Training New Protagonists: Analysis of a "Patients in Publications" Course

POSTER #38

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Key Takeaway

The "Patients in Publications" course is successfully attracting new and diverse participants

Has the "Patients in Publications" course been:

- Popular? ✓
- Attracted patients? ✓
- Reached diverse audiences? ✓

Background

- Patient involvement in authorship of peer-reviewed publications is on the rise, as multiple stakeholders recognize the value of patient voices to enhance research understanding, design, and outcomes[1,2]
- WECAN (Network of Cancer Patient Organisations in Europe) collaborated with publication professionals (Envision Pharma Group) to cocreate an open-access training course to enable patients to publish peer-reviewed publications[3,4]
- The course was the first evidence-based, open-access, modular publications training course, cocreated with and for patient advocates[3,4]
- There was an ambition to promote diversity in publications by supporting patients from a range of backgrounds to have access to this training course

> *"By completing these modules, patient advocates gain knowledge on publication processes becoming empowered to meaningfully contribute high quality work to publications"*
>
> Course participant

Objectives

- Our objective was to evaluate the extent and diversity of participation in the "Patients in Publications" training course

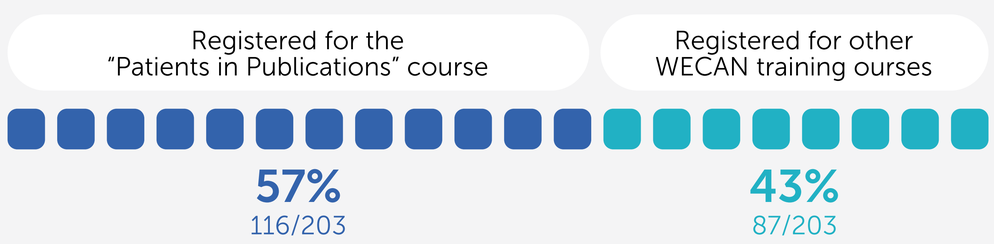
Methods

- The training course was launched in March 2021 and was migrated to an online learning platform in March 2022 that allows for interactive learning and higher engagement
- We looked at participation metrics from March 2022 to January 2024

Results

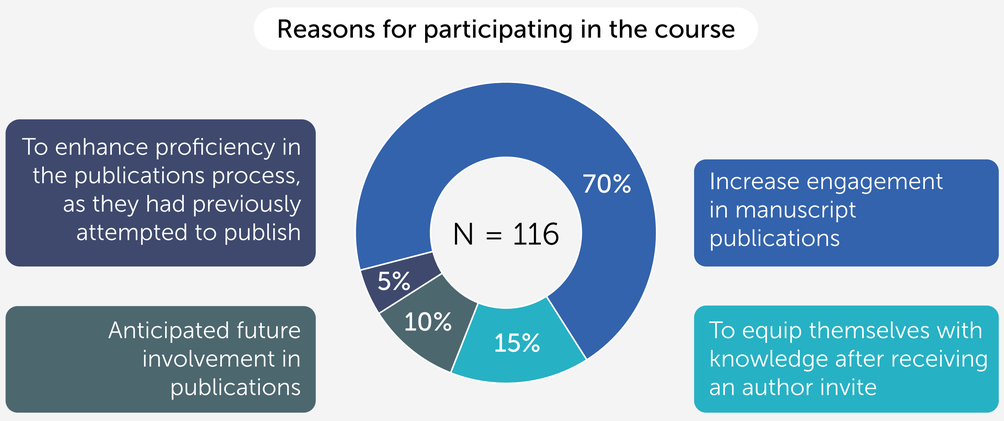
1. Was the training course popular?

- The publications course was a new and popular option among the 4 courses available on the WECAN training platform
  - Of the 203 participants who registered for 1 or more courses, 57% registered for the "Patients in Publications" course



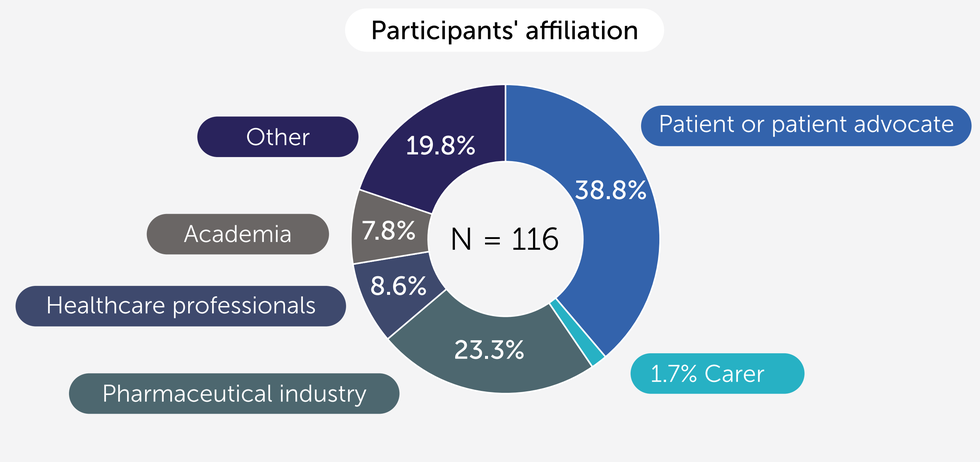
2. Why did participants take the course?

- Pre-course data show that most people took the course because they wanted to become more involved with publications



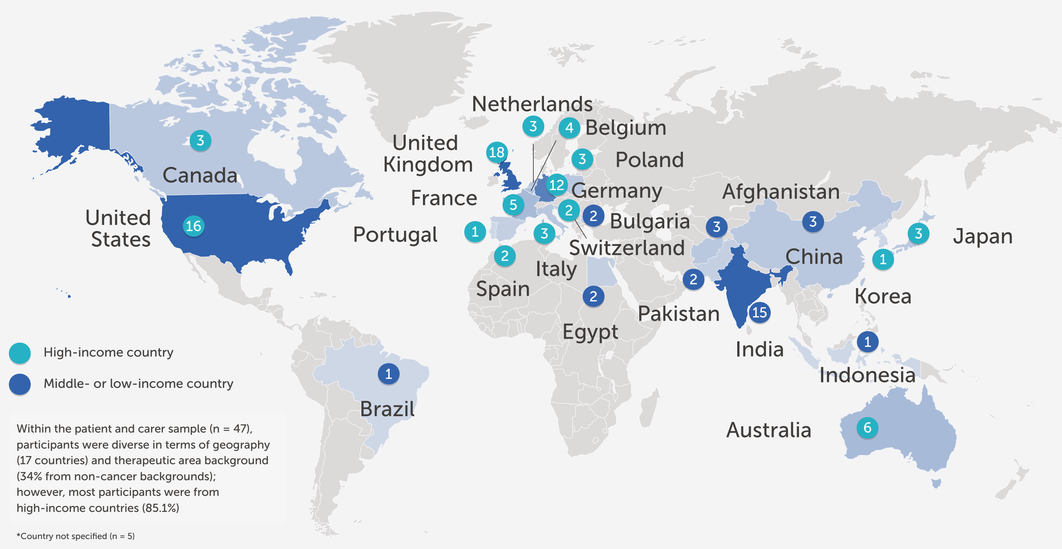
3. Did the training course attract patients?

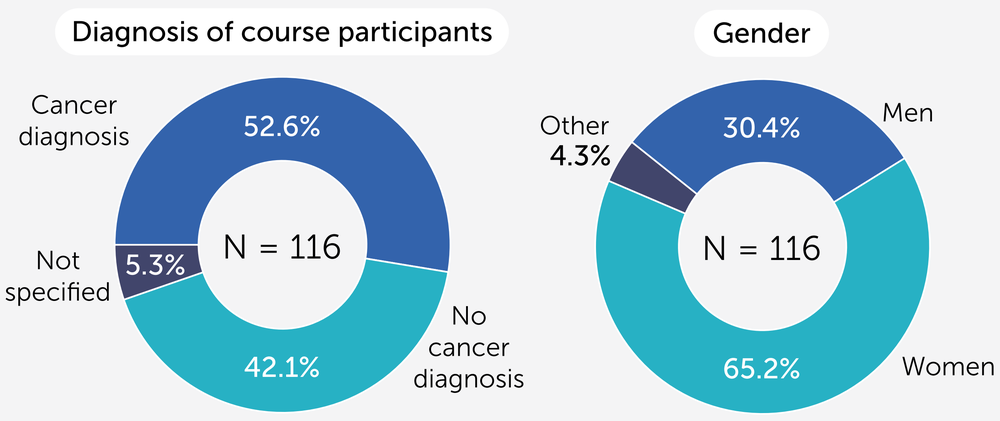
- Most participants were patients (including carers), but the course also attracted people from other sectors



4. How diverse were the participants?

- Participants were diverse in terms of geography, therapeutic area background, and sector (see Q3, Did the training course attract patients?)
  - However, participants were mainly from high-income countries (70.7%*) and most participants were women (65.2%)





Limitation

- Due to the change in platform, it was not possible to have data from the launch of the training course to the end of 2023

Conclusions

> *"This course promotes patient-centered care by equipping patient advocates with skills on critical thinking, scientific writing and so much more"*
>
> Course participant

- This new "Patients in Publications" course has been popular, attracted patients, and reached relatively diverse audiences
- Participant diversity may have been enhanced by plain language content (reducing language barriers), open access (reducing cost barriers), online delivery (reducing travel/logistics barriers), and co-creation with patients (increasing trust and awareness among patient communities)
- Efforts to enhance participant diversity continue

References

1. Woolley K, et al. *Curr Med Res Opin*. 2022;39(suppl 1):5-39.
2. Oliver J, et al. *Res Involv Engagem*. 2022;8(1):12.
3. WECAN Academy. https://academy.wecanadvocate.eu/course/patients-in-publications. Accessed January 9, 2025.
4. Woolley K, et al. *Curr Med Res Opin*. 2021;37(suppl 1):5-20.

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