



Assessing Medical Student Publication Trends over a Five-Year Period

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Introduction

This project sought to find out how many students published during their time in medical school, where they published, and if they were more likely to publish in their pre-clinical or clinical terms.

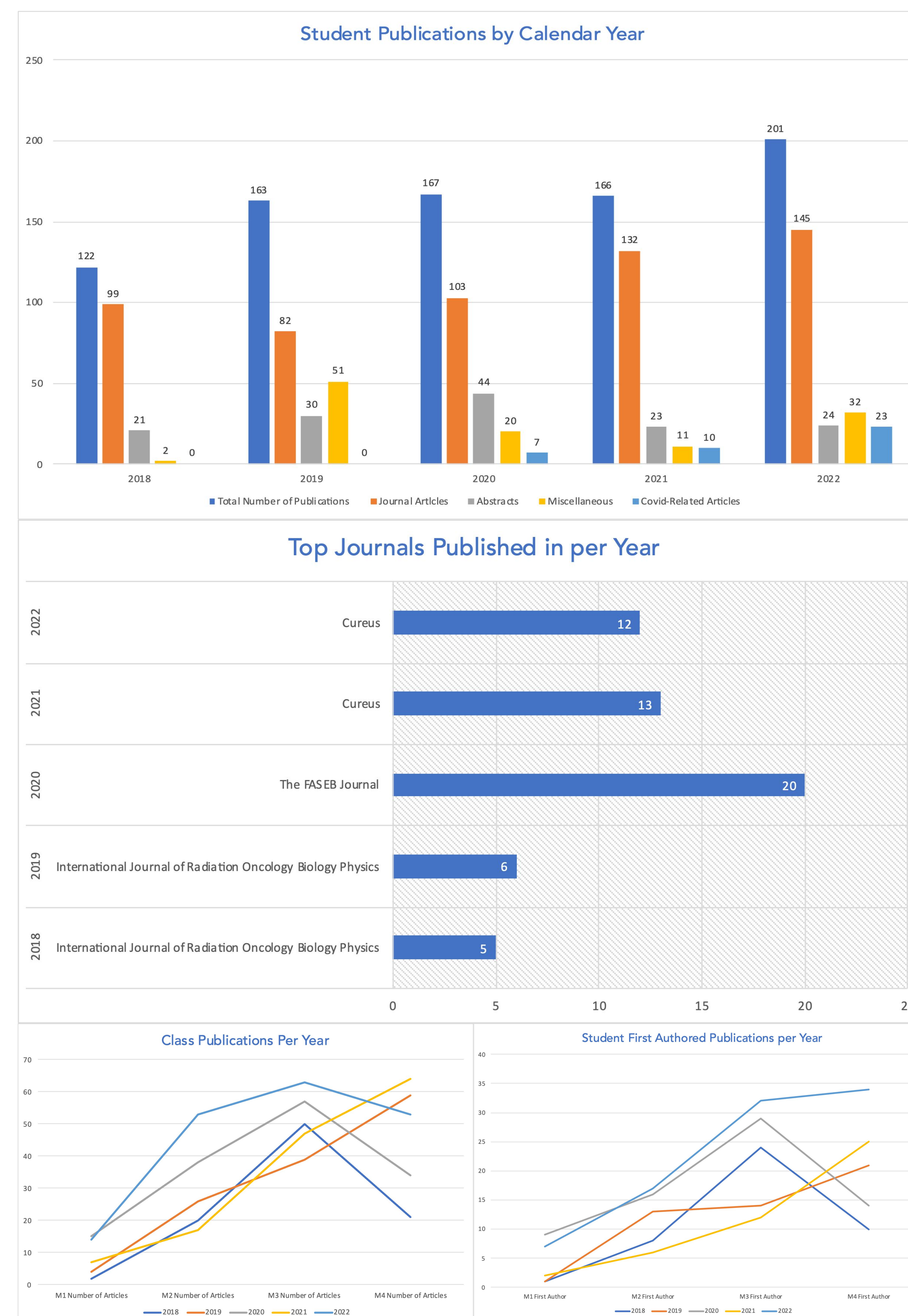
Methods

Data was analyzed from five years' worth of Publication Reports, 2018 -2022, compiled by the Medical Library and included only those publications affiliated with OUWB. Reports contained all citations found from indexed databases over the course of a calendar year. Only those citations with a student author were included. Citations were analyzed using Microsoft Excel to discern how many publications each graduating year had for the given time period, how many first-author publications students published, and the impact factor of journals.

Results

In five years, students published a total of 819 articles with an average of 164 each year. Students publish in journals with high impact factors. Third-year students have the highest rate of publication though fourth-year students publish more in certain years. Some years are “superstar” driven – meaning that there are 2-3 students who publish significantly more than others, driving numbers up. First year students are the most likely to collaborate in large groups for projects. Third- and fourth-year students have similar rates of first-authored publications.

Data Visualized



Conclusions

Using this information, Medical Librarians and Faculty can offer insight into where students might be interested in publishing, who they might collaborate with, and when they can expect to have the most success publishing their work. This data also tells us that students in their third and fourth year, who are entering and continuing their clinical work, are likely writing and publishing about what they are seeing in a clinical setting, which could be further analyzed in order to give students insight into what they might keep an eye out for once they've reached that level of their education.

Discussion

This data could be expanded and included in larger studies involving multiple institutions. Open access publishing is also an area ripe for study, with many of the student publications within this study being published using OA. Subject areas could also be extrapolated from this data to see what types of topics students are researching and writing about, what is trending, and what could be forthcoming as a hot publishing topic.

References

2022 Journal Impact Factor, Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate, 2023)