

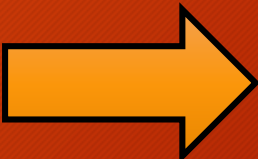
Order of Authorship in Medical Education: Faculty Attitudes and Practices

Brian E. Mavis PhD, Michigan State University

Steven J. Durning MD PhD, Uniformed Services University

Sebastian HJ. Uijtdehaage PhD, Uniformed Services University

Introduction

- Collaboration = Questions of authorship order
 - Authorship and author order proxy for:
 - Research team leadership
 - Collaboration
 - Scholarly productivity
 - Seniority
 - Competence
 - Expertise
- 
- Promotion
 - Tenure
 - Salary
 - Resources
 - Hiring

The Current Situation

- We come from various disciplines
- Authorship practices by disciplines and seem inconsistent
- No guidelines exist for medical education researchers regarding authorship order
- The Question: How do medical education approach authorship decisions?

Study Purpose

- Describe considerations commonly applied to author order decisions
- Describe considerations that should be applied to author order decisions
- Describe faculty opinions about how author order decisions are reached
- Discover the extent to which faculty encounter questionable practices related to authorship

Methods

- Web-based survey: anonymous
- Initial e-mail and three follow-up reminders
- Bounced email addresses removed
- IRB Approval at Michigan State University

Questionnaire

1. Current Practices and Suggested Practices
2. Attitudes About Authorship Order
3. Personal Experiences in Past Two Years
4. Demographic Information

Sample

- DR-ED Listserv Subscriptions (N=2572)
 - All non-US based email addresses: 175
 - 10% random sample of US addresses: 216

Response Rate

- 391 initial sample
- 54 undeliverable e-mails
- 337 valid e-mail addresses
- 141 opened the questionnaire
- 109 completed the questionnaire

$$\frac{109}{337} = 32.3\%$$

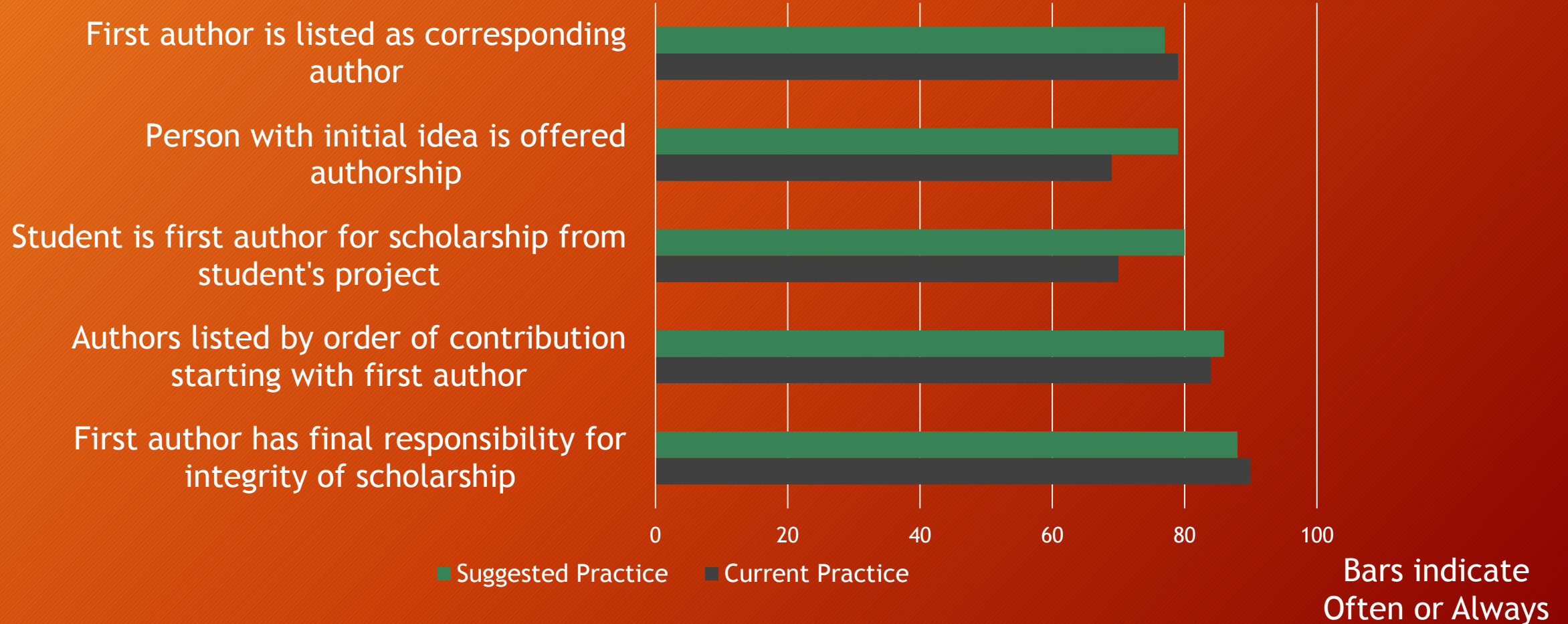
Respondents

- Gender: 51% Women
- Experience: Mean=19 years (SD=11.13)
- Academic rank: 16% Assistant professor
33% Associate Professor
31% Professor

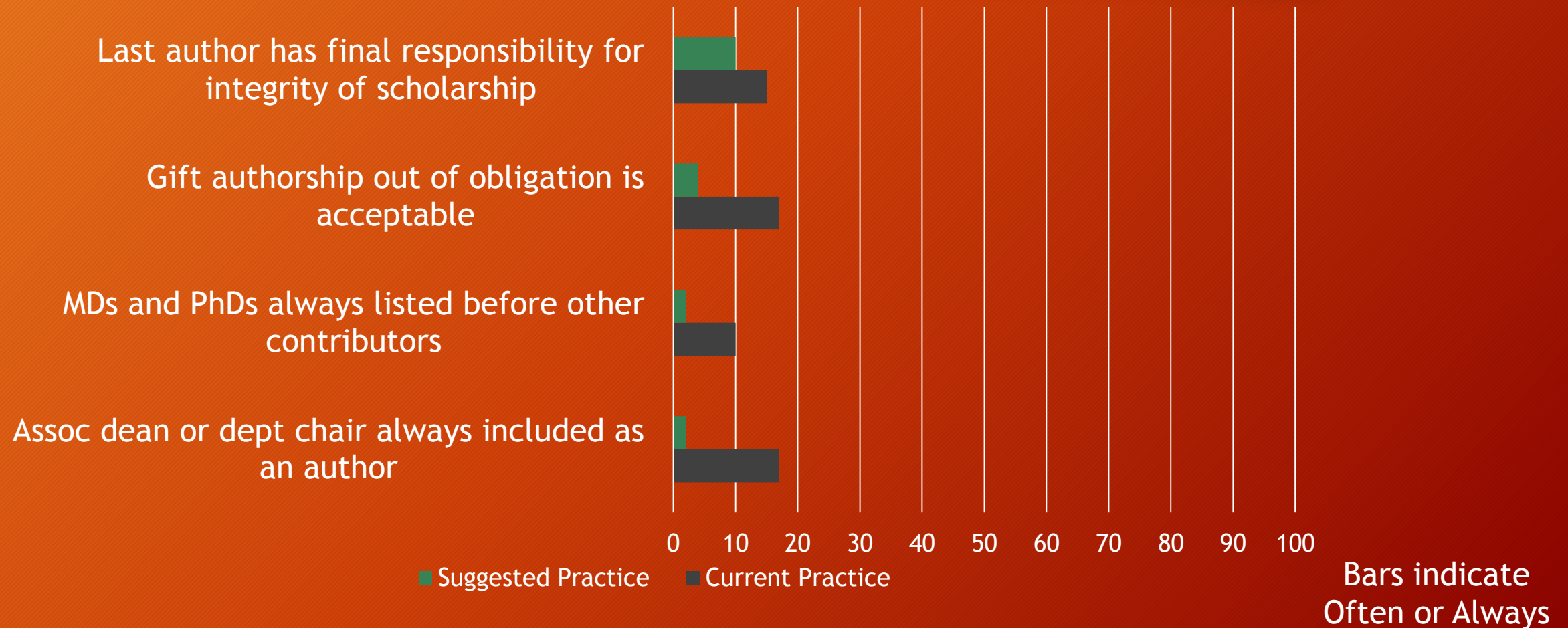
Respondents

- Highest degree: 57% PhD
44% MD/DO
44% Masters
- Degree Field: 38% Clinical Sciences
24% Social Sciences
11% Basic Sciences
3% Humanities
25% Other

We Agree That We Should...



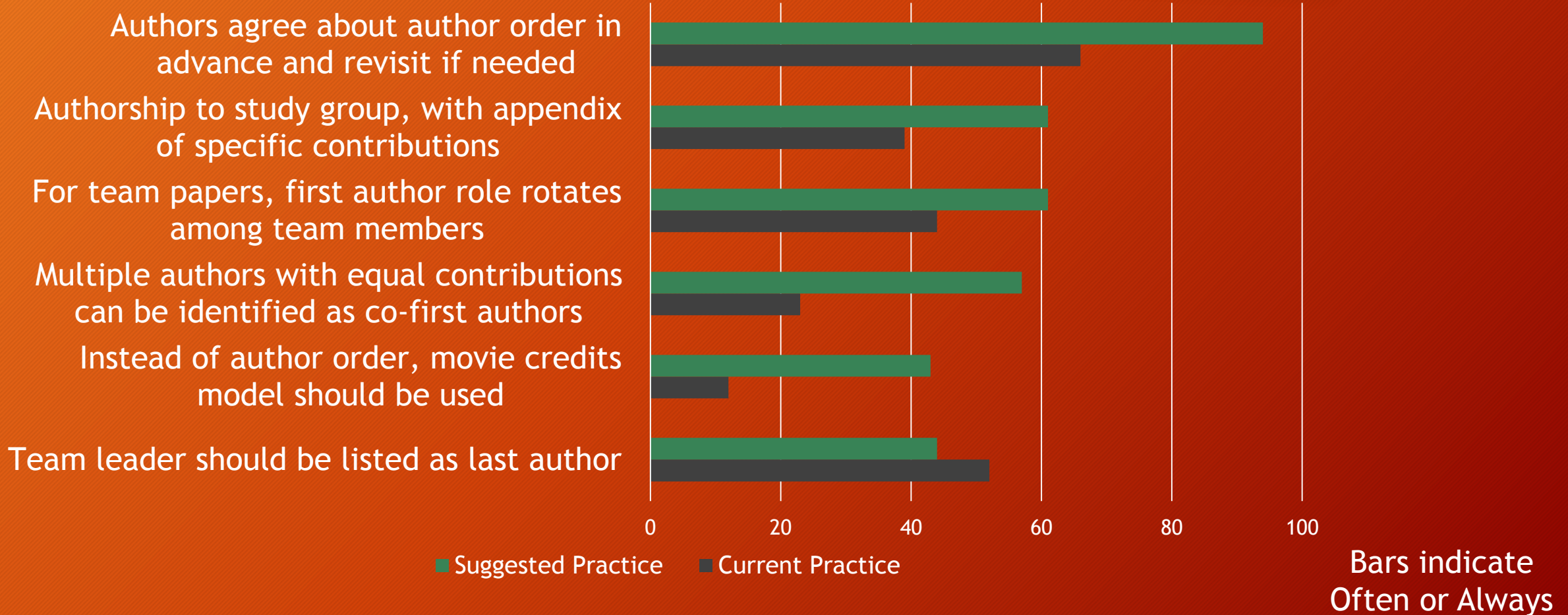
We Agree That We Should Not...



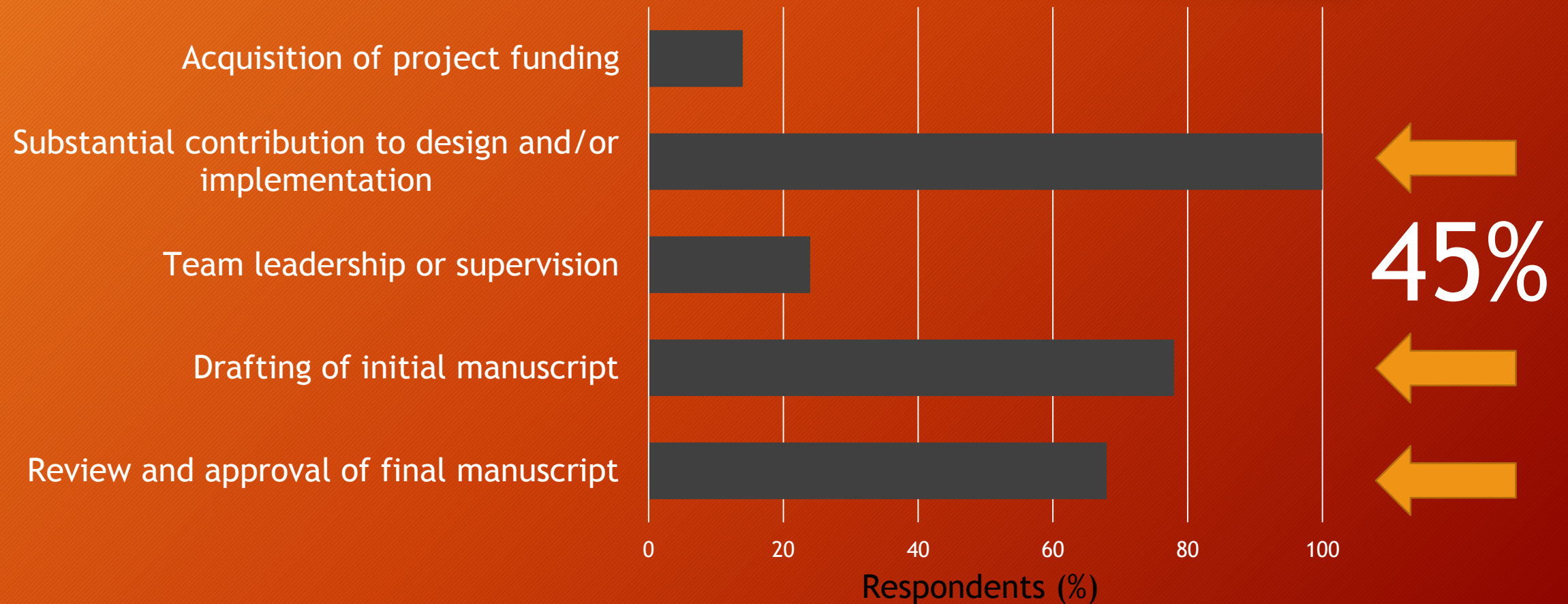
We Agree That We Should Not...



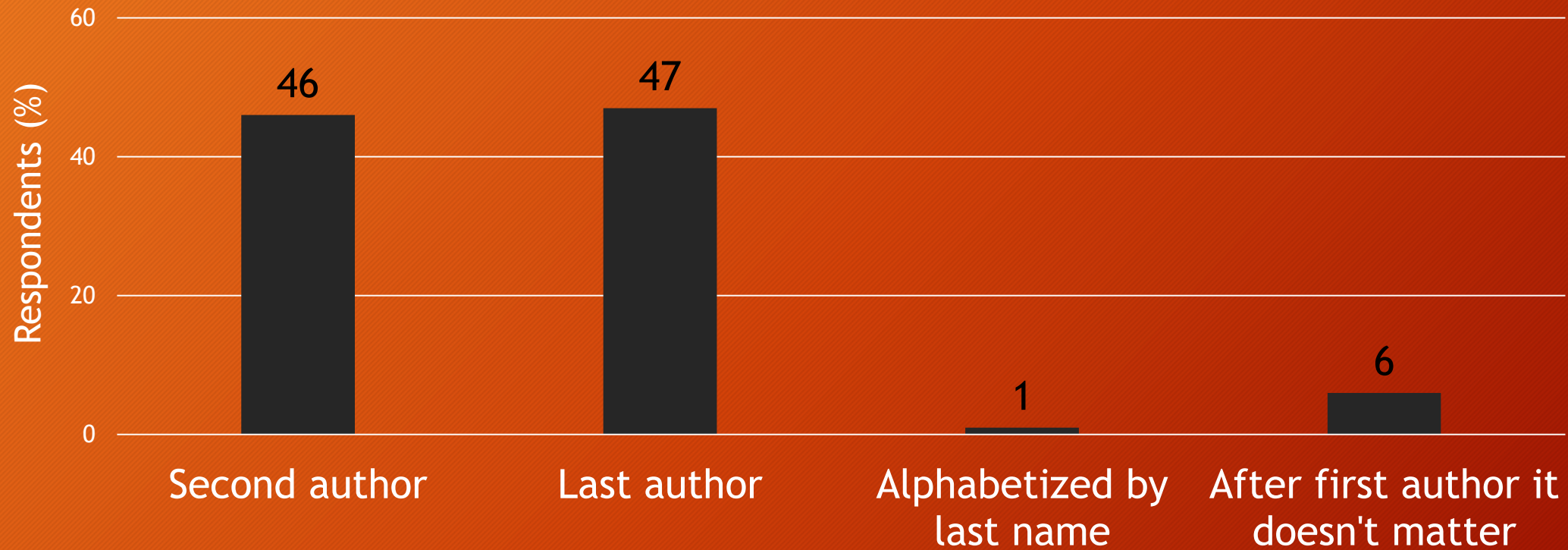
Where We Disagree...



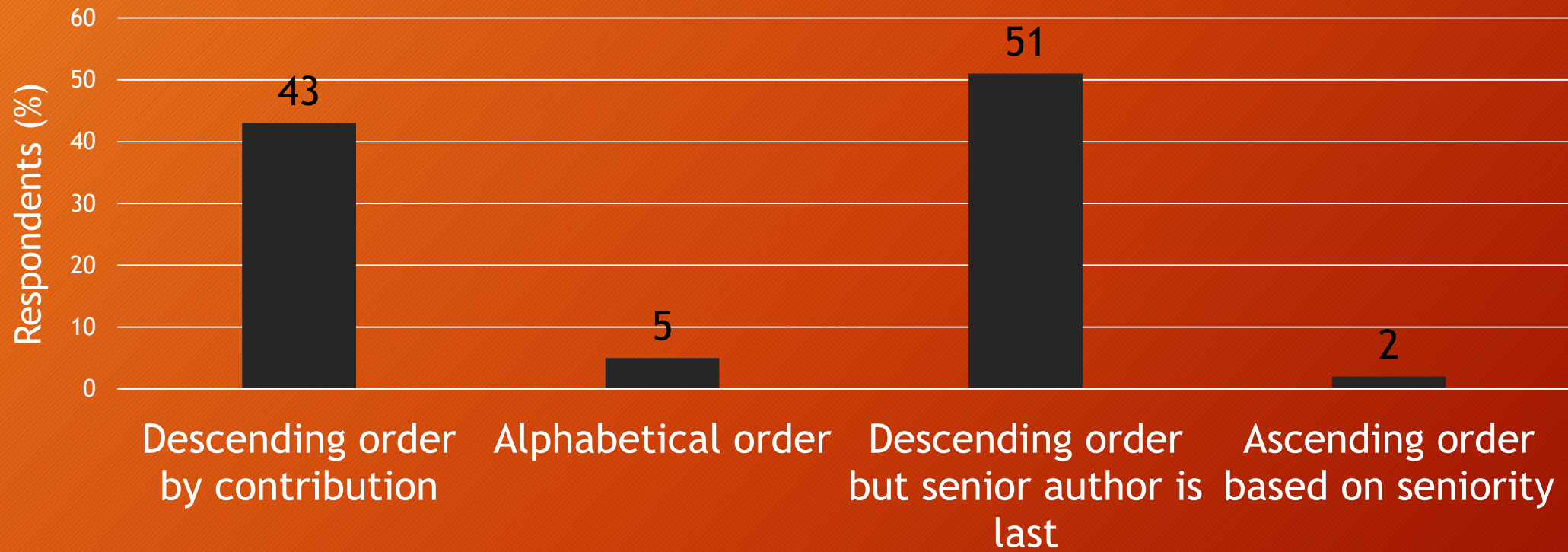
International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) Criteria



When authorship order is based on contribution, after first author the next best place is...



When authorship order is based on relative contribution, after first author the best approach is...



In the past two years...



Conclusions

- Factors other than scholarly contribution often play a role in how authorship order is determined
- There is a gap between what might be considered ideal practice and what is current practice
- Some dimensions of this discussion remain unresolved
- Some starting points evident to develop best practices in determining what merits authorship and order of authors

The End



"That's all Folks!"