

*Background:* Orthopaedic surgery has experienced increasing subspecialization with over 90% of graduating residents now pursuing fellowship training. Research productivity can vary by subspecialty with certain fields associated with higher publication rates and h-indices, reflecting a greater engagement with subspecialty-specific research. The primary objective of this study was to identify institutional publication trends in the top journal for each orthopaedic subspecialty and three general orthopaedic journals from 2020-2024. Secondary objectives included correlating these trends with National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding and observing what journals had the largest proportion of publications by the top ten authors.

*Methods:* This study employed three methods: (1) a retrospective analysis of all publications from eleven U.S.-based orthopaedic journals (eight subspecialty journals and three general journals) between 2020-2024 using Scopus database to quantify research productivity by institution; (2) a cross-sectional survey of 128 ACGME orthopaedic surgery residency programs to assess research resources including staff, manuscript preparation capabilities, and grant funding; and (3) analysis of Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research (BRIMR) data on NIH funding for 2024. Journals were selected based on Journal Impact Factor within each subspecialty.

*Results:* The top journal for each subspecialty, as well as the top three general orthopaedic journals, is listed in figure one. The Journal of Arthroplasty led the journals with the most publications over the five-year study period (N=2180). Foot and Ankle International had the fewest publications over the five-year study period (N=406). When combining all journals, Harvard University, Hospital for Special Surgery, and Thomas Jefferson University were the top-three most published institutions.

*Conclusions:* The publication trends for each orthopaedic subspecialty journal varied widely with respect to which institutions made up the top-ten publishers. The differences in research productivity by institution and subspecialty is likely associated with the investment in research infrastructure and funding by each orthopaedic department.