"CurrentComments"

Journal Citation Studies. XV. Cancer Journals and Articles

October 16, 1974

Number 42

Research administrators and science policy makers have often asked for data to support the contention that basic research is necessary if we are to make advances in the 'war on cancer.' In this essay I believe we have provided such data.

Briefly here is the story. Articles on cancer research cite basic-research and other non-cancer journals more frequently than they cite cancer journals. In other words, cancer-oriented research today seems to be learning much from basic research, and is heavily dependent on non-cancer research. That will certainly not surprise most scientists. But such objective evidence might be profitably used to show legislators or impatient administrators that such claims are not mere fantasies or self-serving assertions.

In this study, sixteen journals formed the starting nucleus. They were suggested to us by the National Cancer Institute. We first determined what journals the collective group cited most frequently. Then we determined what journals cited them. We already knew the individual patterns from our *Journal Citation Reports*. 1,2 The sixteen journals were:

Bulletin du Cancer British Journal of Cancer

British Journal of Experimental Pathology Cancer Chemotherapy Reports Cancer Cancer Research European Journal of Cancer Gann International Journal of Cancer Journal of the National Cancer Institute National Cancer Institute Monograph Neoplasma Proceedings of the American Association for Cancer Research Progress in Experimental Tumor Research Tumori Zeitschrift für Krebsforschung The results of our study are shown

in Figures 1 and 2. These Figures show that three journals dominate the cancer literature: *Cancer, Cancer Re*search, and Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Figure 1 shows the top fifty journals most cited by our core group of 16 cancer journals. Figure 2 shows the top fifty that cited the core group most frequently. In Figure 2, the list of journals that cite cancer journals, most of the journals of the core are bunched near the top of the list. In

Figure 1, however, the list of journals most cited by cancer journals, the situation is quite different. Most of the cancer journals drop down into the general mass of the scientific literature. The field of cancer, thus, illustrates once again the law of concentration,3 which applies to most specialities. The totals of the citation counts in the two figures tell the same story. Considering the top 50 journals in each figure, we have the following. The cancer journals cited other journals 24,476 times. Fiftyeight percent of those citations were to non-cancer journals, 42% to cancer journals. The cancer journals were cited 19,292 times (79% of their citing rate). Of that number, cancer journals accounted for 56% of the total, and non-cancer journals for 44%.

For each journal, the lists provide the following: (1) total citations to or by all scientific journals; (2) total citations to or by cancer journals ('cancer citations'); (3) the percentage of cancer citations in terms of total citations; (4) the self-cited and self-citing rates in terms of cancer citations (5) impact in terms of all citations; (6) the *cancer* impact, that is the impact when only cancer journals are considered rather than all journals; and (7) a number expressing the ratio between overall impact and cancer impact.

The relationship between the two impact factors is extremely interesting. It is a measure of the similarities between cancer journals. The higher the value, the greater the similaritybetween the journal and our defini-

tion of cancer, in terms of journal selection for the core. For example, it is obvious that cancer journals have a higher percentage of citations to cancer journals than other journals in Figure 1, usually above 25%.

As we have indicated previously, larger prestigious journals have an undoubted edge in citation analysis if one considers only total citations received. It is considerably mitigated by relating citations to articles published. We call this the impact factor. The modified impact number may be useful for comparing journals in a given specialty. For example, Neoplasma is cited only 192 times. It was cited by cancer journals 124 times. Its overall impact factor is 0.638, based on the number of its 1967 and 1968 articles that were cited in 1969. However, its cancer impact was 0.555. Thus, the ratio of the two is 87.0. Similarly the British Journal of Experimental Pathology was cited overall 2,420 times, but only 184 times in cancer journals. While its general impact was 1.476, its cancer impact was relatively low (0.134), and its ratio only 9.1. As compared to other cancer journals in the study, one wonders why this pathology journal was singled out for inclusion! The Journal of Invertebrate Pathology, by comparison, has a ratio of 21.1

Following a pattern established in previous editorials of this type, as for example in our citation analysis of pediatric journals, ⁴ we have included in Figure 3 articles from our core cancer journals that were cited more than 100 times in the period 1961-1972. By coincidence there were exactfrom Cancer Chemotheraby Reports. on cancer research. Gann, Progress in Experimental Tuers can determine.

The top article in the list deserves special comment. In such lists, it is unusual that the first article should stand so far ahead of others. Nowell's paper on phytohemagglutinin was ci ted 774 times; the second item was cited only 427 times. Nowell attributes the article's citation record to its report of a "seminal technical advance

ly 100 of them. Only ten of the rather than a conceptual advance."5 sixteen journals in the data base are Nevertheless, as I understand it, the represented. The first five journals article was the basic report that led to account for 94%. Cancer Research development of lymphocyte cultures published 41; Journal of the National and greatly facilitated research on hu-Cancer Institute, 29; British Journal man chromosomes in cancer, leuof Experimental Pathology, 12; Can kemia and other disorders. It became cer, 8; British Journal of Cancer, 4; also a model system for immunologiand International Journal of Cancer, cal studies, which in turn and time, as 2. Only one article each turned up we know, have had enormous impact

It should be noted that perhaps mor Research, and Zeitschrift für some extremely significant articles in Krebsforschung. Fifty-nine of the arti- cancer research are not on this list. cles appeared in the 60s, 35 in the They may have appeared in *Nature* or 50s, and 6 in the 40s. Whether the list Science or whatever--those non-cancer reflects accurately the main points of journals heavily cited by cancer reresearch concentration in cancer dur-lsearch workers. If most of these artiing the past decade, only expert read- cles in such journals turn out to be obviously cancer-oriented, then one may conclude that there is a need for a few more journals in this field.

> A final note--since our journal data is five years old, certain journals will not show up as well as would be expected. By early 1975 we expect to reexamine this list of journals and to report any significant changes.

^{1.} Garfield, E. ISI®'s Journal Citation Index 4. data base, a multi-media tool. Current Contents (CC®) No. 16, 19 April 1972, p. 5-8. 2. Reports Should significantly affect the future course of scientific publication. CC No. 33, 15 August 1973, p. 5-6.

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^{-----.} Journal citation studies. IX. Highly cited pediatric journals and articles. CC No. 29, 17 July 1974, p. 5-9.

^{5.} Nowell, P.C. Personal communication, 3 October 1974.

Garfield, E. Citation analysis as a tool in 6. journal evaluation. Science 178:471-79, 3. journal lists; wherein Bradford's law of scat- 1972. Reprinted in Current Contents No. 6, 7

Figure 1. Journals Cited by Cancer Journals

					Overall	~	Impact
	Journal	Total Citations			Impact	Cancer Impact	Ratio
	Joanna	(A)		(B/A)	(C)	(D)	(D/C)x 100
*1.	Cancer Res.	9772	1	34.5	3.084		
*2.		6604	2012			1.105	35.9
*3.	J. Nat. Cancer Inst.			41.7	4.400	2,105	47.8
	Cancer	5656		26.3	2.162	0.594	27.4
*4.	Nature	61240	1.388	2.3	2.244	0.050	2.2
*5.	P. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.	20044	868	4.3	1.964	0,118	6.1
*6.	Science	38956	8 8 16 (2.2	2.894	0,048	1.7
*7.	Brit. J. Cancer	1860		43.2	1.670	0.722	43.2
*8.	J. Biol. Chem.	68012	796	1.2	6.371	0,054	0.8
*9.	Ann. New York Acad. Sci.		620	4.1	1.815	0.003	0.2
*10.	Lancet	30448		2.0	1.509	0.001	0.1
*11,	J. Amer. Med. Assoc.	17952	584	3.3	1.027	0.041	4.0
12.	J. Exp. Med.	15432	528	3.4	9.030	0.227	2.5
13.	P. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA	32824	336	1.6	1.308	0.095	7.2
14.	J. Cell Biol.	19076	480	2.5	3.484	0.076	2.2
*15.	New Engl. J. Med.	18096	*35	2.5	2.453	0.069	2.8
*16.	Amer. J. Pathol,	5740	. 432. (7.5	1.916	0.152	7.9
*17.	Internat. J. Cancer	1088		39.3	2.533	1.062	41.9
18.	Virology	9492	388	4.1	4.720	0.195	4.1
*19.	Surg. Gyn. Obst.	5468	376	6.9	1.578	0.087	5.5
20.	J. Med. Microbiol.	3952	372	9.4	20.000	1.600	8.0
*21.	Nat, Cancer Inst. Mon,	576	377	64.6	0.738	1.235	169.2
*22.	Biochim. Biophys. Acta	38000	368	1.0	3.287	0.029	0.9
*23.	Fed. Proc.	13364	384	2.7	0.568	0.135	2,4
*24.	Exp. Cell. Res.	7528	348	4.6	2.273	0.081	3.6
25.	Biochem, J.	30500	282	1.0	3.193	0.030	0.9
*26.	Gann	620	2862 3	47.1	0.874	0.318	36.4
27.	Blood	6444	23.8	4.5	2.867	0.138	4.8
28.	P. Amer. Assoc. Cancer Res	. 864	288	33.3	0.421	0.174	41.3
29.	Brit. Med. J.	17156	284	1.7	0.778	0.006	0.7
30.	Lab. Invest.	3668	272	7.4	2.008	0.130	6.5
31.	Ann. Surg.	6504	264	4,1	1.665	0.077	4.6
*32.	Zschr. Krebsforschung	664	1206	38.6	1.212	0.394	32.5
*33.	Arch. Pathol.	4496	248	5.5	1.509	0.055	3.7
34.	Amer. J. Med.	8752	236	2.5	4.694	0.158	3.4
35.	Comptes Rendus.	21888	196	0.9	0.780	0.007	1.0
*36.	Brit. J. Exp. Pathol.	2420	184	7.6	1.476	0.134	9.1
*37.	J. Immunology	10492	180	1.7	4.305	0.109	2.5
38.	Amer. J. Roentgenol.	4976	160	3.2	1.257	0.024	1.9
39.	J. Amer. Vet. Med. Ass.	1924	1.144	8.1	0.488	0.038	8.5
*40.	Eur. J. Cancer	420	148	75.7	2.027	1,609	79.4
*41.	Transplantation	2036	144	7.1	3.164	0.228	7.2
*42.	Cancer Chemother, Rep.	796	140	17.6	1.206	0.229	19.0
*43.	Radiology	4700	144	3.0	1.533	0.035	2.3
*44.	Brit. J. Surg.	2356	1 1 3 4 1	5.8	0.506	0.005	0.9
45.	J. Histochem. Cytochem.	4892	14	2.8	2.442	0.012	0.3
46.	Ann. Internal Med.	7728	132	1.7	1.640	0.021	1.4
47.	Anat. Rec.	5416	324	2.3	0.423	0.002	0.1
*48.	J. Clin. Invest.	19116	124	0.6	3.461	0.004	0.1
49.	J. Invert. Pathol.	924	124	13.4	1.194	0.252	21.1
*50.	Neoplasma	192			0.638	0.555	87.0
*86.	Prog. Exp. Tumor Res.	192	11 8 8 1	45.8	2.400	1.067	44.4
*87.	B. Cancer	228	11 88 1	38.5	0.413	0.310	75.1
*113.	Tumori				0.238	0.119	50.2
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Figure 1. Journals cited most frequently by 16 cancer journals. Numbers are based on an annual extrapolation from a quarterly sample (see reference 6). The title abbreviations of journals among the 16 used as the data base for this study are italicized. An asterisk indicates that the particular journal is common to the lists in Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 2.	Journals	that	Most Of	ften	Cited	Cancer	Journa	ls

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	Journal	Total Citations	Same		Impact	Self-Citing	Self-Cited
		(A)		(B/A)	Factor	Rate	Rate
*1.	J. Nat. Cancer Inst.	7004	******	28.8	4.400	37.9	51.8
*2.	Cancer Res.	7056	3 3344	26.7	3.084	33.5	55.9
*3.	Nat. Cancer Inst. Mon.	10208	1836	16.0	2.673	48.6	17.1
*4.	Cancer	7484	3.488	29.8	2.162	57.3	57.6
*5.	Eur. J. Cancer	2804	19 932 (1)	26.8	2.027	75.7	14.9
6.	Sem. Hematol.	1472	732	49.7	3.916		
*7.	Progr. Exp. Tumor Res.	2708	33 4 0	26.7	2.400	45.8	2.8
*8.	Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med	. 19604		3.3	1.964		
*9.	Ann. New York Acad. Sci	41844		10.3	1.815		
*10.	Brit. J. Cancer	1820		28.6	1.670	21.4	41.3
*11.	Internat. J. Cancer	1204		34.5	2.533	29.0	29.8
*12.	Fed. Proc.	6712		6.1	0.568		
*13.	Neoplasma	2248		18.0	0.638	100.0	30.7
*14.	Gann	1420		27.6	0.874	41.1	30.6
*15.	Exp. Cell Res.	7756		4.7	2.273		
16.	Acta Path. Scand.	6940		4.6	1.009		
*17.	Lancet	17636		1.7	1.509		
18.	Amer. J. Surg.	7496		4.1	0.992		
19.	Acta Cytol.	2292		12.0	1.046		
20.	Arch. Geschw.	1296		21.3	0.500		
21.	Molec. Pharmacol.	2656		9.9	4.028		
*22.	J. Immunol.	12084		2.1	4.305		
*23.	Zschr. Krebsforschung	1256		19.7	1.212	34.3	35.5
*24.	Transplantation	5068		4.7	3.164		
*25.	Biochim. Biophys. Acta	41076		0.6	3.287		
*26.	Brit. J. Exp. Pathol.	2168		10.1	1.476	93.5	78.2
*27.	Nature	27108		0.8	2.244		
*28.	New Engl. J. Med.	14064		1.5	2.453		
*29.	Science	22796		3.5	2.894		
*30.	Arch. Pathol.	3576		5.0	1.509		
*31.	Cancer Chemother. Rep.	380		46.3	1.206	74.3	59.1
*32.	J. Biol. Chem.	34636		0.5	6.371		
33.	Path. Biol.	4308		3.7	0.722		
34.	Virch. Arch. B.	2628		5.9	1.066		
*35.	Brit. J. Surg.	2692		5.6	0.506		
36.	Rev. Fr. Clin.	2132		7.1	0.037		
37.	J. Pathology	4404		3.6	1.948		
38.	Exp. Mol. Path.	2204		6.4	1.400		
39. 40.	Acta Med. Oka.	2580 4576		5.0 2.8	1.320		
40, 41,	J. Neurosurg. Klín. Wschr.	9844		1.3	0.723		
*42.	Radiology	8444		1.4	1.533		
*43.	J. Amer. Med. Assoc.	8266		1.4	1.027		
*44.		3716		3.0	1.916		
*45.	Amer. J. Pathol. Surg. Gyn. Obst.	3680		2.8	1.578		
45.	Amer. J. Clin. Path.	3384		3.0	0.623		
40. 47.	Deut. Med. Wschr.	16052		0.6	0.675		
*48.	J. Clin. Invest.	9160		1.1	3.461		
49.	Arner, J. Obst. Gyn.	10948		0.9	1.269		
47. 50.	Med. J. Australia	6396		1.5	0.501		
*101.	B, Cancer	936		8.1	0.413	38.5	
*123.	Tumori	284		11.3	0.238	35.5	37.5
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Figure 2. Journals that cited 16 cancer journals most frequently. Numbers are based on an annual extrapolation from a quarterly sample (see reference 6). The title abbreviations of journals among the 16 used as the data base for this study are italicized. An asterisk indicates that the particular journal is common to the lists in Figures 1 and 2. Self-citing rate is the percentage of a journal's citation of itself in terms of total citations it makes. Self-cited rate is the percentage of a journal's citation of itself in terms of total citations it receives.

#### Figure 3. Highly Cited Articles from Ten Highly Cited Cancer Journals.

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