



COMPARISON OF DISCOURSE SURROUNDING CRISPR/CAS9 IN THE MEDIA AND PEER-REVIEWED LITERATURE

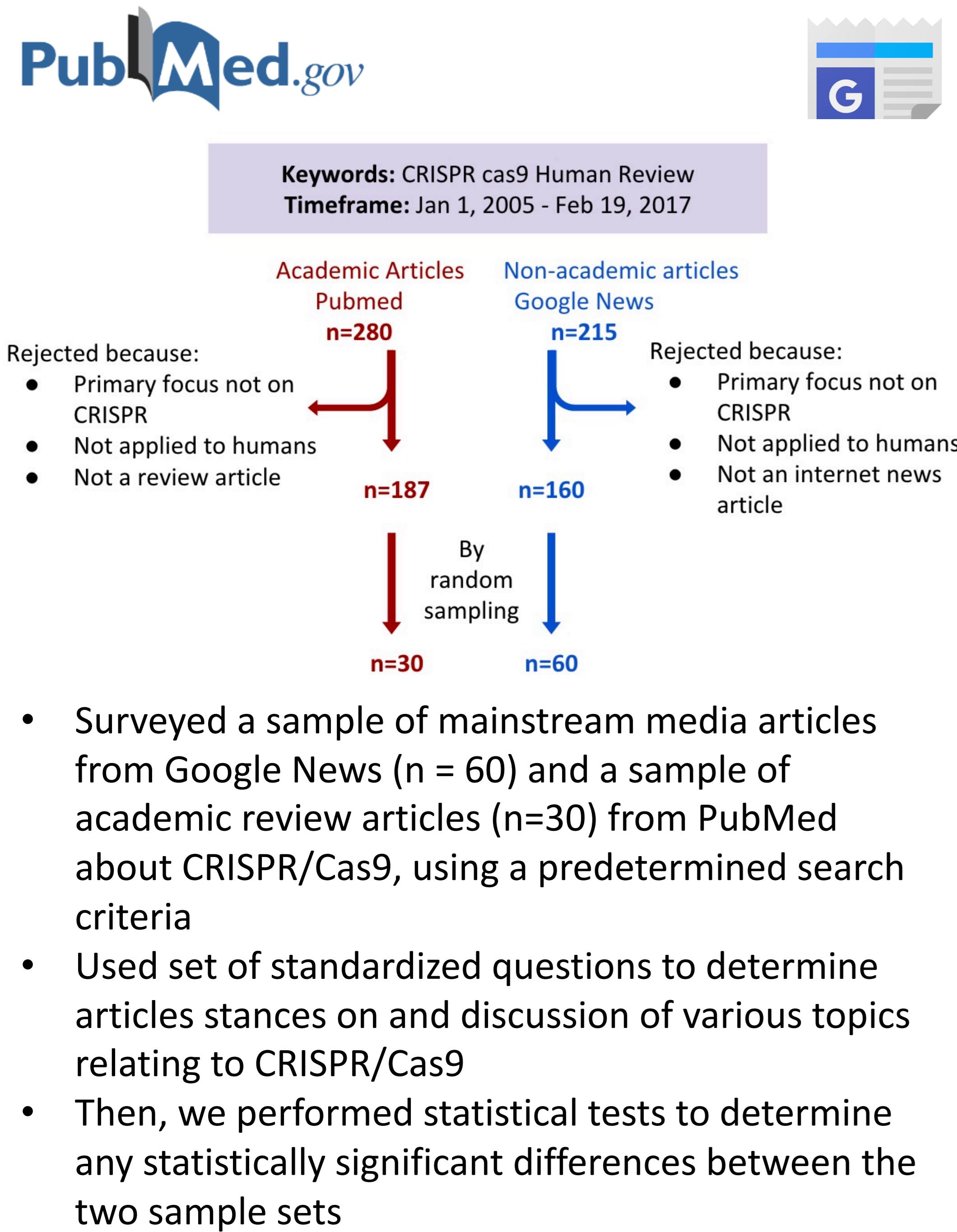


Dexter Everett, Alisa Liu, Jenny Pan
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada
dexter.everett@alumni.ubc.ca, alisaliu@alumni.ubc.ca, jpan10@alumni.ubc.ca

INTRODUCTION

- In 2012, scientists discovered that CRISPR/Cas9 could be used as a gene editing technique that is much cheaper and more efficient compared to other techniques like ZFN and TALEN
- Because of CRISPR/Cas9's potential to revolutionize genetics research and affect society at large, it is of utmost importance that there is transparency between experts and the public
- How does the portrayal of CRISPR/Cas9 compare between mainstream news media and academic review articles?**

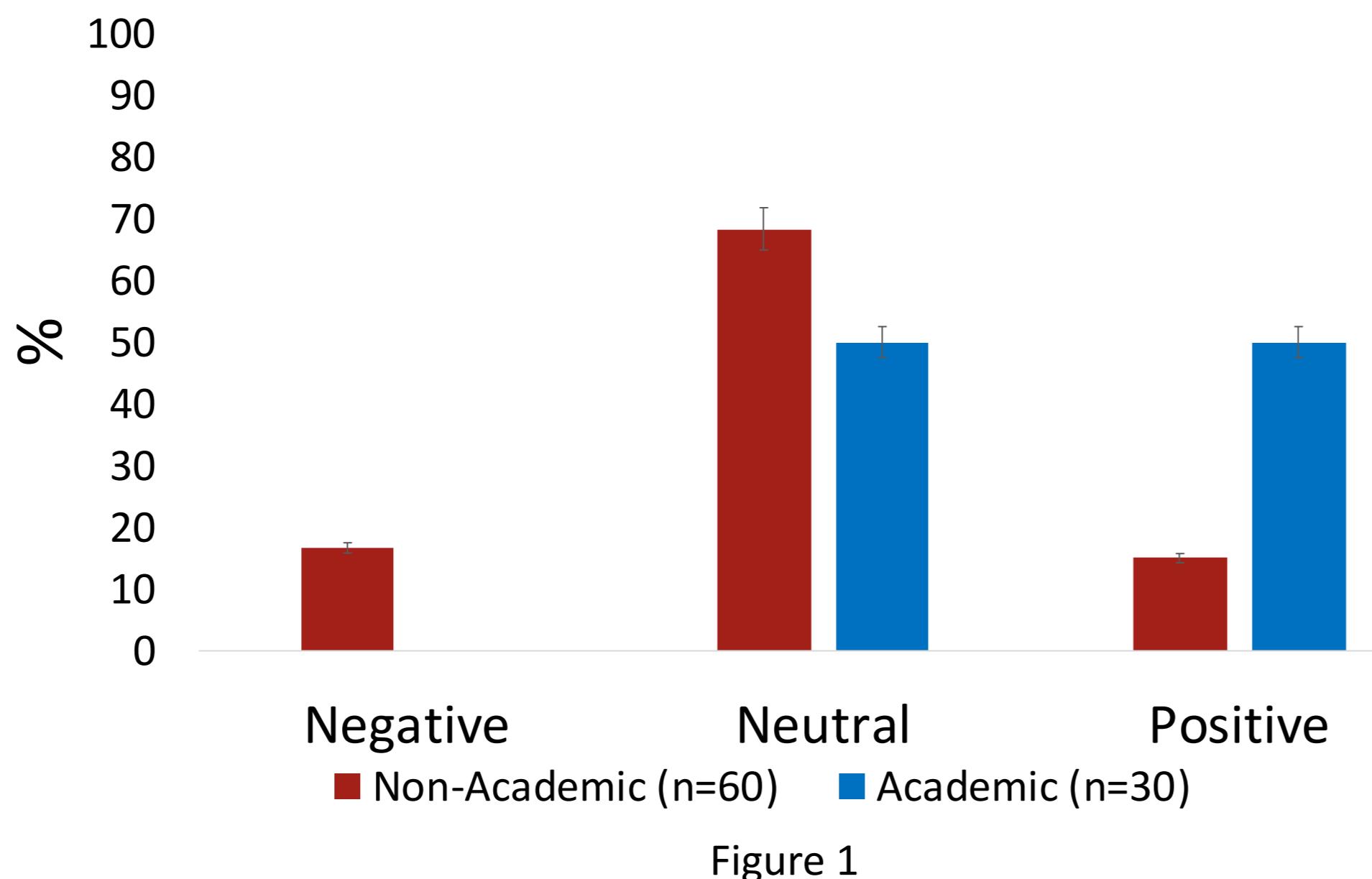
METHODS



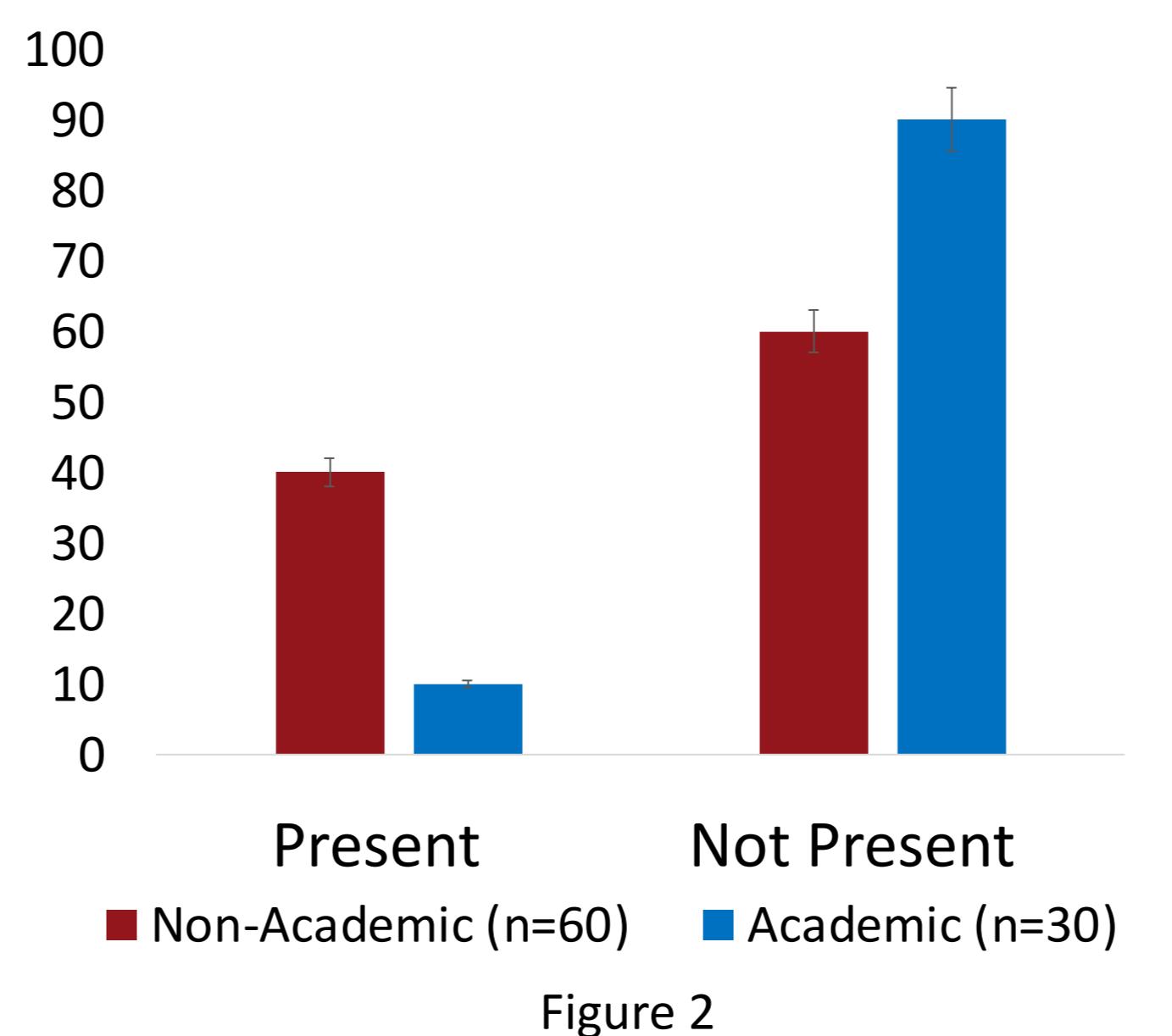
RESULTS

FIGURES 1-6: STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT FIGURES (at $\alpha=0.5\%$)

Tone of Articles

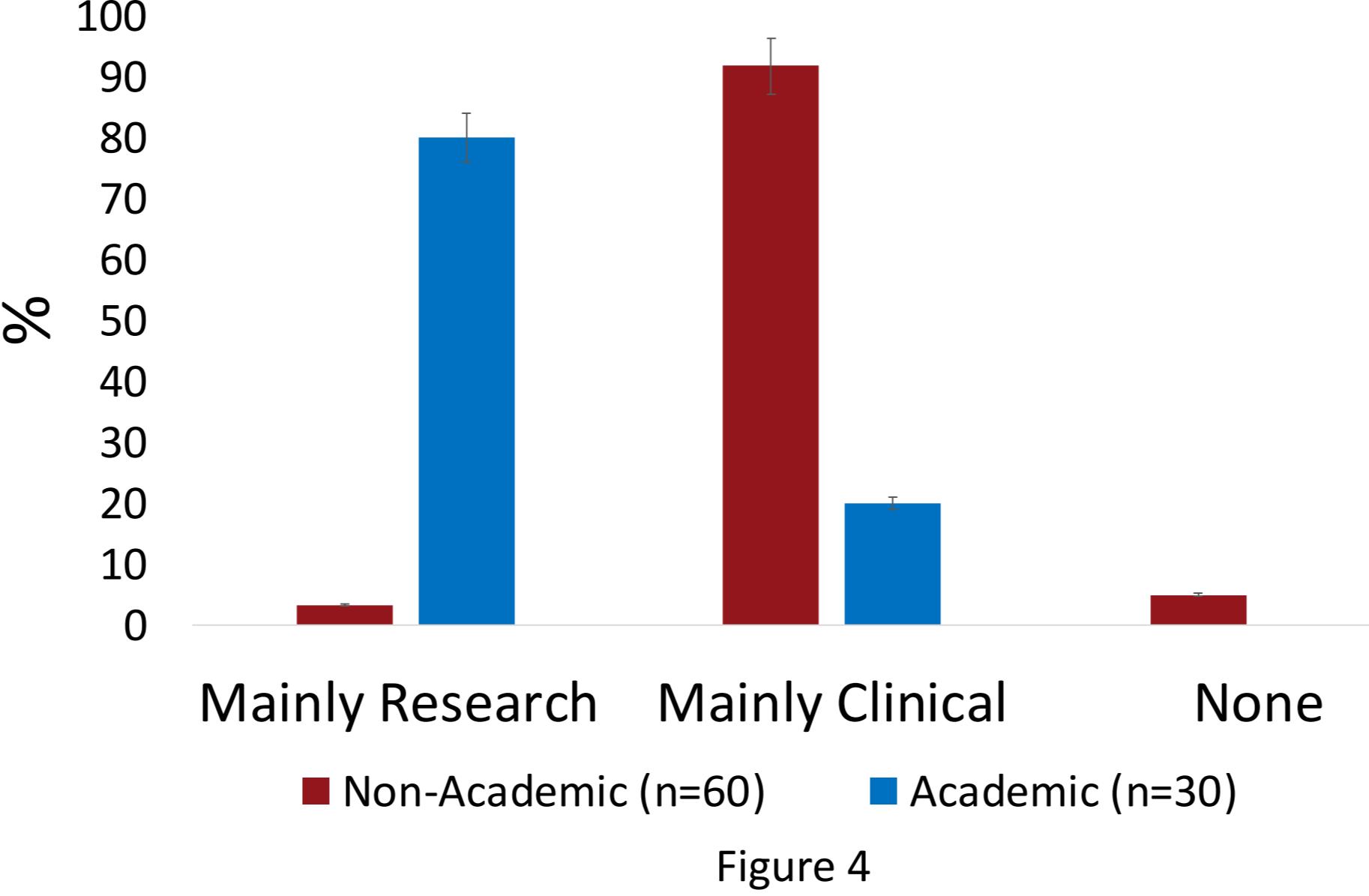


Discussion of Societal Risks

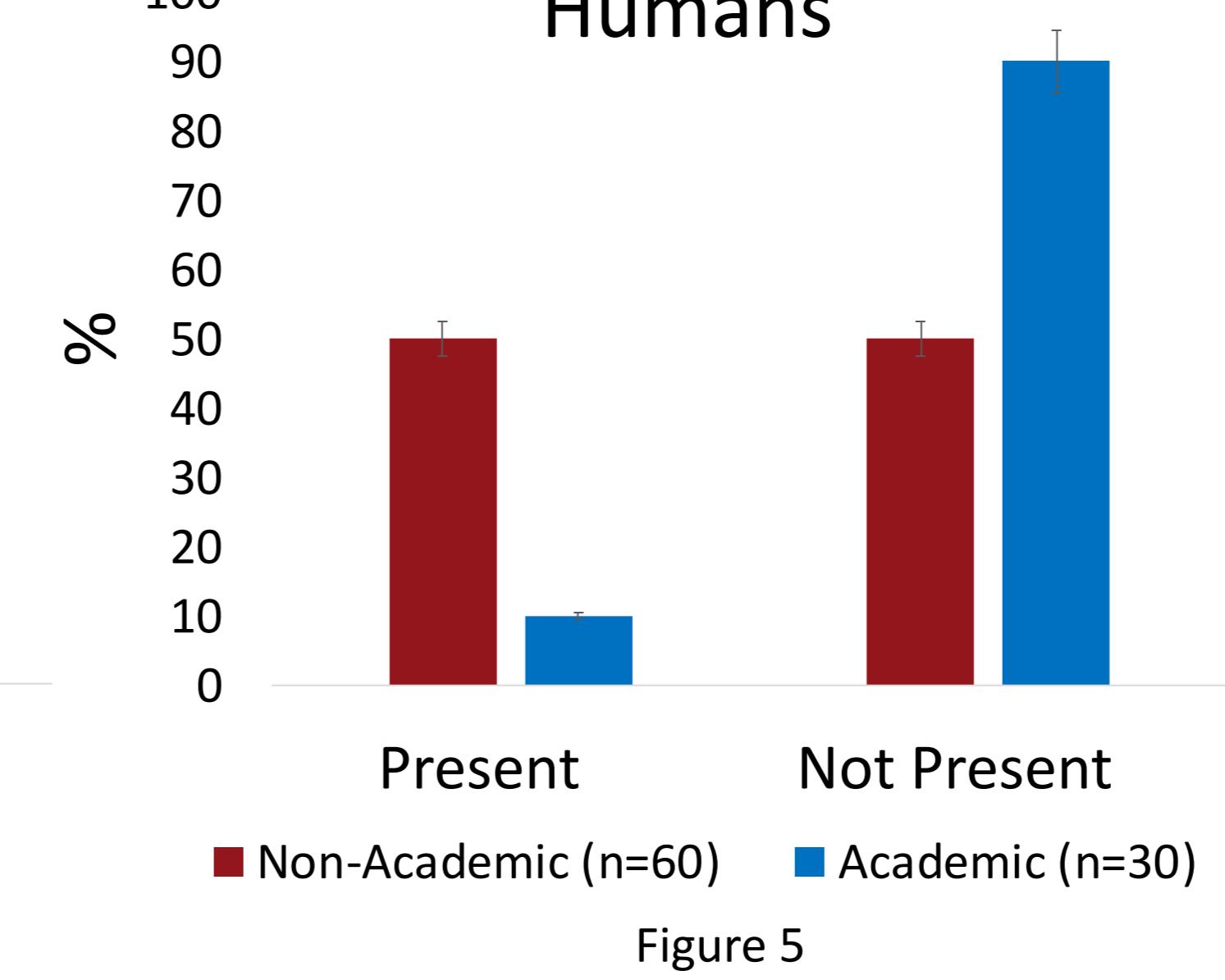


Figures 2 and 3 (left and right): Media articles discuss societal risks and controversies, such as those surrounding policy and germline editing, significantly more than academic articles do

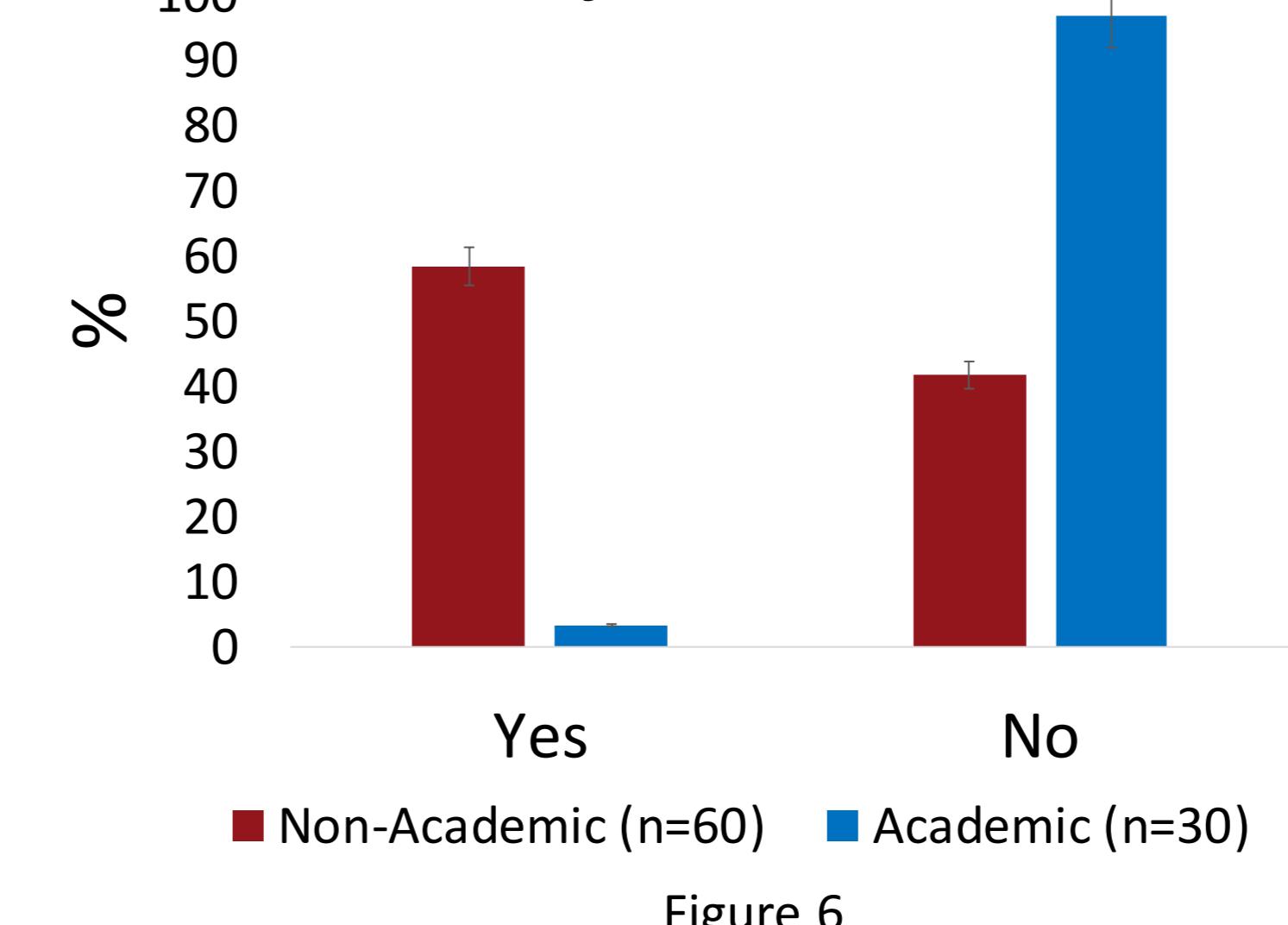
Discussion of Applications



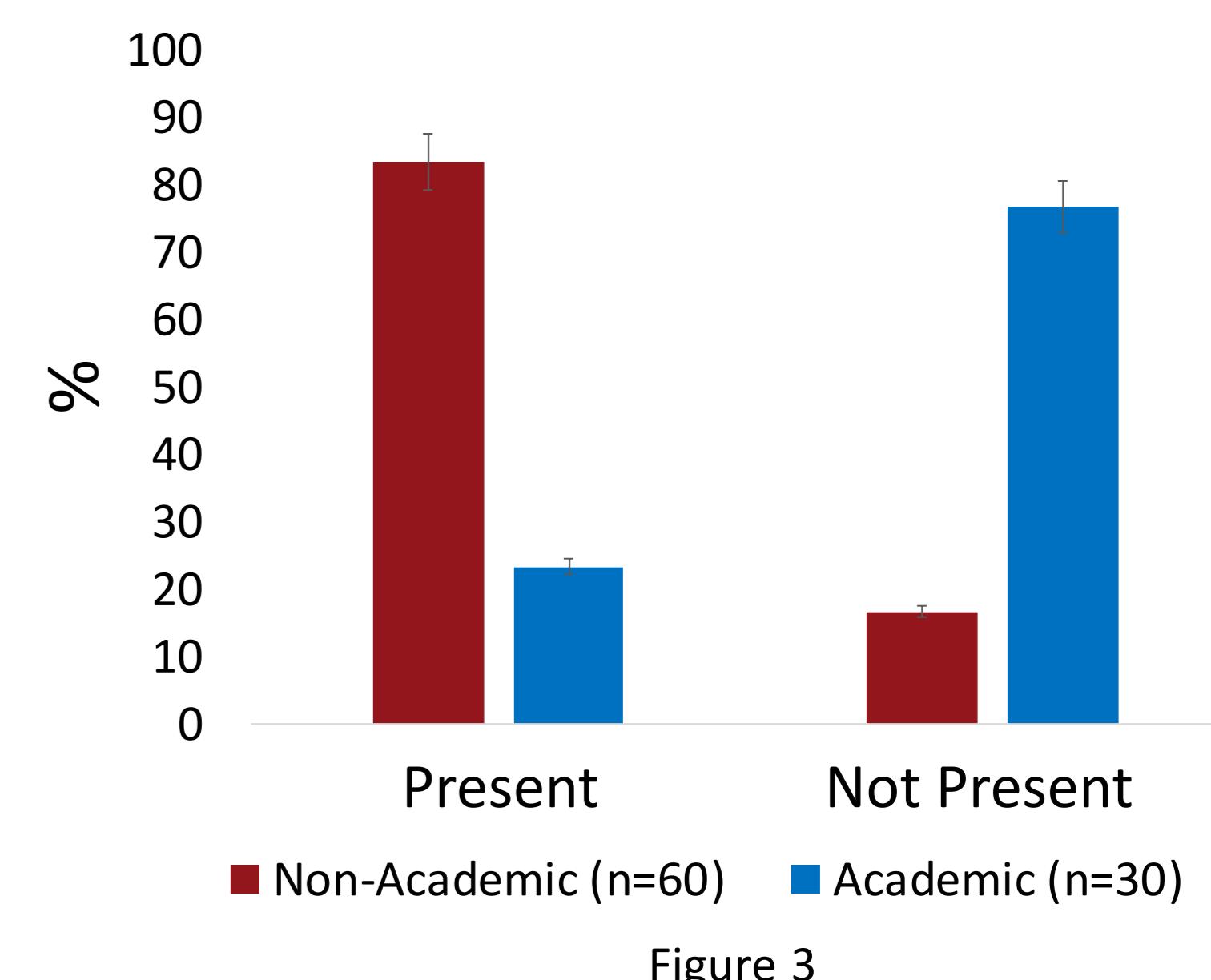
Mention of Engineered Humans



Focus of Article: Future Projections



Discussion of Controversies



CONCLUSIONS

- In news media, the discussion of the applications and future projections of CRISPR/Cas9 are not reflective of the discussion in academic literature; at the same time, news media takes a more cautionary tone overall and is more attentive to the societal risks and controversies involved
- Because of the differing perspectives and information that news media and academic articles have to offer, it is important for non-scientific and scientific perspectives alike to be involved in the conversation

Future Directions

- Future work can determine the factors that are responsible for media portrayal and the extent to which the media influences public perception
- The accuracy of information presented by academic articles and the media could also be assessed

REFERENCES

- Jinek, M., Chylinski, K., Fonfara, I., Hauer, M., Doudna, J. A., & Charpentier, E. (2012). A Programmable Dual-RNA-Guided DNA Endonuclease in Adaptive Bacterial Immunity. *Science*, 337(6096), 816-821.
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