

Global Collaborative Trends in Otolaryngology Research: U.S. Partnerships with Low-, Middle-, and Other High-Income Countries

Shiven Sharma JD¹, Dany Alkurdi AB¹, Omar Alani ScB¹, Vikram Vasan BA¹, Shreya Deshmukh BA¹, Prabhjot Singh ScB¹, Mohammed Abduljalil BS², Torin Thielhelm MD¹, Dev Patel BA¹, Keshav Sharma HBHSc³, Satish Govindaraj MD¹, Alfred-Marc C. Illoreta MD¹

¹Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA

²Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

³Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Corresponding Author Contact Information: shiven.sharma@icahn.mssm.edu

INTRODUCTION

- This study examines **global collaboration trends** in otolaryngology research, focusing on partnerships between the United States and countries across different income levels.
- The **primary objective** was to assess the extent and distribution of research collaboration by income category—low-income (LIC), lower-middle-income (LMIC), upper-middle-income (UMIC), and high-income countries (HIC)—and to determine the **representation** of these countries in authorship roles.

METHODS

- We conducted a **retrospective bibliometric analysis** of 163 collaborative otolaryngology publications from 2018 to 2024 across nine major U.S.-based journals.
- Using Scopus, we identified studies involving international co-authors and categorized their countries by **World Bank income classification (LIC, LMIC, UMIC, HIC)**. The research focused on publication characteristics, authorship distribution, and the proportion of significant authorship positions (first, last, corresponding).
- No direct interventions were studied. The primary outcomes were authorship representation by **income level and region**. Independent variables included country income group and journal source.
- Descriptive statistics were used to identify patterns and **disparities in global research participation**.

FIGURE

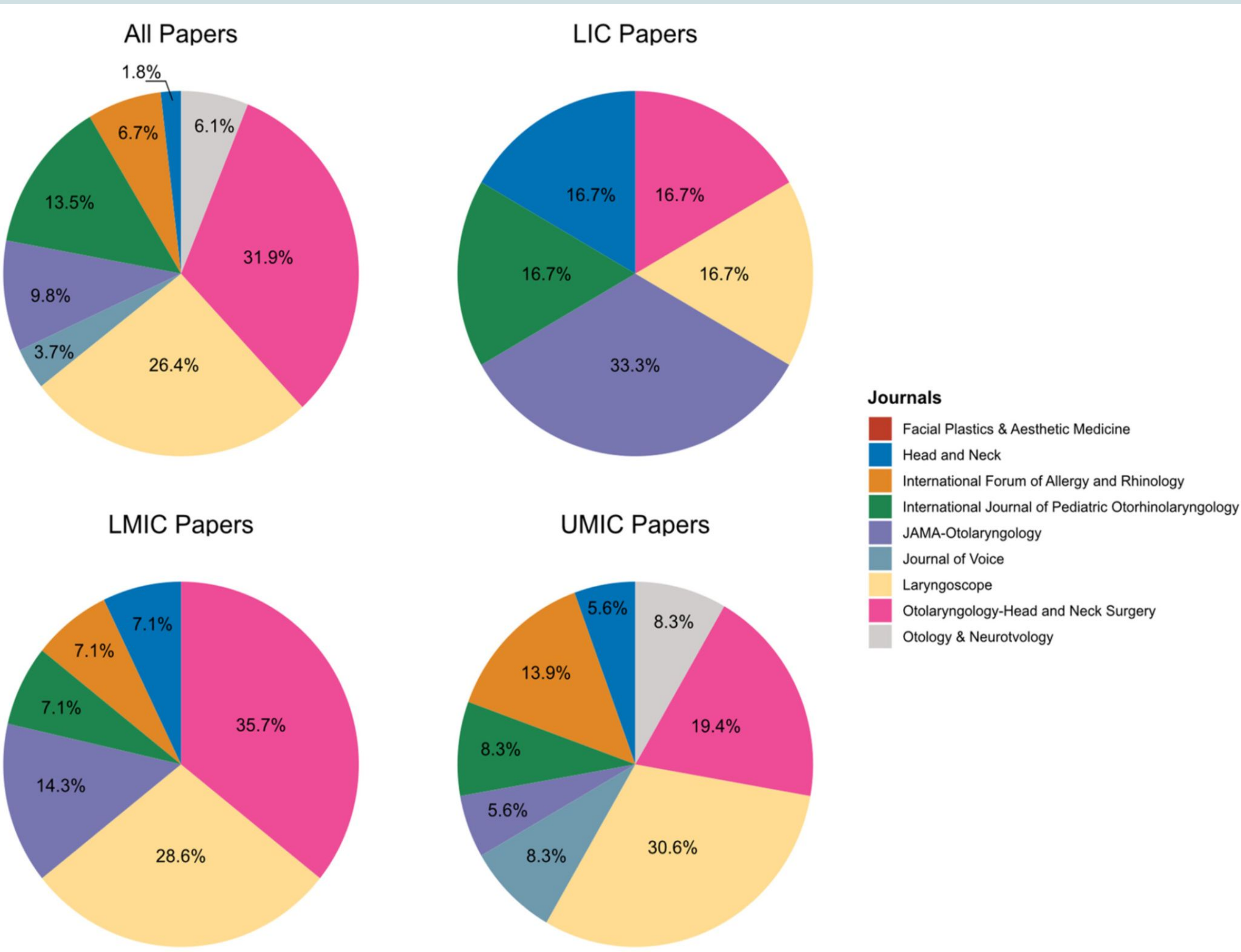


Figure 1: Distribution of Publications by Journal and Country Classifications

RESULTS

- LIC authors comprised **0.82% of total contributors** with no significant authorship roles, while LMIC authors accounted for 2.07%, with only 0.94% in leading positions. In contrast, HIC authors represented 92.54% of all authors and 94.36% of significant roles.
- Uganda and Egypt** were top LIC and LMIC collaborators, respectively.
- Most LIC/LMIC publications appeared in **Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery and JAMA Otolaryngology**.

CONCLUSION

- U.S.-based otolaryngology research collaborations with LICs and LMICs are **limited** in scope and depth, with authors from these regions rarely occupying leadership roles in publications.
- These findings emphasize the need for more **equitable and inclusive** global research partnerships to advance health equity in otolaryngology.
- Strengthening** such collaborations should be a strategic priority for the global research community.