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One of the problems facing science policy administrators is to know, at any given time, where the action is. For example, what were the papers published in 1975 that had the greatest impact? Recognizing the limitations imposed by taking citations only from the 1975 Science Citation Index[®] (SCI[®]) annual cumulation, we have compiled such a list of high-impact papers. In order to include even those papers published late in the year, we set our threshold at ten citations. As a result, we came up with a list of about 150 papers. About 100 of them had been cited eleven times or more. So we decided to list these in two sections. The first group are the 53 biomedical papers listed below. The remaining group of papers in chemistry and physics will appear next week.

Had we stuck to our usual procedure, we would have found that very few life sciences articles would be listed amongst the top fifty. Only seven of the papers below were cited 25 times or more in 1975. In the physical sciences, eleven papers achieved this rank. The 53 life sciences papers were cited an average of 16.1 times; the 49 chemistry and physics papers, 22.3 times. All the papers listed below were published during the first five months of 1975. It is going to be necessary in the future to establish an even lower threshold to pick up papers published later in the year. This can be done and combined with data for the first quarterly SCI for 1976.

The papers listed appeared in only 21 different journals. Of these, four accounted for half: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA (8); Nature (7); Science (7); and Cell (5). Biochemistry, Journal of Experimental Medicine, and New England Journal of Medicine accounted for three each. The prominence of the new journal Cell is notable.

The most highly cited paper is item 10, by Furuichi et al. on the blocked 5'-terminal methylated structure of messenger RNA. He is the coauthor of five papers on the list (items 10, 11, 24, 30, 52). Indeed, ten of the articles concern this 'capped structure'. As explained to us by another coauthor, A.J. Shatkin of the Roche Institute, Nutley, N.J. (items 10, 38, 52), "One of the things that distinguishes messenger RNA from non-messenger RNA is this capped structure. Some RNAs don't have it and aren't messengers, and some

have it and are messengers. This is a way for the messenger to be identified as such by the proteins in the cell.'' The structure is called 'blocked' or 'capped' because its end, instead of being open, as in other RNAs, has an extra nucleotide group inversely oriented relative to the rest of the RNA. "The structure of the terminal nucleotide is reversed or inverted. We think there is a protein that recognizes this unique structure for protein synthesis." The capped structure was discovered near the end of 1974. According to Dr. Shatkin, "The capped structure may have something to do with regulation of genetic expression; why some messages are more efficiently translated than others. It may have something to do with the basic regulation of cell growth."¹ Papers 27, 47, 48 and 49

also concern this structure.

Ten papers deal with the physiopathology of certain disease states-two of them drug-related. Notable among this group are items 23 and 29 on the role of glucagon in diabetes. Of the remaining articles, the key title words are: lymphocyte, virus, immunology, chromatin, receptor.

Several of the papers were published in review journals, indicating not only the growing importance of such journals but also the rapidity of citation of significant review articles. Perhaps more scientists will keep this in mind when considering the value of investing time in this type of information activity.

1. Shatkin A J. Personal communication, March 1976.

1975 Life Sciences Arti	cles Highly Cit	ed in 1975
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Item	Tin Cite 197	ed
1.	11 .	Abramsky O, Aharonov A, Webb C & Fuchs S. Cellular immune re sponse to acetylcholine receptor-rich fraction, in patients with myas thenia gravis. <i>Clin. Exp. Immunology</i> 19 (1):11, 1975.

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