Enabling a healthy start for vulnerable newborns

As co-leads of the new international Perinatal Outcomes in the Pandemic (iPOP) Consortium, we are delighted that the Lancet Small Vulnerable Newborn Series1 to improve data quality, challenge these misconceptions, and support research transparency. SJS, MB, HZ, DBP, and MBA are co-leads of iPOP. SJS reports grants from the Wellcome Trust and Health Data Research UK. HZ reports grants from AbbVie Australia, unrelated to this Correspondence. AS reports grants from Health Data Research UK. All other authors declare no competing interests.

*Sarah J Stock, Meredith Brockway, Helga Zoega, Jasper V Been, Aziz Sheikh, Zulfiquar A Bhutta, David P Burgner, Meghan B Azad sarah.stock@ed.ac.uk
University of Edinburgh Usher Institute, Edinburgh EH16 4UX, UK (SJS, AS); Children’s Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, Departments of Pediatrics and Child Health & Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada (MB, MBA); Centre for Big Data Research in Health, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia (HZ); Centre of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, University of Iceland, Iceland (HZ); Division of Neonatology, Department of Paediatrics, Erasmus MC-Sophia Children’s Hospital, University Medical Centre Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands (JVB); Centre for Global Child Health, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON, Canada (ZAB); Institute for Global Health and Development, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan (ZAB); Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, Royal Children’s Hospital, Parkville, VIC, Australia (DBP); and Department of Paediatrics, University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC, Australia (DBP)


It appears that since January, 2020, after Ulug and Powell’s results were made available on ClinicalTrials.gov, ClinicalTrials.gov has made specific material available on reporting units other than participants, which might be helpful to the authors. Additionally, ClinicalTrials.gov provides a free-text section on limitations and caveats, in which irregularities and additional context can be added to results for review and interpretation by users. The authors might now be able to further update their results and provide a more complete account of their trial. However, we believe that edge cases such as these are unlikely to explain the high rates of non-compliance reported in our analysis,4 and would probably not be viewed as a valid reason for not reporting if any enforcement action is taken against a non-compliant sponsor under the law.

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*Nicholas J DeVito, Ben Goldacre nicholas.devito@phc.ox.ac.uk
Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford, Oxford OX2 6GG, UK
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