

Improving the use of ORCID: a publisher case study

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WHY WAS THIS NEEDED?

- Open Research and Contributor ID (ORCID) provides authors with a persistent, unique identifier, with the aim of improving transparency, accountability, discoverability and ultimately trust among medical researchers.
- Some leading pharmaceutical companies have initiated programmes to increase registration for ORCID iDs by their researchers.¹ However, for pharma-affiliated publications, previous research suggests that the inclusion of ORCID iDs in published articles on PubMed is low, and that ORCID iDs are inconsistently listed by those who have published multiple articles.²

WHAT DID WE DO?

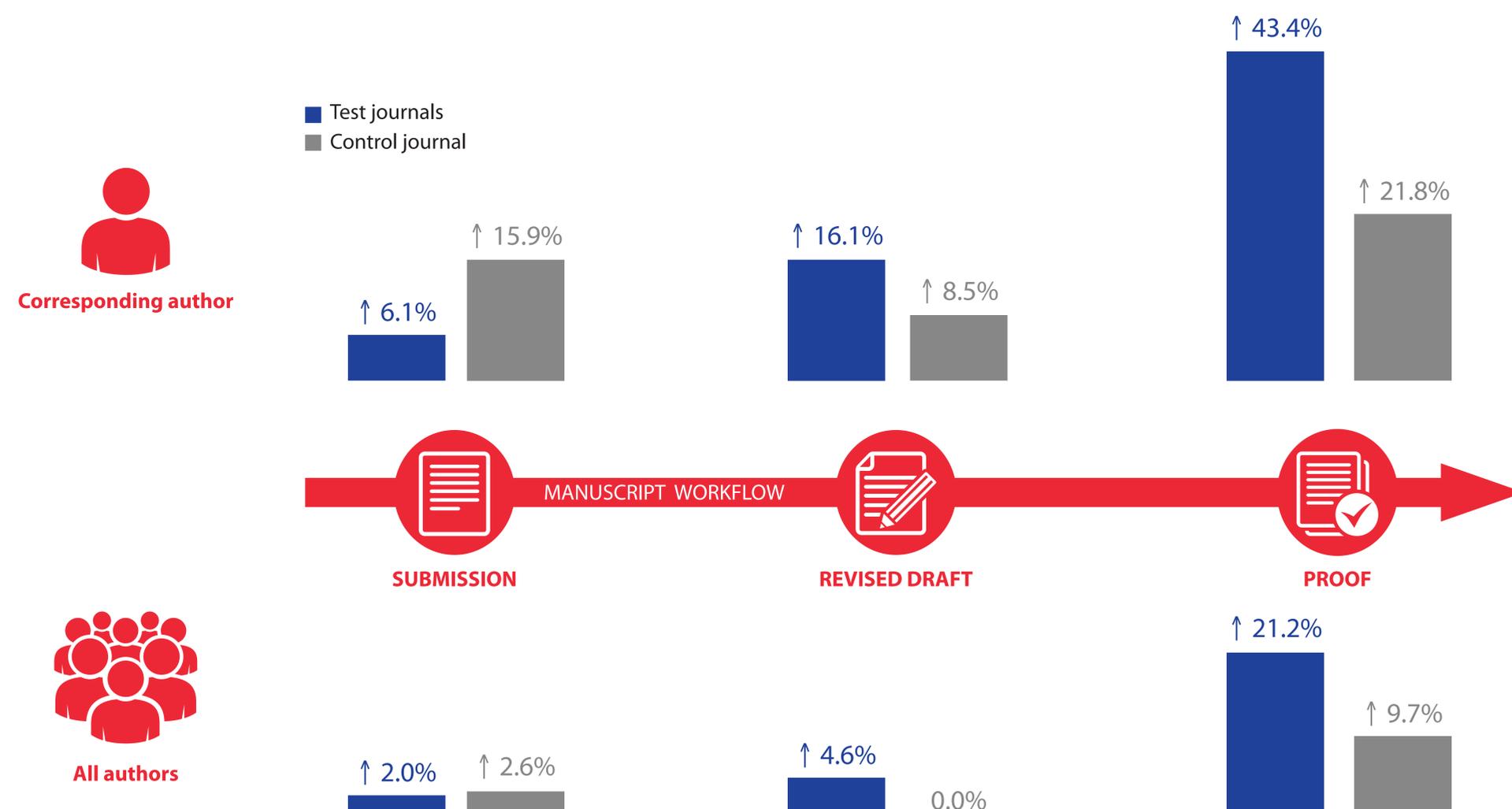
- We assessed the impact of changes to the publishing workflow on the submission of ORCID iDs across a sample of Future Science Group journals.
- The Future Science Group supports pharma-sponsored research and is a collaborator in the open science space.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF OUR RESEARCH?

- The addition of prompts throughout the publishing workflow increased the submission of ORCID iDs, particularly at the revised draft and proof stages.
- The adoption of this approach by other publishers has the potential to increase the capture of ORCID iDs further; this may help to improve transparency and trust in medical research.

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Figure 1: Percentage difference in ORCID iDs captured in the baseline groups and after implementation of additional prompts at submission, revised draft and proof stages for corresponding author and all authors.



The inclusion of an ORCID iD was assessed at baseline and after additional prompts were implemented in communications to authors about manuscripts that were at three different stages of the publishing workflow; submission (baseline, n = 697 manuscripts; after implementation of prompts, n = 784), revised draft (n = 342; n = 391) and at the proof stage (n = 248; n = 277). The blue bars represent a combined average percentage difference of ORCID iDs captured across test journals (*Future Medicinal Chemistry*, *Future Oncology* and the *Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research*). The grey bars represent the percentage difference of ORCID iDs captured for the control journal (*Future Cardiology*). For a detailed breakdown of these results, [click here](#).

REFERENCES

1. Mysore S *et al.* *Curr Med Res Opin* 2018;34 Suppl 1:S29–40.
2. Sabir S *et al.* *Curr Med Res Opin* 2020;36 Suppl 1:S23–33.

FUNDING

This study was funded by Open Pharma, a collaborative, multi-sponsor, not-for-profit project at Oxford PharmaGenesis. We are grateful to Alexion, AstraZeneca, Galapagos NV, Gilead, GSK, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Roche, Takeda, UCB Pharma and Wiley for their financial support. A significant proportion of the time contributed to this study by Future Science Group and Oxford PharmaGenesis was unpaid.

DISCLOSURES

LD (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4868-8655>) and JW (<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2580-7049>) are employees of Future Medicine Ltd, part of Future Science Group. JW is a minor shareholder of Future Medicine Ltd. SS (<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0611-6226>) and PF (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0569-9688>) are employees of Oxford PharmaGenesis Ltd, Oxford, UK. PF is a shareholder of Oxford PharmaGenesis Ltd, Oxford, UK.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the Members and Supporters of Open Pharma for their input into the discussions on ORCID, and the employees of Future Science Group and Oxford PharmaGenesis for their valued input throughout this project.



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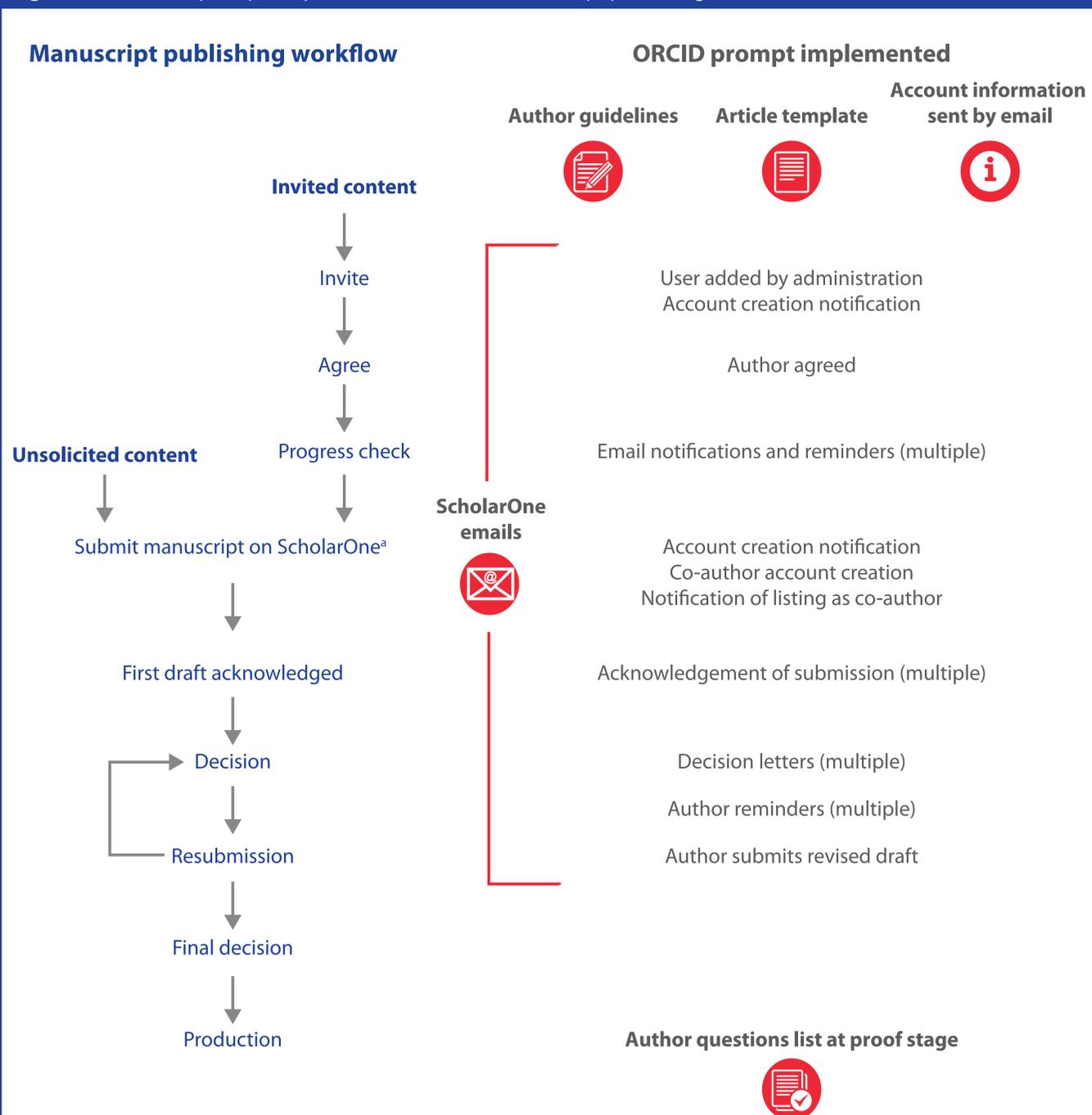
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

- The manuscript publishing workflow was assessed, and additional prompts for authors to provide an ORCID iD were implemented at various contact points for the following Future Science Group journals: *Future Medicinal Chemistry*, *Future Oncology* and the *Journal of Comparative Effectiveness Research* (**Figure 2**).
- Future Cardiology* was included as a control journal, for which changes were minimized within the constraints of the publishing workflow (see 'Strengths and limitations' section).
- Collection of ORCID iDs (at submission, revised draft and proof stages) was assessed at baseline (01/01/2020–30/04/2020) and after the implementation of additional prompts (01/05/2020–31/08/2020).

RESULTS

- For test journal manuscripts at submission, ORCID iDs captured from corresponding authors and all authors was 6.1% and 2.0% higher than in the baseline groups, respectively (15.9% and 2.6% for the control journal).
- For manuscripts at revised draft following incorporation of peer review comments, the number of ORCID iDs captured from corresponding authors was 16.1% higher than in the baseline group (8.5% for the control journal).
- By proof stage, 73.5% of corresponding authors had provided an ORCID iD, compared with only 30.1% in the baseline group – an increase of 43.4% (21.8% for the control journal).
 - Similarly, 30.4% of all authors had provided an ORCID iD by the proof stage, compared with 9.2% in the baseline group – an increase of 21.2% (9.7% for the control journal).

Figure 2: Additional prompts implemented within the manuscript publishing workflow.



^aSubmitting author/agent creates an account or logs into an existing one and adds co-authors by adding new or existing accounts.

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

- One of the strengths of this study is its large data set of 16 289 authors and 2739 manuscripts across different stages of the publishing workflow.
- Constraints on the changes made to the publishing workflow might have had an impact on the results of our study.
 - No additional author prompts were applied to the submission stage of the workflow (via ScholarOne) for the control journal *Future Cardiology*.
 - However, amendments to author guidelines, article template files and prompts during the proof stage could only be implemented across all journals.
 - This may explain the increase from baseline in ORCID iDs collected for the control journal.
- The number of ORCID iDs reported for the submission stage included only those submitted via the ScholarOne submission platform.
 - Inclusion of ORCID iDs on the title page of a manuscript at submission would not have been captured until the proof stage.
 - Therefore, the number of ORCID iDs present at the submission stage may be higher than reported across all groups.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Additional author prompts will be implemented more widely across Future Science Group journals to increase the awareness of ORCID.
- Future analysis will assess the impact of additional prompts on authors affiliated with pharmaceutical companies.