A Bibliometric Analysis in the Fields of Preventive Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Epidemiology, and Public Health

Citation
Soteriades, Elpidoforos S., and Matthew E. Falagas. 2006. A bibliometric analysis in the fields of preventive medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, epidemiology, and public health. BMC Public Health 6:301.

Published Version
doi:10.1186/1471-2458-6-301

Permanent link
http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:4595484

Terms of Use
This article was downloaded from Harvard University’s DASH repository, and is made available under the terms and conditions applicable to Other Posted Material, as set forth at http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:HUL.InstRepos:dash.current.terms-of-use#LAA

Share Your Story
The Harvard community has made this article openly available. Please share how this access benefits you. Submit a story.

Accessibility
A bibliometric analysis in the fields of preventive medicine, occupational and environmental medicine, epidemiology, and public health

Elpidoforos S Soteriades1,2 and Matthew E Falagas*1,3

Address: 1Alfa Institute of Biomedical Sciences (AIBS), Athens, Greece, 2Department of Environmental Health, Occupational Health Program, Harvard School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, USA and 3Department of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Email: Elpidoforos S Soteriades - esoteria@hsph.harvard.edu; Matthew E Falagas* - m.falagas@aibs.gr

* Corresponding author

Abstract

Background: Research in the fields of Preventive Medicine, Occupational/Environmental Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health play an important role in the advancement of knowledge. In order to map the research production around the world we performed a bibliometric analysis in the above fields.

Methods: All articles published by different world regions in the above mentioned scientific fields and cited in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) database of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) during the period 1995 and 2003, were evaluated. The research production of different world regions was adjusted for: a) the gross domestic product in 1995 US dollars, and b) the population size of each region.

Results: A total of 48,861 articles were retrieved and categorized. The USA led the research production in all three subcategories. The percentage of articles published by USA researchers was 43%, 44% and 61% in the Preventive Medicine, Epidemiology, and Public Health subcategories, respectively. Canada and Western Europe shared the second position in the first two subcategories, while Oceania researchers ranked second in the field of Public Health.

Conclusion: USA researchers maintain a leadership position in the production of scientific articles in the fields of Preventive Medicine, Occupational/Environmental Medicine and Epidemiology, at a level similar to other scientific disciplines, while USA contribution to science in the field of Public Health is by all means outstanding. Less developed regions would need to support their researchers in the above fields in order to improve scientific production and advancement of knowledge in their countries.

Background

The fields of Preventive Medicine, Occupational/Environmental Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health constitute scientific fields, along with clinical medicine, which play an important role on people's health around the world [1-3]. Research performed in the above fields provides the basis for identifying significant health problems in the population and supports the development of
knowledge-based interventions to educate people on health issues, promote health, and protect people's vulnerability to different health hazards [4-6]. Furthermore, published scientific articles on such topics promote public dialogue and provide opportunities for policy makers to address public health issues through legal interventions [7,8].

While, the academic community strives to identify the best approach to assess the quantity and quality of research production between different geographical boundaries, languages and scientific disciplines, most scientists agree on the utility of the impact factor as well as additional adjusted indicators for international comparisons [9]. Several bibliometric analyses have been published in the medical literature on different topics [10-13]. Our group has also previously published a number of articles assessing the research production of different world regions on several scientific disciplines, however there are limited data on the bibliometric assessment of research in the fields of our present study with several reported limitations [14-22].

For example, Gehanno JF et al has reported that 1.4% of journals in the field of Occupational Health (a total of 8 journals) account for 27% of published articles in the field, while Navarro A et al have reported that one or more institutions in the United States contributed over 40% of articles in Occupational Health [18,19]. In addition, Verbeek J et al have studied the sensitivity and specificity of search terms in identifying Occupational Health intervention studies [20].

In the current investigation, we sought to identify and quantify the research production of different world regions in the fields of Preventive Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Epidemiology, and Public Health around the world.

**Methods**

The methodology we used in our study parallels other bibliometric studies performed by our research group in order to evaluate research productivity in specific scientific disciplines [14-17].

**Data sources**

We searched for articles published between 1995 and 2003 and included in the category of the “Preventive and Occupational Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health”, of the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) database of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) and the PubMed database [23,24]. At the time of our analysis, ISI provided only the impact factor of each scientific journal. Therefore, for the years 1995 – 1998 we identified the same journals that were included in each corresponding category in the year 1999 and we reviewed them and included them in the analysis as long as the impact factor for each year examined was available.

**Journals and scientific fields**

The articles’ origin was assigned by searching the address of the first author of each article, which is registered in the PubMed database. For each search in the PubMed database, a phrase consisting of four parts joined together by the so-called Boolean operators, i.e. AND, OR, and NOT was used in the search field. Moreover, each separate search was limited to a specific year. Publication types such as letters, editorials, and news reports were excluded from the analysis. The results of these searches (the number of articles produced by each world region in a specific journal within a year) were summed up.

Out of 89 journals included in the journal category investigated during the period 1999–2003, a total of 72 journals were included in our study. A further division of these journals into three subcategories was performed; the first subcategory included journals with main focus on Preventive, Occupational and Environmental Medicine (28 journals), the second on Epidemiology (16 journals), and the third on Public Health (28 journals).

**World regions**

For the purpose of our study, the world was divided into 9 regions; United States of America (USA), Canada, Western Europe, Japan, Oceania, Asia (excluding Japan), Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Africa; a classification based on a combination of geographic, economic and scientific criteria.

**Article retrieval**

The sum of articles produced by all different world regions in a journal was compared to the actual total number of articles published in that journal for a specific year. This number was obtained again from PubMed by not using any address limits. In this way we were able to check for missed or unretrieved addresses. We considered a search result acceptable if less than 5% of the total articles of a specific journal during a year were missed by our methodology, otherwise we performed manual searches for the author’s address. To strengthen the methodological validity of our study, two investigators independently performed data collection. In cases of disagreement between the two investigators the results were discussed in meetings of all investigators of our research group.
Results

Using the methodology described above, we managed to retrieve and categorize 48,681 out of 49,980 articles, (97.4%) from the implicated journals indexed in PubMed during the study period. In tables 1, 2, and 3 we present the actual number of articles produced each year during the study period from each world region, in the "Preventive and Occupational/Environmental Medicine, Epidemiology, and Public Health journals, we used relevant "World Development Indicators" from the online databases of the World Bank [25]. The research productivity of different world regions (estimated by the "total product") was adjusted for: a) the gross domestic product in standard 1995 US dollars, and b) the population size of each region.

As shown in Table 1, the USA is the world leader in research productivity in the "Preventive and Occupational/Environmental Medicine" subcategory, in terms of both quantity and quality (7,280 articles, mean impact factor 1.5) of published papers. Researchers in the USA published more than one third of all articles in this field. Western Europe comes second in the number of published articles (5,306), while Canada ranks second regarding the mean impact factor (1.4) along with Central and Latin America. When adjusted for GDP, Canada is the most productive region, whereas USA reclaims it leadership when data are adjusted for population size.

Similar rankings for USA, Canada, and Western Europe are seen in Table 2, referring to articles published in the field of epidemiology. It is notable that researchers in Europe publish more articles in this field compared to their own research productivity in the Preventive Medicine and Occupational Medicine subcategory, while Canada researchers rank again second when research production is adjusted for gross domestic product.

Finally, data from the 28 Public Health journals are presented in Table 3. USA again leads the research production, and there is a much bigger gap compared to the second region (Western Europe). USA researchers rank first regarding both raw and adjusted data and produce about two thirds (61%) of all published articles around the world. We also note that researchers from Oceania rank first in this subcategory, together with the USA, with respect to the mean impact factor, and come second when total product is adjusted for both gross domestic product and population size.

In all of the 3 subcategories examined, the annual number of published articles worldwide showed an increasing trend, a phenomenon that was more pronounced in the "Public Health" subcategory (Table 3), probably due to the gradual increase in the number of journals of the ISI category throughout the study period. After accumulating the data from all 3 subcategories (data not shown), USA came first in all indices, namely the number of articles (23,918), the mean impact factor (1.96), the total product (46,879), and the total product per GDP (61.1), and per million of population (167).

Discussion

In our study we have quantified the research production around the world in several related public health disciplines as well as in Occupational and Environmental Medicine looking at a specific time period and adjusting our findings from different world regions for their corresponding gross domestic product and population size.

We found that researchers from the USA maintain a leadership position in the publication of scientific articles in the fields of Preventive Medicine, Occupational/Environmental Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health similar to other scientific fields examined. The most noteworthy finding of our study is the fact that USA researchers contributed more than 60% of all articles published in the field of Public Health around the world (indexed in the reviewed databases). Even after overall adjustment for gross domestic product and population size, USA continued to lead. However, Canada researchers ranked first when scientific production was adjusted for gross domestic product in the fields of Preventive Medicine, Occupational/Environmental Medicine and Epidemiology. Furthermore, we found that four regions of the world with more than 50% of the world’s population have minimal contribution in the scientific fields studied.

Our results support previous findings suggesting that the majority of research published in scientific journals is car-
Table 1: Data regarding the worldwide research production in the "Preventive and Occupational/Environmental Medicine" subcategory.

| Country            | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | Total number of articles for the whole period | Percentage of worldwide production (articles) | Mean impact factor of all articles | Mean impact factor of all articles | Total product for the whole period * | Total product/ gross domestic product † | Total product/ millions of population |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| USA                | 777  | 826  | 883  | 804  | 834  | 885  | 799  | 752  | 720  | 7,280                                        | 43.4                                     | 1.5                               | 10,623                                           | 13.8                                   | 37.8                                  |
| Canada             | 97   | 95   | 94   | 88   | 86   | 90   | 72   | 81   | 787  | 4.7                                           | 1.4                                     | 1.0                               | 1,094                                             | 18.2                                   | 36.0                                  |
| Western Europe     | 500  | 502  | 608  | 571  | 659  | 574  | 582  | 555  | 755  | 5,306                                        | 31.6                                     | 1.3                               | 6,775                                             | 7.5                                    | 17.4                                  |
| Japan              | 71   | 110  | 118  | 130  | 106  | 125  | 108  | 112  | 135  | 1,015                                        | 6.1                                      | 1.0                               | 1,011                                             | 2.0                                    | 8.0                                   |
| Oceania            | 15   | 18   | 23   | 23   | 37   | 38   | 53   | 41   | 39   | 287                                           | 1.7                                      | 1.2                               | 331                                               | 7.1                                    | 11.0                                  |
| Asia               | 91   | 103  | 121  | 92   | 141  | 133  | 161  | 165  | 259  | 1,266                                        | 7.6                                      | 1.0                               | 1,265                                             | 3.9                                    | 0.4                                   |
| Eastern Europe     | 20   | 26   | 39   | 54   | 38   | 46   | 51   | 77   | 110  | 461                                           | 2.8                                      | 1.1                               | 525                                               | 5.3                                    | 1.2                                   |
| Central and Latin America | 20 | 17 | 30 | 20 | 14 | 39 | 30 | 34 | 48 | 252 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 345 | 2.1 | 0.7 |
| Africa             | 11   | 9    | 13   | 15   | 11   | 12   | 16   | 23   | 18   | 128                                           | 0.8                                      | 1.1                               | 137                                               | 2.8                                    | 0.2                                   |
| TOTAL (or average) | 1,602| 1,706| 1,929| 1,797| 1,926| 1,936| 1,890| 1,831| 2,165| 16,782                                      | -                                        | -                                 | -                                                 | (7.6)                                  | -                                     |

* Defined as the product of articles multiplied by the corresponding impact factor of their journal.
† Total product (defined by the number of articles multiplied by the impact factor of the journal) divided by gross domestic product in tens of trillions of 1995 US dollars.
Table 2: Data regarding the worldwide research production in the "Epidemiology" subcategory.

|                | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | Total number of articles for the whole period | Percentage of worldwide production (articles) | Mean impact factor of all articles | Total product for the whole period * | Total product/ gross domestic product † | Total product/ millions of population |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| USA            | 663  | 691  | 724  | 681  | 821  | 896  | 976  | 815  | 839  | 7,106                                      | 44.0                                     | 2.8                               | 20,029                           | 26.1                              | 71.3                              |
| Canada         | 64   | 70   | 73   | 66   | 107  | 93   | 92   | 76   | 91   | 732                                         | 4.5                                      | 2.4                               | 1776                             | 29.5                              | 58.4                              |
| Western Europe | 621  | 634  | 664  | 686  | 694  | 754  | 814  | 649  | 784  | 6,300                                       | 39.0                                     | 2.0                               | 12,347                           | 13.7                              | 31.8                              |
| Japan          | 21   | 19   | 26   | 22   | 35   | 36   | 48   | 32   | 36   | 275                                        | 1.7                                      | 2.3                               | 643                              | 1.3                               | 5.1                               |
| Oceania        | 39   | 51   | 45   | 46   | 56   | 51   | 52   | 68   | 69   | 477                                         | 3.0                                      | 2.2                               | 1,049                            | 22.4                              | 34.6                              |
| Asia           | 43   | 67   | 65   | 69   | 57   | 84   | 73   | 75   | 104  | 637                                         | 3.9                                      | 2.1                               | 1,321                            | 4.1                               | 0.4                               |
| Eastern Europe | 19   | 20   | 20   | 24   | 17   | 31   | 26   | 11   | 40   | 208                                        | 1.3                                      | 1.3                               | 266                              | 2.7                               | 0.6                               |
| Central and Latin America | 25   | 21   | 17   | 18   | 31   | 31   | 50   | 36   | 42   | 271                                        | 1.7                                      | 2.1                               | 558                              | 3.3                               | 1.1                               |
| Africa         | 16   | 17   | 14   | 16   | 27   | 15   | 22   | 18   | 20   | 165                                         | 1.0                                      | 1.7                               | 280                              | 5.7                               | 0.4                               |
| TOTAL (or average) | 1,511 | 1,590 | 1,648 | 1,628 | 1,845 | 1,991 | 2,153 | 1,780 | 2,025 | 16,171 | -                                       | -                                       | -                                | -                                 | (13.1)                           | -                                 |

* Defined as the product of articles multiplied by the corresponding impact factor of their journal
† Total product (defined by the number of articles multiplied by the impact factor of the journal) divided by gross domestic product in tens of trillions of 1995 US dollars
Table 3: Data regarding the worldwide research production in the "Public Health" subcategory.

|          | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | Total number of articles for the whole period | Percentage of worldwide production (articles) | Mean impact factor of all articles | Total product for the whole period * | Total product/ gross domestic product † | Total product/ millions of population |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| USA      | 840  | 919  | 950  | 1,021| 1,196| 1,252| 1,195| 1,307| 9,532| 60.6                                        | 1.7                                      | 16,254                                | 21.2                             | 57.9                                |
| Canada   | 33   | 43   | 50   | 44   | 58   | 46   | 47   | 71   | 437  | 2.8                                         | 1.4                                      | 629                                   | 10.4                             | 20.7                                |
| Western Europe | 353 | 367  | 400  | 395  | 518  | 611  | 505  | 618  | 4,134| 26.3                                        | 1.1                                      | 4,651                                 | 5.2                              | 12.0                                |
| Japan    | 6    | 7    | 11   | 11   | 19   | 9    | 12   | 14   | 103  | 0.7                                         | 1.2                                      | 126                                   | 0.2                              | 1.0                                 |
| Oceania  | 28   | 28   | 30   | 37   | 42   | 57   | 36   | 61   | 430  | 2.7                                         | 1.7                                      | 711                                   | 15.2                             | 23.5                                |
| Asia     | 31   | 40   | 34   | 52   | 62   | 63   | 85   | 91   | 549  | 3.5                                         | 1.4                                      | 753                                   | 2.3                              | 0.2                                 |
| Eastern Europe | 3  | 5    | 3    | 10   | 6    | 15   | 15   | 21   | 24   | 102                                        | 0.7                                      | 1.2                                   | 125                              | 1.3                                 | 0.3                                 |
| Central and Latin America | 11 | 16   | 10   | 15   | 19   | 18   | 23   | 17   | 34   | 163                                        | 1.0                                      | 1.6                                   | 265                              | 1.6                                 | 0.5                                 |
| Africa   | 17   | 21   | 22   | 22   | 27   | 24   | 52   | 38   | 55   | 278                                        | 1.8                                      | 1.6                                   | 457                              | 9.3                                 | 0.6                                 |
| TOTAL (or average) | 1,322 | 1,446 | 1,379 | 1,612 | 1,578 | 1,945 | 2,132 | 1,989 | 2,325 | 15,728                                     | -                                        | -                                    | -                                | (8.2)                              | -                                   |

* Defined as the product of articles multiplied by the corresponding impact factor of their journal
† Total product (defined by the number of articles multiplied by the impact factor of the journal) divided by gross domestic product in tens of trillions of 1995 US dollars
ried out in the developed world [18]. It is also notable that USA evolved as the strongest leader in the field, since it demonstrated the highest productivity in most fields examined. The above finding is not a surprise given the long tradition of agencies and institutions in the USA in implementing research and population-based public health programs [26,27]. Similar observations with respect to public health research would also apply to Canada [28]. In addition, our study reveals a significant gap in the participation of certain world regions in scientific research in the above fields examined at least with respect to the published literature in the English language [29-31].

Several limitations of our current investigation have been cited previously and would also apply [14-17]. Most of the limitations are related to the databases used to retrieve articles as they consist largely of English-language journals therefore possibly contributing to selection bias due to language barriers. In addition, the above databases do not represent all scientific and biomedical journals published. Other limitations include the incorrect citation of origin for the authors, and the use of impact factors as an indicator of research quality [32]. Finally, many articles of public health importance appear in journals other than those we included in our searched categories. Nevertheless, we believe that comparisons made even under known or unknown limitations, are useful and could provide important insight with respect to the direction, amount, and impact of research productivity around the world [33].

Conclusion
In summary, we found that the USA, Western Europe, Canada and Oceania are the leading regions in the research production in the fields of Preventive/Occupational/Environmental Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health, with the USA being far ahead especially in the subcategory of Public Health. We believe that our findings clearly indicate the need to promote research in the above fields in less developed regions of the world. Promoting research in less developed areas such as Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe, may involve but not limited to the development of infrastructure including research and academic institutes, the improvement of current collaborative partnerships with developed nations, increased sponsorship and support from world agencies such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations, and the implementation of programs including free access to online journals and translation services for scientific articles published in languages other than the English language. All of the above are likely to increase research and development in the less developed regions of the world and improve peoples’ health through the diffusion of knowledge and the implementation of large-scale research projects.

Abbreviations
ISI – Institute for Scientific Information
GDP – Gross Domestic Product
JCR – Journal Citation Reports

Competing interests
The author(s) declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors’ contributions
MEF had the idea for the study and developed the methodology in collaboration with ESS. Both authors supervised the data collection, analysis and interpretation. Also, both authors contributed to the writing of the manuscript and approved its final version.

The authors would like to thank Ms. Paraskevi A. Papastamataki, RN, and Dr. Ioannis A. Bliziotis, MD, for their help in the collection and analysis of data.

Acknowledgements
Funding: None for both authors

References
1. Starfield B, Shi L, Macinko J: Contribution of primary care to health systems and health. Milbank Q 2005, 83:457-502.
2. Sullivan LW: Research capacity and closing the health gap. Am J Med Sci 2001, 322:264-8.
3. Murray LR: Sick and tired of being sick and tired: scientific evidence, methods, and research implications for racial and ethnic disparities in occupational health. Am J Public Health 2003, 93:221-6.
4. Warner KE: The role of research in international tobacco control. Am J Public Health 2005, 95:976-84.
5. Verheijden MW, Kok FJ: Public health impact of community-based nutrition and lifestyle interventions. Eur J Clin Nutr 2005, 59:465-75.
6. Keller LO, Strohschein S, Lia-Hoagberg B, Schaffer MA: Population-based public health interventions: practice-based and evidence-supported. Part I. Public Health Nurs 2004, 21:453-68.
7. Rosenbaum S, Burke T, Benevelli J, Borzi PC, Repash L: Legal issues in health information: implications for public health practice and policy. Public Health Rep 2005, 120:350-2.
8. Kirkwood B: Making public health interventions more evidence based. BMJ 2004, 328:966-7.
9. Neuberger J, Counsell C: Impact factors: uses and abuses. Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2002, 14:209-211.
10. Mela GS, Martinoli C, Poggi E, Derchi LE: Radiological research in Europe: a bibliometric study. Eur Radiol 2003, 13:657-62.
11. Glover SW, Bowen SL: Bibliometric analysis of research published in Tropical Medicine and International Health 1996–2003. Trop Med Int Health 2004, 9:1327-30.
12. Boulos MN: On geography and medical journalology: a study of the geographical distribution of articles published in a leading medical informatics journal between 1999 and 2004. Int J Health Geog 2005, 4:77.
13. Tsay MY, Yang YH: Bibliometric analysis of the literature of randomized controlled trials. J Med Lib Assoc 2005, 93:450-8.
14. Rosmarakis ES, Vergidis PI, Soteriades ES, Paraschakis K, Papastamataki PA, Falagas ME: Estimates of global production in cardiovascular diseases research. Int J Cardiol 2005, 100(3):443-9.
15. Michalopoulos A, Falagas ME: A bibliometric analysis of global research production in respiratory medicine. Chest 2005, 128:3993-8.

16. Bliziotis IA, Paraschakis K, Vergidis PI, Karavasilou AI, Falagas ME: Worldwide trends in quantity and quality of published articles in the field of infectious diseases. BMC Infect Dis 2005, 5:16.

17. Soteriades ES, Rosmarakis ES, Paraschakis K, Falagas ME: Research contribution of different world regions in the top 50 biomedical journals (1995–2002). Faseb J 2006, 20:29-34.

18. Gehanno JP, Thirion B: How to select publications on occupational health: the usefulness of Medline and the impact factor. Occup Environ Med 2000, 57(10):706-9.

19. Navarro A, Martin M: Scientific production and international collaboration in occupational health, 1992–2001. Scan J Work Env Health 2004, 30:223-33.

20. Verbeek J, Salmi J, Pasternack I, Jauhiainen M, Laamanen I, Schaan F, Hulshof C, van Dijk F: A search strategy for occupational health intervention studies. Occup Environ Med 2005, 62:682-7.

21. Takahashi K, Hoshuyama T, Ikegami K, Itoh T, Higashi T, Okubo T: A bibliometric study of the trend in articles related to epidemiology published in occupational health journals. Occup Environ Med 1996, 53:433-8.

22. Porta M, Fernandez E, Murillo J, Alguacil J, Copete JL: The bibliographic "impact factor", the total number of citations and related bibliometric indicators: the need to focus on journals of public health and preventive medicine. Soz Preventivmed 2004, 49:15-8.

23. Institute for Scientific Information: SCI: Science Citation Index-Journal Citation Reports, Philadelphia, The Institute for Scientific Information. 2004.

24. National Library of Medicine, Index Medicus database (PubMed), Bethesda, Maryland. 2004.

25. World Bank: World Development Indicators 2002. CD-ROM, Edition World Bank; Washington, DC, USA 2004.

26. Scheive LA, Handler A, Gordon AK, Ippoliti P, Turnock BJ: Public health practice linkages between schools of public health and state health agencies: results from a three-year survey. J Public Health Manag Pro 1997, 3:29-36.

27. Withers BG, Smith SR, Eversen ET, Wiener HA, Fortune GJ, Svalina JS, Davila R: The Occupational Health Partnership Program: a new paradigm for occupational health services. Mil Med 1995, 160:489-91.

28. Canadian Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century: Consultation on strengthening the Pan-Canadian public health system and meeting with the Minister of State (public health). Can J Public Health 2004, 95:i-1-15.

29. Tulchinsky TH: Developing schools of public health in countries of Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Public Health Rev 2002, 30:179-200.

30. Holland WW, Last JM: The world need for schools of public health. J Public Health Policy 1982, 3:476-82.

31. Dandona L, Sivan YS, Jyothi MN, Bhaskar VS, Dandona R: The lack of public health research output from India. BMC Public Health 2004, 4:55.

32. Gensini GF, Conti AA: The impact factor: a factor of impact or the impact of a (sole) factor? The limits of a bibliometric indicator as a candidate for an instrument to evaluate scientific production. Ann Ital Med Int 1999, 14:130-3.

33. Grant J, Cottrell R, Cluzeau F, Fawcett G: Evaluating "payback" on biomedical research from papers cited in clinical guidelines: applied bibliometric study. BMJ 2000, 320:1107-11.

Pre-publication history
The pre-publication history for this paper can be accessed here:

http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/6/301/pre-pub