

Supplementary Table 1: Characteristics of rapid responses submitted to BMJ.com between 25th April 1998 and 23rd March 2018 broken down by gender. API and AIAN stand for “Asian and Pacific Islander” and “American Indian and Alaska Native” respectively. Plus-minus values are means \pm SD. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Characteristic	Male (n=70256)	Female (n=18592)	Mostly male (n=2434)	Mostly female (n=1321)	Androgynous (n=1021)	Unknown (n=19641)
Author ethnicity [number (%)]						
White	63562 (90.5)	16567 (89.1)	1635 (67.2)	1145 (86.7)	449 (44.0)	10719 (54.6)
API	4765 (6.7)	1686 (9.1)	740 (30.4)	155 (11.7)	548 (53.7)	7865 (40.0)
Hispanic	1400 (2.0)	189 (1.0)	38 (1.6)	17 (1.3)	1 (0.1)	258 (1.3)
Black	325 (0.5)	99 (0.5)	15 (0.6)	2 (0.2)	22 (2.2)	741 (3.8)
AIAN	1 (0.0)	1 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0)	0 (0.0)
Unknown	203 (0.3)	50 (0.3)	6 (0.2)	2 (0.2)	1 (0.1)	58 (0.3)
Word count	314 \pm 324	330 \pm 337	310 \pm 264	322 \pm 327	360 \pm 319	297 \pm 280
Flesch reading ease	50.0 \pm 15.9	50.4 \pm 16.1	50.3 \pm 13.6	52.0 \pm 14.3	48.2 \pm 16.9	51.1 \pm 18.0
Has references [number (%)]	25654 (36.5)	6087 (32.7)	853 (35.0)	405 (30.7)	463 (45.3)	6711 (34.2)
Number of references	1.4 \pm 3.0	1.2 \pm 3.1	1.2 \pm 2.5	1.0 \pm 2.3	2.3 \pm 4.1	1.2 \pm 2.6
Author position [number (%)]						
Consultant	11408 (16.2)	1303 (7.0)	345 (14.2)	138 (10.4)	150 (14.7)	2947 (15.0)
Professor	6570 (9.4)	1001 (5.4)	252 (10.4)	110 (8.3)	138 (13.5)	1888 (9.6)
Senior	2694 (3.8)	847 (4.6)	78 (3.2)	79 (6.0)	42 (4.1)	751 (3.8)
Student	1483 (2.1)	796 (4.3)	47 (1.9)	82 (6.2)	42 (4.1)	630 (3.2)
Other	48101 (68.5)	14645 (78.8)	1712 (70.3)	912 (69.0)	649 (63.6)	13425 (68.4)
Twitter handle present [number (%)]	1118 (1.6)	345 (1.9)	50 (2.1)	23 (1.7)	22 (2.2)	310 (1.6)
US spelling and grammar errors	27.1 \pm 47.0	27.7 \pm 44.9	26.3 \pm 25.8	25.9 \pm 37.9	32.8 \pm 42.7	25.7 \pm 35.8
UK spelling and grammar errors	8.9 \pm 17.6	9.2 \pm 20.1	9.0 \pm 20.2	9.7 \pm 15.4	8.0 \pm 15.8	8.7 \pm 17.2
Multiple authors [number (%)]	10436 (14.9)	4386 (23.6)	401 (16.5)	227 (17.2)	299 (29.3)	3507 (17.9)
Competing interests declared [number (%)]	3902 (5.6)	1011 (5.4)	99 (4.1)	55 (4.2)	88 (8.6)	1029 (5.2)

Supplementary Table 2: Characteristics of rapid responses submitted to BMJ.com between 25th April 1998 and 23rd March 2018 broken down by ethnicity. API and AIAN stand for “Asian and Pacific Islander” and “American Indian and Alaska Native” respectively. Plus-minus values are means \pm SD. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Characteristic	White (n=94077)	API (n=15759)	Hispanic (n=1903)	Black (n=1203)	AIAN (n=2)	Unknown (n=320)
Author gender [number (%)]						
Male	63562 (67.6)	4765 (30.2)	1400 (73.6)	325 (27.0)	1 (50)	203 (63.4)
Female	16567 (17.6)	1686 (10.7)	189 (9.9)	99 (8.2)	1 (50)	50 (15.6)
Mostly male	1635 (1.7)	740 (4.7)	38 (2.0)	15(1.2)	0	6 (1.9)
Mostly female	1145 (1.2)	155 (1.0)	17 (0.9)	2 (0.2)	0	2 (0.6)
Androgynous	449 (0.5)	548 (3.5)	1 (0.1)	22 (1.8)	0	1 (0.3)
Unknown	10719 (11.4)	7865 (49.9)	258 (13.6)	741 (61.5)	0	58 (18.1)
Word count	318 \pm 328	295 \pm 259	317 \pm 267	316 \pm 279	157 \pm 2	310 \pm 247
Flesch reading ease	50.3 \pm 16.4	50.7 \pm 15.7	49.7 \pm 14.4	47.7 \pm 16.7	18.4 \pm 4.5	47.2 \pm 15.6
Has references [number (%)]	32887 (35.0)	5990 (38.0)	769 (40.4)	391 (32.5)	0 (0)	136 (42.5)
Number of references	1.3 \pm 3.0	1.4 \pm 2.7	1.6 \pm 2.8	1.2 \pm 2.8	0.0 \pm 0.0	1.7 \pm 2.9
Author position [number (%)]						
Consultant	13662 (14.5)	2276 (14.4)	82 (4.3)	222 (18.5)	0 (0.0)	49 (15.3)
Professor	7821 (8.3)	1715 (10.9)	280 (14.7)	114 (9.5)	0 (0.0)	29 (9.1)
Senior	3691 (3.9)	707 (4.5)	37 (1.9)	50 (4.2)	0 (0.0)	6 (1.9)
Student	2231 (2.4)	727 (4.6)	69 (3.6)	37 (3.1)	0 (0.0)	16 (5.0)
Other	66672 (70.9)	10334 (65.6)	1435 (75.4)	781 (64.9)	2 (100)	220 (68.8)
Twitter handle present [number (%)]	1547 (1.6)	283 (1.8)	27 (1.4)	11 (0.9)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
US spelling and grammar errors	27.2 \pm 46.2	25.5 \pm 35.7	29.7 \pm 34.6	26.3 \pm 32.1	13.0 \pm 4.2	25.5 \pm 29.3
UK spelling and grammar errors	9.1 \pm 18.3	7.7 \pm 17.5	7.9 \pm 11.7	9.5 \pm 15.2	7.0 \pm 9.9	5.9 \pm 11.2
Multiple authors [number (%)]	14580 (15.5)	3865 (24.5)	531 (27.9)	207 (17.2)	0 (0)	73 (22.8)
Competing interests declared [number (%)]	5047 (5.4)	939 (6.0)	82 (4.3)	37 (3.1)	0 (0)	79 (24.7)