Appendix S3: Forest plots of stated reasons for nonpublication of studies

Notes: The number of unpublished studies was used as the denominator to calculate the proportion of non-submission and specific reasons for non-publication for each included survey report. For estimating 95% confidence intervals, heterogeneity testing and meta-regression analyses, proportions of reasons were transformed to normally distributed values using the Freeman-Tukey transformation methods. Then the Freeman-Tukey transformed proportions were transformed back to usual proportions for the forest plots.

A3.1 – Proportion of non-submission in un-published studies

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=211.37$, df=29; ($P<0.001$); $I^2=86.3\%$ (95% CI 81.5%, 89.8%)
A3.2 – Study incomplete or still ongoing

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2 = 146.1$, df=17; (P<0.001); $I^2 = 88.4\%$ (95% CI 83.1%, 92.0%)
A3.3 – Manuscript in preparation or under review

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2 = 186.8$, df=21; (P<0.001); $I^2=88.8\%$ (95% CI 84.3%, 91.9%)
A3.4 – Study not for publication (e.g., feasibility or pilot trials)

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2 = 52.3$, df=8; (P<0.001); $I^2 = 84.7\%$ (95% CI 72.7%, 91.4%)
A3.5 – Similar findings published by others

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2 = 15.0$, df=9; (P<0.091); $I^2 = 40.0\%$ (95% CI 0.0%, 71.4%)
A3.6 – Submission rejected by journal

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2 = 105.1$, df=24; (P<0.001); $I^2 = 77.2\%$ (95% CI 66.7%, 84.4%)
A3.7 – Fear of being rejected

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=28.2$, df=8; (P<0.001); $I^2=71.7\%$ (95% CI 44.2%, 85.6%)
A3.8 – Lack of time or low priority

Heterogeneity test result: \( \chi^2 = 232.7 \), df=31; (P<0.001); \( I^2 = 86.7\% \) (95% CI 82.3%, 90.0%)
A3. 9 – Not important or negative results

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2 = 183.8$, df=18; (P<0.001); $I^2=90.2\%$ (95% CI 86.2%, 93.1%)
A3.10 – Poor study quality or methodology

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=92.8$, df=15; (P<0.001); $I^2=83.8\%$ (95% CI 75.1%, 89.5%)
A3.11 – Sponsor or funder problem

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2 = 12.7$, df=3; (P=0.005); $I^2 = 76.4\%$ (95% CI 35.3%, 91.4%)
A3.12 – Author/co-author problem

Heterogeneity test result: $\chi^2=64.7$, df=13; (P<0.001); $I^2=79.9\%$ (95% CI 67.1%, 87.7%)