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Institutional Interviews : 2010 : Obesity Research, the Top 20 Institutions

INSTITUTIONAL INTERVIEWS - 2010

April 2010



Obesity Research, the Top 20 Institutions

Institution Feature

*This month, ScienceWatch.com presents a listing of the top 20 institutions which, according to our Special Topic on **Obesity**, attracted the highest total citations to their papers published on the topic in Thomson Reuters-indexed journals.*

These institutions are the top 20 ranked by total cites out of a pool of 30,223 institutions publishing on this topic, based on the string search "obesity," "obese," or "overweight" in titles, abstracts, and keywords of original articles, reviews, and proceedings papers published between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 2009.

The resulting list of institutions includes 17 US-based organizations: 11 universities, four hospitals, and two government agencies. There are also a European and a UK university on the list, as well as one in Japan.

Leading the group by a significant margin is Harvard University, with 2,161 papers cited a total of 90,448 times. Harvard's top-cited papers cover such diverse topics as public health issues (disease burden, annual deaths, sugar-sweetened drinks and childhood obesity), comorbid diseases (**diabetes**, metabolic syndrome), genome studies, bariatric surgery, and the role protein hormones like leptin and adiponectin play in obesity.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention rank at #2, with 685 papers cited a total of 37,176 times. Several of the authors included in our analysis are from the CDC, including Katherine Flegel, Cynthia Ogden, William Dietz, and Margaret Carroll. Prevalence and trends of obesity, definitions for childhood obesity and overweight, disease burdens, epidemics of obesity and diabetes, and the Bogalusa Heart Study are among the highly cited paper topics from the CDC.

The #3 slot belongs to the University of Washington, with 868 papers cited a total of 29,263 times. The

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role of the central nervous system in food intake is a dominant theme in this university's highly cited papers. Other topics include ghrelin levels after diet or **weight-loss surgery**, the roles of C-reactive protein, leptin, and adiponectin in obesity, and the relationship between obesity and poverty.

Coming in at #4 is Columbia University, with 923 papers cited a total of 26,298 times. Among the highly cited topics here are papers on macrophage accumulation in adipose tissue, annual deaths attributable to obesity, body-mass index in Asian populations, metabolic syndrome, use of rimonabant and orlistat for weight loss, and the connection between obesity and depression or suicide.

Johns Hopkins University ranks at #5, with 978 papers cited a total of 26,272 times. Years of life lost due to obesity; studies of lifestyle activity vs. structured aerobics in obese women; sleep disordered breathing and insulin resistance in overweight men; TV watching, energy intake, and obesity in kids; and studies of resveratrol in mice are among the most-cited papers for Johns Hopkins.

The Harvard-affiliated Brigham & Women's Hospital comes in at #6, with 587 papers cited a total of 25,264 times. The hospital's most-cited topics range from the molecular to the human scale: papers on inflammatory biomarkers and the role of C-reactive protein in metabolic syndrome appear alongside papers on the disease burden of obesity and the impact of being overweight on chronic disease risk.

The #7-ranked institution is the University of Minnesota, with 1,043 papers cited a total of 25,172 times. This university is notable for multiple papers on bariatric surgery among its highly cited papers. Other topics include long-term maintenance of weight loss, physical activity, and cardiovascular disease risks. Mary Story, who is ranked at #7 by total number of papers, hails from the University of Minnesota.

At #8 is the University of Osaka, with 368 papers cited a total of 23,465 times. Several of the most-cited authors in our analysis are from Osaka, including Tohru Funahashi, Shinji Kihara, and Ichihiro Shimomura. The role of adiponectin in obesity and type 2 diabetes dominates Osaka's highly cited papers. Other topics include oxidative stress in obesity and its role in metabolic syndrome, and new criteria for "obesity disease" in Japan.

The first of two Pennsylvania institutions, the University of Pittsburgh, ranks at #9, with 861 papers cited a total of 22,857 times. Pitt's highly cited papers cover such topics as outcomes following Roux-en-Y gastric bypass surgery, effects of weight loss on regional fat distribution and insulin sensitivity, long-term weight loss and change in blood pressure, and decreasing physical activity in black and white female adolescents.

Rounding out the top 10 is the second Pennsylvania university, the University of Pennsylvania, with 785 papers cited a total of 21,860 times. A great deal of Penn's focus is on the link between obesity and diabetes via the protein resistin. Other topics garnering citations include low-carbohydrate diets for obesity, adipose tissue as an endocrine organ, and the regulation of food intake by AMP-kinase.

The remaining US universities on the list include Yale University (#11), the University of North Carolina (#16), the University of California, Los Angeles (#17), and Boston University (#20). Hospitals include Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (#12), Mayo Clinic & Mayo Foundation (#15), and UT Southwestern Medical Center (#19). The second US-based government institution comes in at #18, the NIDDK. The UK and European institutions on the list are UCL (#13) and the University of Helsinki (#14), respectively.

The top 20 institutions in the **Special Topic of Obesity are listed in full in the table below:**

Citations				
Rank	Institutions	Citations	Papers	Citations Per Paper
1	Harvard Univ	90,448	2,161	41.85
2	Ctr Dis Control & Prevent	37,176	685	54.27
3	Univ Washington	29,263	868	33.71
4	Columbia Univ	26,298	923	28.49
5	Johns Hopkins Univ	26,272	978	26.86
6	Brigham & Womens Hosp	25,264	587	43.04
7	Univ Minnesota	25,172	1,043	24.13
8	Osaka Univ	23,465	368	63.76
9	Univ Pittsburgh	22,857	861	26.55
10	Univ Penn	21,860	785	27.85
11	Univ Texas	20,855	586	35.59
12	Yale Univ	20,552	584	35.19
13	Beth Israel Deaconess Med Ctr	19,811	332	59.67
14	UCL	19,741	694	28.45
15	Univ Helsinki	19,592	542	36.15
16	Mayo Clin & Mayo Fdn	19,183	732	26.21
17	Univ N Carolina	19,066	900	21.18
18	Univ Calif Los Angeles	18,464	741	24.92
19	NIDDK	17,996	410	43.89
20	UT SOUTHWESTERN MED CTR	17,489	502	34.84

Full citation details of all of these institutions can be seen in *Essential Science Indicators*SM from Thomson Reuters.

KEYWORDS: COPD, Obesity, Univ London Imperial Coll Sci Technol & Med, Harvard Univ, Univ British Columbia, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIV, Univ Calif Los Angeles, Univ Pittsburgh, Washington Univ.

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