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Abstract Information

Abstract Title: Authorship trends in representative medical journals in India
Abstract
INTRODUCTION
The increasing complexity of research results in a need for collaborative work. A study of the authorship patterns and departmental and institutional affiliations could indicate the nature and extent of collaboration. We surveyed these characteristics in papers reporting original research in The National Medical Journal of India (NMJI) and the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) for two time periods, 2005–2009 and 2010–2014.
METHODS
Data was collected for papers published in 2005–2009 and 2010–2014 in both journals. However, as the frequency of publication and number of papers per issue differed for NMJI and IJMR, the first 4–5 articles in the January, April, July and October issues of
IJMR were studied with respect to the number of authors and collaborating departments and institutions and foreign collaboration.

RESULTS
The number of papers assessed was 93 and 94 for NMJI and 89 and 100 for IJMR for 2005–2009 and 2010–2014, respectively. For 2005–2009, the mean numbers of authors per paper for NMJI was 5.60 (range 1–17) and 5.21 for IJMR (range 2–13), while for 2010–2014 it was 5.46 (range 1–17) for NMJI and 6.04 (range 2–22) for IJMR. Interdepartmental collaborations comprised of 72% and 73% of submissions to NMJI and of 66% and 84% to IJMR for the two time periods. Corresponding inter-institutional collaborations were 38% and 51% for NMJI and 43% and 53% for IJMR. The percentage of authors with foreign collaborations was 9.6% and 15% for NMJI and 11% and 12% for IJMR.

CONCLUSION
There appears to be a trend towards multi-author papers and collaborations between different departments and institutions, including foreign collaborations in papers published in NMJI and IJMR. This trend was maintained over the two time periods assessed.