

The Importance of Sharing Null Results in Research

Enhancing transparency and progress in scientific studies

Becs Kirk, Munin Conference 2025

The File Drawer Problem—Why Null Results Matter

Definition of File Drawer Problem

Selective publication hides studies with null or negative results, skewing scientific literature.

Impact on Research Integrity

Publication bias inflates perceived efficacy and misleads meta-analyses, undermining scientific accuracy

Importance of Sharing Null Results

Disseminating all outcomes promotes transparency, prevents redundant research, and fosters progress

Consequences of Publication Bias

Distorted Research Landscape

Selective reporting of positive results distorts the scientific literature and skews overall understanding.

Exaggerated Effect Sizes

Meta-analyses based on biased literature may overstate intervention effects and mislead stakeholders.

Wasted Research Resources

Ignoring null results leads to repeated studies and inefficient use of time and funding.

Impacted Scientific Progress

Incomplete reporting hinders innovation by masking the true scope of scientific inquiry.

How Publishers Can Help

Acceptance of Null Results

Journals accepting negative, null, or replication studies help reduce publication bias and broaden scientific knowledge.

Registered Reports Model

Peer review at study design stage ensures publication commitment regardless of study outcome, emphasizing rigor.

Transparent Editorial Processes

Open editorial workflows and recognition of all research stages promote transparency and reduce stigma around null findings.

Fostering Scientific Inclusivity

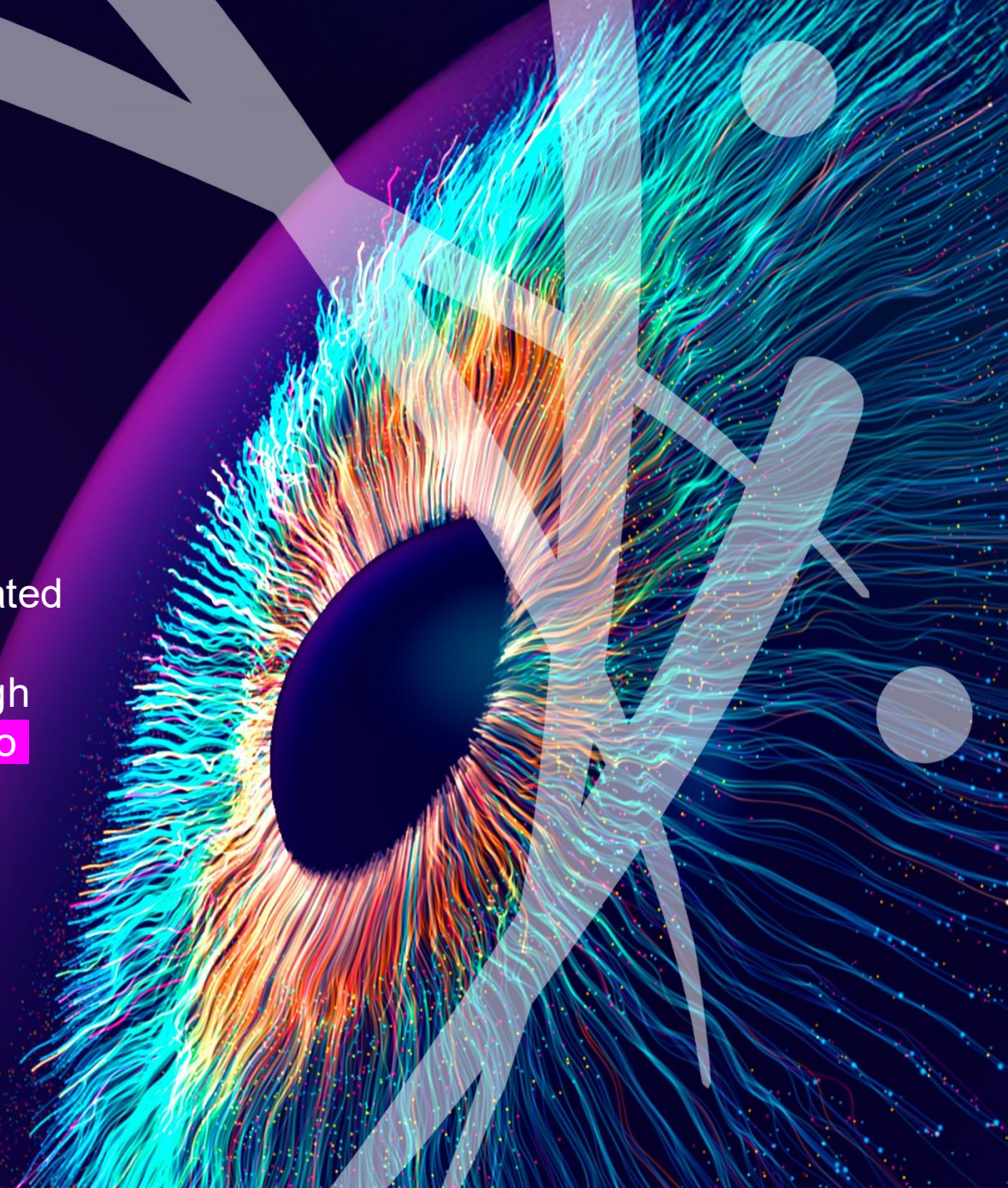
Publisher measures encourage inclusive, accurate scientific records and reinforce the value of all research contributions.



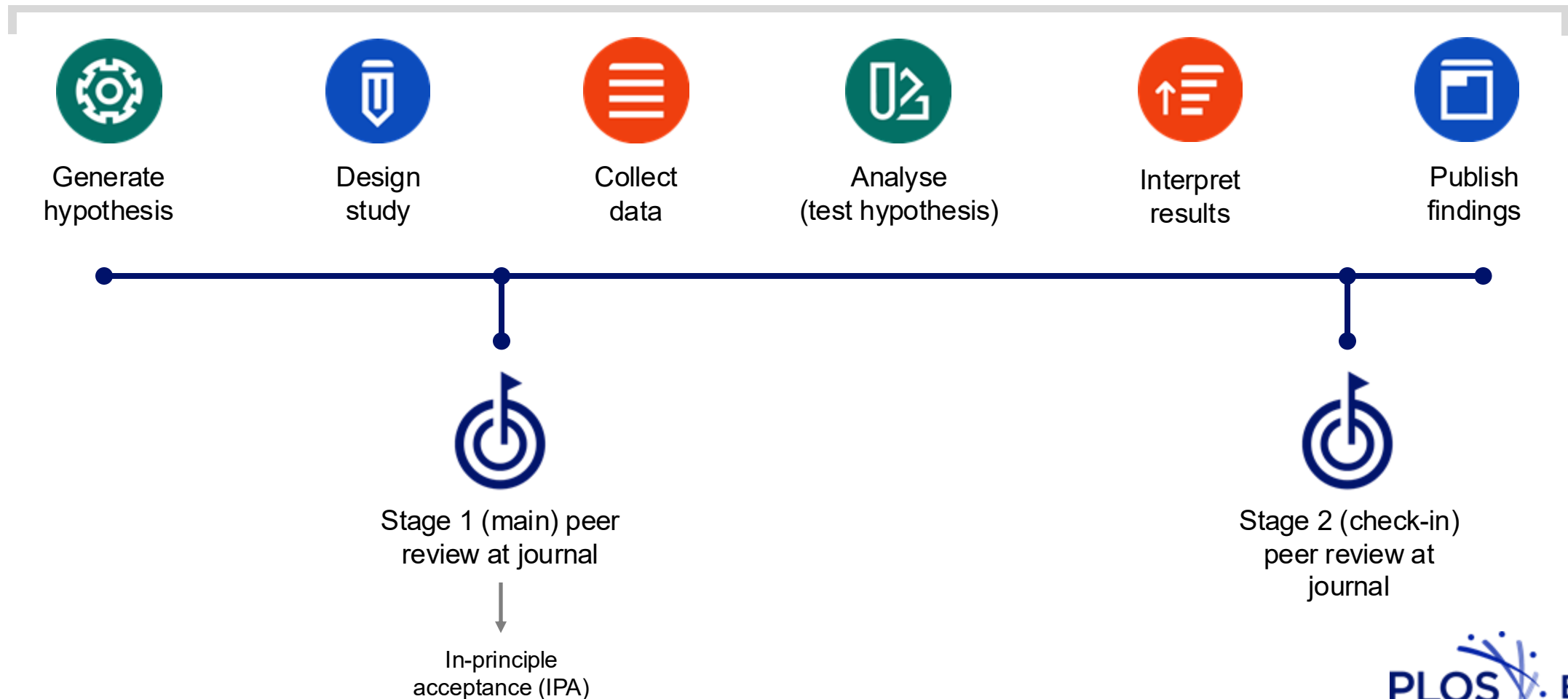
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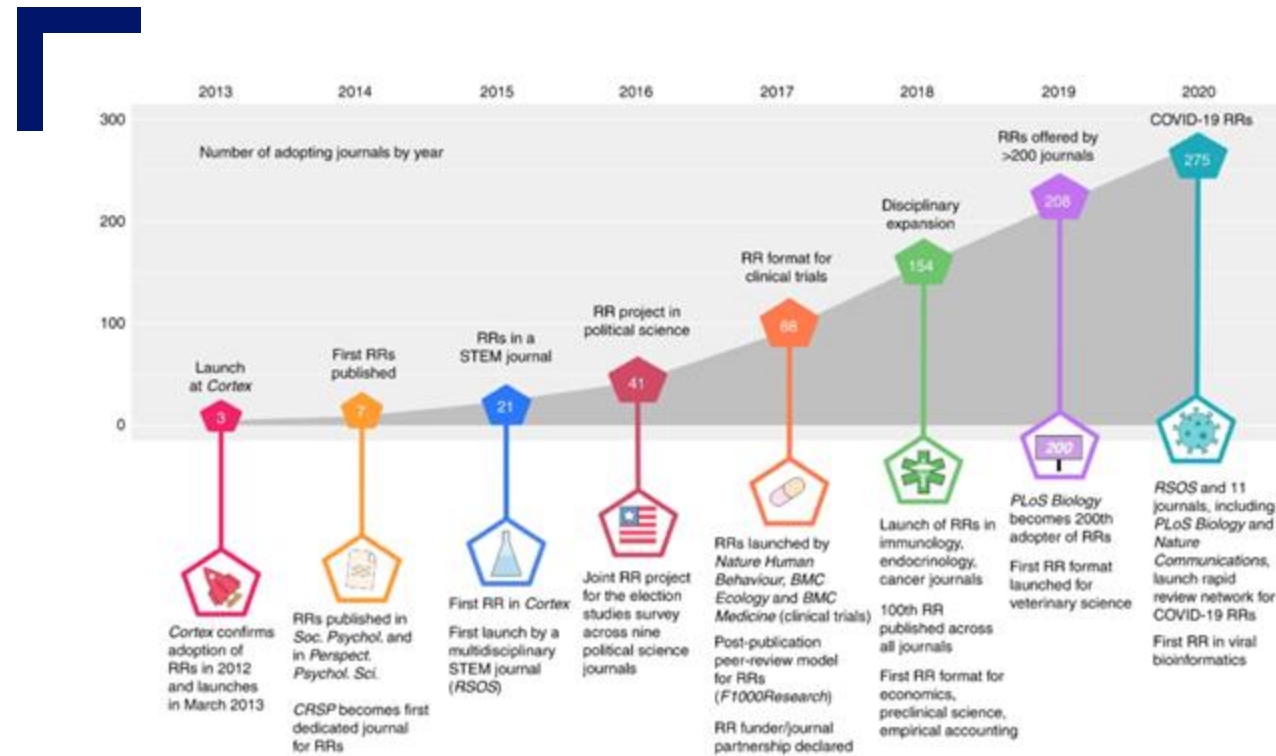
We encourage inter- and multidisciplinary studies, and accept a range of submissions from primary research to protocols and systematic reviews, **including research with negative or null results.**



Pre-registration: what are registered reports?



Journal adoption of the RR format



Chambers & Tzavella, *Nat Hum Behav* 6, 29–42 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-021-01193-7>

Making research open

Our tools and processes help to implement open science practices more easily and effectively across all stages of research sharing.

1

Open study design

We highly encourage authors to share or register the plan for their study as early as possible in the research process

2

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3

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