

Authorship practices for publications affiliated to a mid-sized pharmaceutical company

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KEY TAKEAWAY: At Ipsen, authorship practices were generally aligned with industry best practice

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT US
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Why did we do this research?

- Guidelines for publications that report company-sponsored medical research typically recommend against involving more than 10 authors.¹⁻³ In addition, institutions may have their own internal authorship policies.
- At Ipsen, a mid-sized pharmaceutical company, the aims are to:
 - involve a maximum of 10 authors
 - have one internal author per relevant function to take responsibility for the content
 - have external authors to occupy first and last authorship positions.

We assessed authorship practices for Ipsen's company-sponsored 2019 publications.

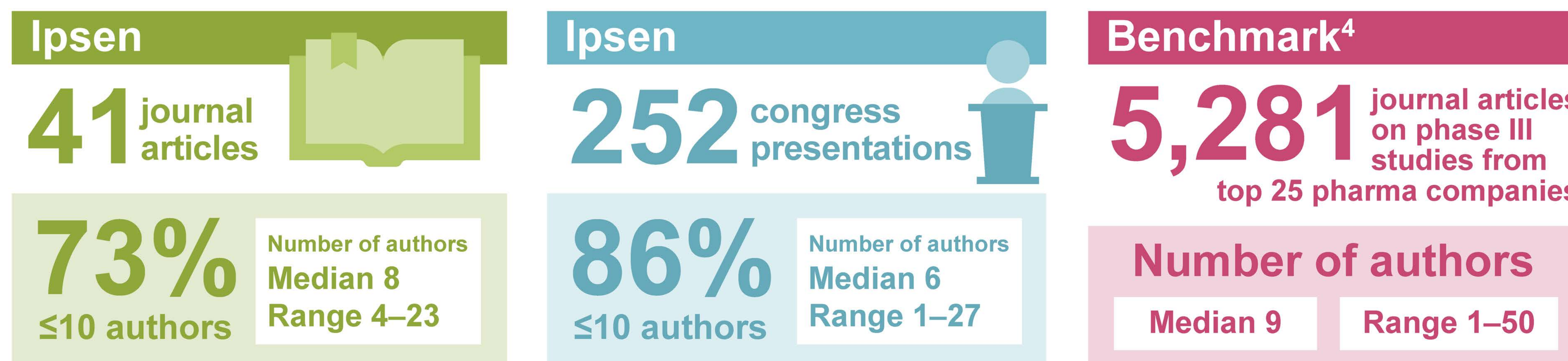
How did we do this research?

- We sourced journal articles and congress posters/presentations from company bibliographies, and extracted affiliations from PubMed or poster/presentation files.
- We included publications with at least one company author.

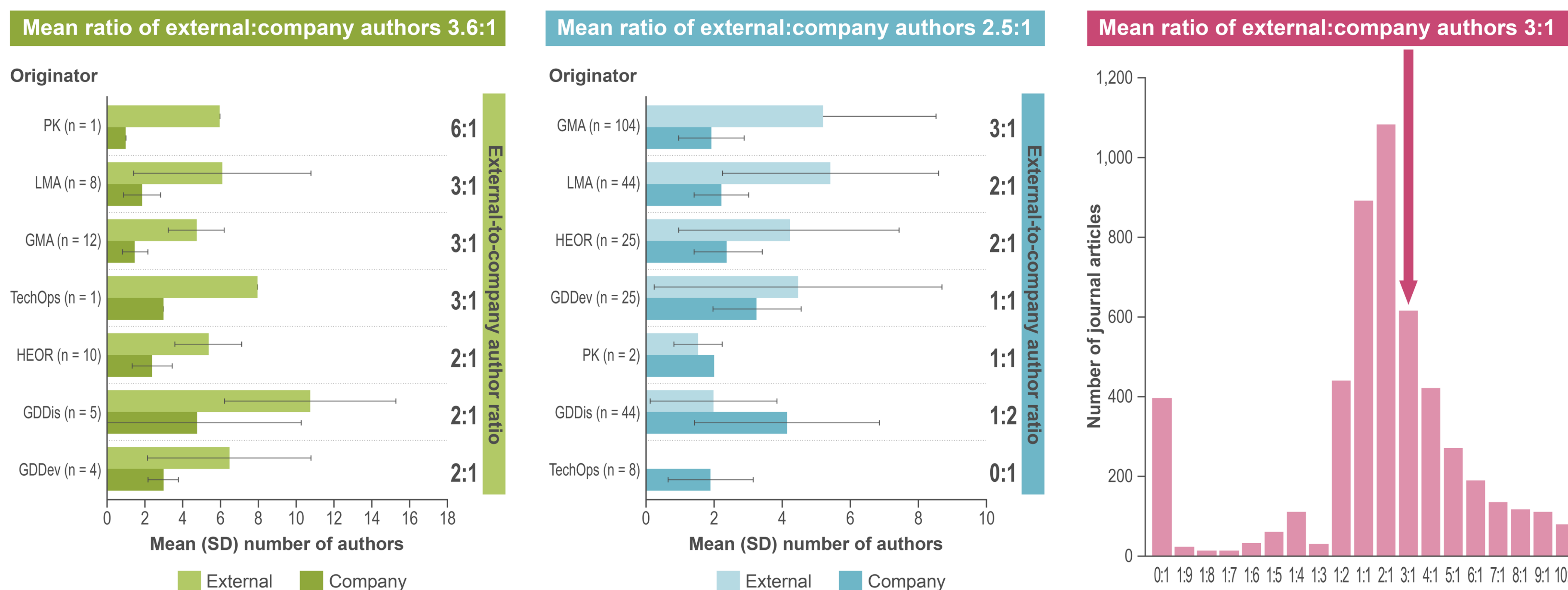
What did we find?

- The sample included 41 articles, of which 73% had ≤10 authors and 252 presentations, of which 86% had ≤10 authors (**Panel 1**).
- The mean ratios of external:company authors were 3.6:1 for articles and 2.5:1 for presentations (**Panel 2**).
- External authors were in first position on 90% of articles and 69% of presentations, and last on 80% and 52%, respectively (**Panel 3**). 39% of articles and 38% of presentations had >1 company author per function. Most publications with a company author in first/last position or >1 company author per function were from Drug Discovery.
- Journal article author metrics were generally aligned with a previous benchmark of journal articles on phase III trials with at least one author from a top 25 pharmaceutical company (**Panels 1-3**).⁴

Panel 1: Most journal articles and presentations had ≤10 authors



Panel 2: External authors outnumbered company authors by at least 2:1, unless the research was internally focused



Panel 3: External authors usually held senior positions



GDDDev, Global Drug Development; GDDis, Global Drug Discovery; GMA, Global Medical Affairs; HEOR, Health Economics and Outcomes Research; LMA, Local Medical Affairs; PK, Pharmacokinetics; SD, standard deviation; TechOps, Technical Operations.

HEAR US DISCUSSING OUR WORK



Our conclusions

- Approximately three-quarters of 2019 publications from Ipsen had ≤10 authors.
- For journal articles, author numbers, external:company author ratios, and prominence of company authors were similar to data published for other companies.⁴
- As expected, publications on internally focused research (e.g. Drug Discovery) had more internal authors or greater internal-author prominence than other publications.
- Authorship practices were generally aligned with industry best practice.

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