversight, artificial intelligence–driven tools and equity-first metrics offer new ways to track and improve inclusivity throughout publication development.

Objective

- We aimed to develop an initial framework that embeds inclusive practices throughout publication planning and development activities
  - Our framework integrates data-driven insights with expert judgment to ensure that medical publications are scientifically rigorous; the framework is intended as a starting point for wider community review

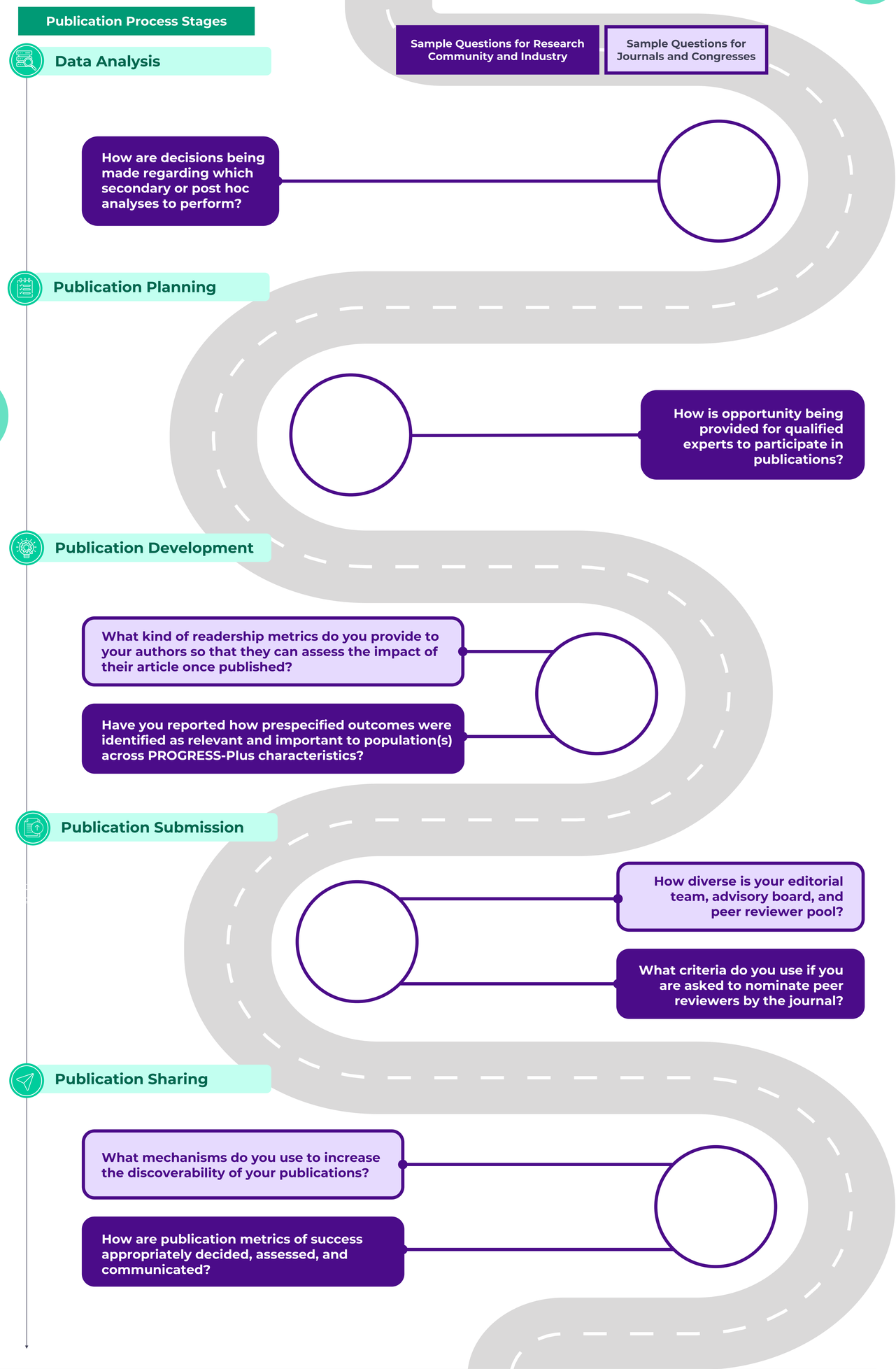
Methods

- We conducted an audit of existing practices to identify gaps in inclusivity and inflection points where inclusivity could be embedded during publication planning and development
- In-depth literature searches without time filters were performed for both grey literature and peer-reviewed publications to substantiate the initial framework:
  - **Grey literature:** national and international guidance related to reporting and publishing equity-relevant results in clinical research
  - **PubMed, Cochrane, and Google Scholar:** equity-relevant, peer-reviewed guidance via searches for the PROGRESS-Plus[3] terms and search strings pertaining to guidance for diversity, equity, inclusion, underrepresentation, social determinants of health (both neutral and specific to therapeutic area), plain language summaries, and artificial intelligence

Results

- A total of 103 documents were retrieved from the literature searches (grey, n = 53; peer-reviewed, n = 50)
- After review, a total of 20 documents (grey, n = 3; peer-reviewed, n = 17) were included to inform our initial framework
- The initial framework **(Figure)** outlines the development of an impactful publication of a randomized controlled trial from the time the trial was completed and the dataset generated. It assumes that all trials should, in part, intend to promote health equity
- **Access the complete initial draft framework and supporting references via the QR code and help shape its future by providing your feedback**

Figure. *Overview of proposed framework for the development of an impactful publication*



References

1. Health Research Authority. Accessed April 15, 2025. https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/best-practice/increasing-diversity-people-taking-part-research/
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Disclosures and Acknowledgments

- This analysis was sponsored by ApotheCom, Inizio Medical, London, UK
- We thank Evelyn Rose, Nucleus Global, for her contributions in compiling guidance for this framework

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Conclusions

- By rethinking the design, development, and delivery of medical communications through a practical framework, scientific rigor can be aligned with diverse representation to ensure that publications authentically reflect global health complexities and resonate with a broader audience, advancing both equity and innovation in medical science
- Medical publishing shapes the future of healthcare. If inclusivity is not embedded at every stage, we risk reinforcing the very disparities we seek to eliminate. This framework is a step toward redefining what it means to publish for true impact. The question is no longer whether inclusivity should be a priority, but how quickly we can embed it as the standard — together