

Medical Eponyms : Prolific Authors and their Favourite Journals

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1. Introduction

A law, theory, theorem, hypothesis, principle, rule, formula, equation, disease, etc. named after a person is called 'eponym'. There are numerous eponyms in vogue in the 'medical education, research and practice' and many papers have been published on 'eponyms'. Informetric objectives of studies on eponyms in this chapter are to :

- identify prolific authors;
- find their authorship status in collaborative efforts;
- document preferences for the channels of communication;
- note countries publishing and languages used; and
- record eponymic personal subjects in context with medical subjects.

2. Methodology

MEDLINE database (1970 - 96) on CD - ROM was downloaded for 'eponyms' and sorted out as per requirement. Normal count procedure was followed throughout by giving one score for every occurrence of the subject under consideration. Collaboration coefficient was calculated as the ratio of the number of collaborative papers to the total number of papers published during the period.

Publication density is defined as the ratio of the total number of papers published to the total number of sources. Publication concentration is the ratio in percentage of the journals having half of the papers published to the total number of sources in which all papers were found. Attempt has been made to provide a birds' eye view of the interesting domain 'eponyms'.

3. Results

A total of 589 publications retrieved from MEDLINE database (1970-96) were having 23 anonymous, 376 single - authored, 129 two authored, 31 three - authored, ten four - authored, eight five - authored, six six - authored, three seven - authored, two eight - authored and one nine - authored publications. Total authorships were 912.

Prolific authors (Fig. 1.) with number of authorships to their credit were: B. S. Schoenberg (27) with eight papers as first author and 19 papers as second author in all two-authored papers. D. G. Schoenberg (25) with 18 papers as first author and seven papers as second author in all two-authored publications in collaboration with B.S. Schoenberg during 1976-97. B.D. Jordan was first author in one publication and E. W. Massey was second author in one publication with B. S. Schoenberg.

All of their papers were published in *South. Med J.* (1976 - 79) except only one in *Arch. Neurol.* (1979). Publication types by B. S. Schoenberg as first author included-historical article, historical biography, Journal article (seven); Journal article (one); and current biographical obituary, historical article, Journal article (one). Publications types by D. G. Schoenberg as first author included historical article, historical biography, Journal article (eighteen); and current biographical obituary; historical article, Journal article (one).

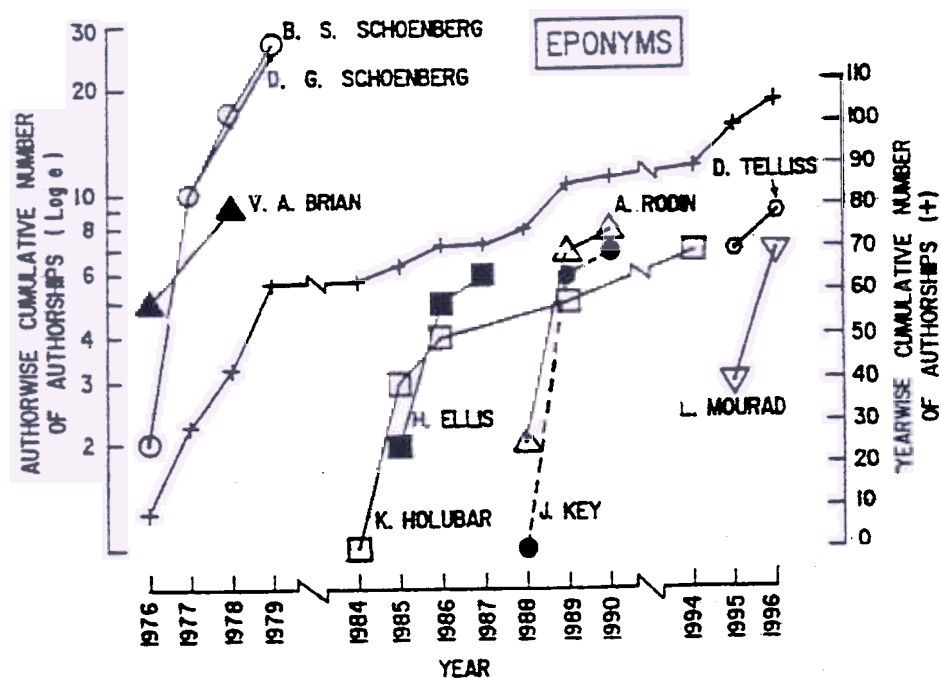


FIG. 64. Growth in number of authorships to the credit of each prolific author, and year-wise growth of authorships in the domain 'eponyms'

A. Rodin and J. Key have collaborated in seven papers where A. Rodin was first author in all. A. Rodin had to his credit one single-authored publication. All of their papers were published in *Ohio Med.* only during 1989 - 91. All were journal articles.

K. Holubar had five single-authored and one two-authored publications. Four single- authored publications of K. Holubar (1984, '85, '86 and '90) and one two-authored publication (1994) wherein D. Kopera was first author were in *Am. J. Dermatopathol.* One single authored publication of K. Holubar was in *J. Am. Acad Dermatol.* (1985) and one two - authored publication wherein D. Kopera was second - author was in *J. Invest. Dermatol.* (1994). His publications were : Historical article, historical biography, journal article (three); historical article, biography, letter (two); historical article, letter (one); and current biographical obituary, historical article, journal article (one).

L. Mourad's all seven single - authored journal articles were in *Orthop. Nurs.*, three during 1995 and four during 1996.

H. Ellis has six single - authored publications in *Eur. J. Surg* during 1985 (two), 1986 (three) and 1987 (one) only. All were historical article; historical biography and Journal articles.

B. S. Schoenberg, D. G. Schoenberg and J. Key had highest collaboration coefficient (1.00). A. Rodin had collaboration coefficient (0.87), followed by K. Kolubar (0.28). V. A. Brian, D. Tolliss, L. Mourad and H. Ellis had published all single-authored publications, hence zero collaboration coefficient.

Bradford - Zipf bibliograph is shown in Fig. 2. Publication density was 8. Publication Concentration was 2 and Bradford multiplier was 2.5.

Prolific authors, K. Holubar, L. Mourad, A. Rodin, B. S. Schoenberg and D. G. Schoenberg have published all of their 49 papers in journals of United States. V. A. Brian, H. Ellis and D. Tolliss have published all of their 24 papers in journals of England. AJI 73 papers were in English language only.

4. Source Journalwise Eponymic Persons and Association with Medical Subjects follows

South. Med. J. : Dr. Thomas Willis (Circle of Willis anatomy and histology; Neurology history); Henry S. Plummer (Iodine therapeutic use; Thyroid disease drug therapy); V. Apgar (Apgar score; Infant, New born); William Smellie (Obstetrics history); Edward Crisp (Aneurysm history); Nikolaus Friedreich (Friedreich's Ataxia diagnosis); Helen Brooke Taussing (Cardiology history); Sir. Jonathan Hutchinson (Syphilis, Congenital); J. F. Babinski, C. G. Chaddock and H. Oppenheim (Reflex, Abnormal); T. Sydenham, G. Huntington (Chorea history); A. K. Wilson (Hepatolenticular Degeneration history; Neurology history); A. Alzheimer (Dementia, Presenile history); Tangier

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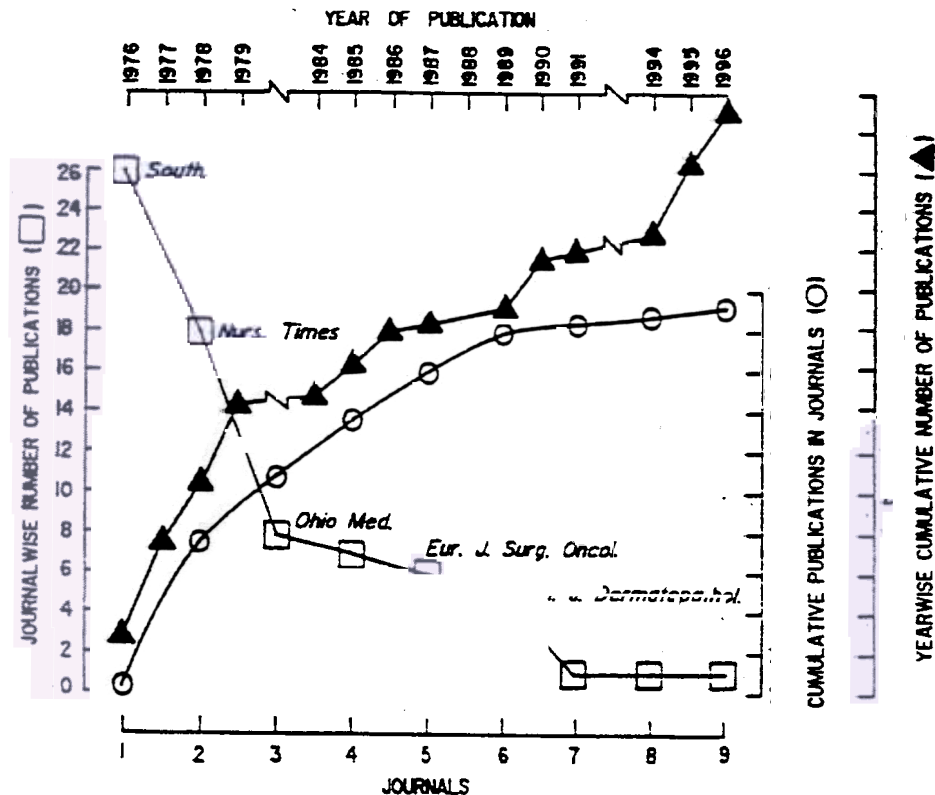


FIG. 64.2: *Bradford-Zipf Bibliograph on the Journals preferred by the Prolific Authors in the Domain 'Eponyms'*

(Hypolipoproteinemia genetics); S. Refsum (Refsum Disease history); William Stokes (Adams Stokes Syndrome history); Sir William R. Gowers (Medical illustration history ; Neurology history); William John Little (Cerebral Palsy history); C. Golgi, S. Ramon Y Cajal, F. Nissl, and C. Weigert (Neurology history ; Staining history); H. K. Pancoast (Pancoast's Syndrome history); William Alexander Hammond (Neurology history); Henry Bence Jones (Bence Jones Protein); Leo Buerger (Thromboangiitis Obliterans history); J. Paget (Carcinoma Intraductal Noninfiltrating history; Osteitis Deformans history; Paget's Disease, Mammary history); Sir Astley Paston Cooper (Surgery history); John Abernethy (Lipoma history); and Theodor Billroth (Surgery history; Suture Techniques history).

Nurs. Times: James Parkinson (Parkinson Disease history); Abraham Colles (Surgery history); Percivall Pott (Surgery history); Robert Graves (Medical Education history); Richard Bright (Edema history); William Stokes (Cardiology history); Harvey Cushing (Neurosurgery history); Sir George Still (Pediatrics history); James Paget (Osteitis Deformans history, Paget's Disease, Mammary history); H. Hirschsprung (Hirschsprung Disease history); J. Cheyne and W.

Stokes (Cheyne Stokes Respiratory history); J. Paget (Paget's Disease, Extramammary history); B. Marfan (Marfan Syndrome history); G. Dupuytren (Dupuytren's Contracture history, Surgery history); E. A. von Willebrand (von Willebrand's Disease history; Hematology history); G. de la Tourette (Neurology history, Tourette Syndrome history); P. Meniere (Meniere's Disease history; Otolaryngology history); and J. M. Charcot (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis history; Arthropathy, Neurogenic history).

Ohio Med.: Caput (Hypertension, Portal complications: Skin blood supply); Cyclopia (Orbit abnormalities); Electra (Psychoanalytic Theory; Oedipus Complex); Falstaff (Obesity); J. Faustus (Psychoanalytic Theory); Gorgoyl (Mucopolysaccharidoses); Job (Job's Syndrome etiology); and Godiva (Exhibitionism).

Orthop. Nurs: Bennett and Rolando (Fractures; Metacarpus injuries); Duverney and Malgaigne (Fractures classification; Pelvic Bones injuries); Jones and Lisfranc (Metatarsophalangeal Joint injuries; Metatarsal injuries); Bosworth and Shepherd (Fibula injuries; Fractures; Talus injuries); Jefferson and Hangman (Cervical Vertebrae injuries, Spinal Fractures etiology); Segond and Stieda (Femoral Fractures etiology and therapy; Tibial fractures etiology and therapy); and Holstein Lewis and Tillaux (Humeral Fractures Pathology, Tibial Fractures pathology).

Eur. J. Surg. Oncol.: William Stewart Halsted (Mastectomy history); Marie Curie (Radium Therapeutic use); William Earnest Miles (Medical Oncology history); Max Wilms (Nephroblastoma history); Sir James Paget (Osteitis Deformans history, Paget's Disease, Mammary history); and Denis Burkitt (Burkitt's Lymphoma history).

Am. J. Dermatopathol.: J. Tappeiner and V. L. Pfleger (Hemangioendothelioma history, Skin Neoplasms history); Josef Kyrle (Hair Diseases history); Heinrich Auspitz (Psoriasis history); Paul Langerhans, Theodor Langhans, and Carl Touton (Dermatology history, Pathology history); and Merckell (Mechanoreceptors).

Arch. Neurol: A. G. Tapia (Hemiplegia history, Tongue Diseases history).

J. Am. Acad. Dermatol.: A. Afzelius and B. Lipschutz (Erythema history).

J. Invest. Dermatol: Theodor Langhans, Friedrich Merkel, and P. Langerhans (Pathology history).

5. Conclusion

There were strong linkages between authors in the domain 'medical eponyms' and journals. Two-authored collaborations were most successful in the emergence of prolific authors.