

## Supplemental Appendix 1. Methods for supplemental data analyses.

### Publishing Metrics

Data on publishing metrics was obtained from Scimago Journal and Country Rank available at <https://www.scimagojr.com/>. Statistical analysis was performed with WINPEPI (PEPI-for-Windows) version 11.65.<sup>42</sup> Publication trends were assessed using a two-tailed Mann-Kendall trend (or test) to statistically assess if there is a monotonic upward (or downward) trend of the variable of interest over time. A monotonic upward (downward) trend means that the variable consistently increases (decreases) through time, but the trend may or may not be linear. The Mann-Kendall test is a non-parametric (distribution-free) test that can be used in place of a parametric linear regression analysis.

### Gross Domestic Product and International Research Collaboration

Data on gross domestic product (GDP) and international research collaboration (IRC) was obtained from The World Bank Databank: Iran, available at <https://data.worldbank.org/country/iran-islamic-rep?view=chart>. Statistical analysis was performed with IBM SPSS® Statistics (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA). The relationship between GDP and IRC was investigated using the Pearson correlation coefficient, a measure of the strength of the linear relationship between two variables.