

Letter to the Editor Response Regarding “Research Equity in Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery”

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We thank Djoutsop et al for their insightful response to the commentary, “Research Equity in Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery.”¹ The authors accurately summarize the Global Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery (OHNS) Initiative Research Equity Guidelines and highlight components integral to fostering equitable research.

We appreciate their recently published bibliometric analysis that reviews global OHNS authorship trends during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, further emphasizing imbalances in capacity to perform and publish research.² This study addresses a key gap in knowledge about OHNS research trends, and we hope it will spark further analysis and action to address research inequities through equitable collaborations. In addition, we agree with the authors’ emphasis on leveraging South-South collaborations to support research, clinical capacity, and innovation. As experienced during the ongoing global COVID-19

pandemic, lessons from resource-constrained health systems are valuable in all health care settings.

The bibliometric analysis by Djoutsop et al presents valuable findings regarding global OHNS research output during the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, there were significantly more articles from authors affiliated with North American institutions than other regions, and articles affiliated with high-income country authors had a greater median number of citations than other income groups. The authors also offer publication volume by institution and a network analysis as tools to promote new international collaborations across different networks. Finally, this article includes an excellent description of the global neurosurgery field’s success and the opportunity to similarly support global OHNS research, education, and advocacy within the broader global surgery landscape. We applaud this research and plan to use these findings to guide our own work.

We invite Dr Djoutsop, coresearchers, and readers to consider joining or partnering with the Global OHNS Initiative.³ Within the organization, over 180 members from over 40 countries (**Figure 1**) are striving toward a world with universal access to high-quality, safe, timely, and affordable care for those with OHNS conditions.⁴ Our ongoing work includes research to delineate the current state of global OHNS disease and care delivery. We hope these research

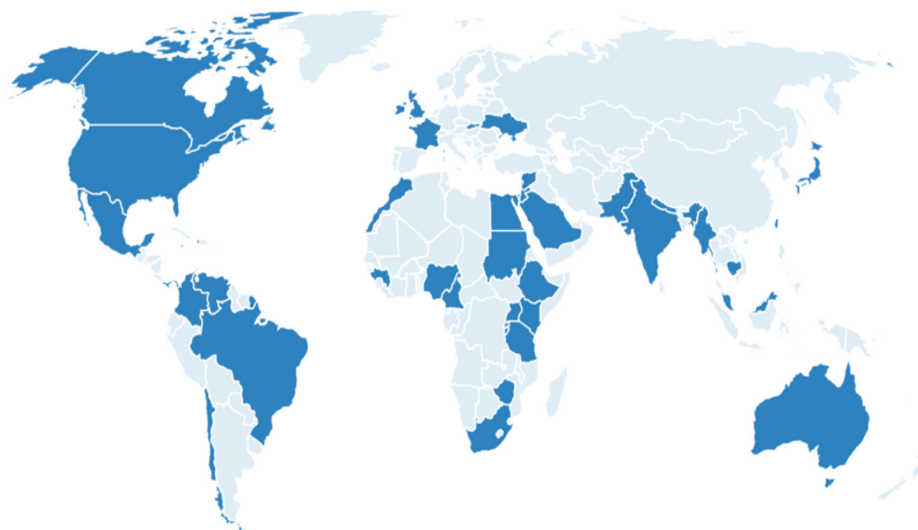


Figure 1. Countries represented by members of the Global OHNS Initiative.



findings shall be leveraged to make OHNS care a policy and funding priority. This will facilitate capacity building for OHNS research and care delivery, particularly in places where patients have insufficient access to OHNS care. Of note, as the Global OHNS Initiative continues to grow, we aim to develop the capacity to decrease or eliminate the financial barriers that have prevented authors from presenting research at international conferences and publishing research in indexed journals.⁵

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Disclosures

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