CANADA A LEADER IN PEDIATRIC PAIN RESEARCH: HOW PAIN IN CHILD HEALTH (PICH) CONTRIBUTED TO GROWTH IN THE FIELD

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INTRODUCTION / AIM

The field of pediatric pain has grown tremendously since the first articles were published in the 1970-80s. Canadian researchers have been at the forefront of this evolution, with the success of the Pain in Child Health (PICH) Strategic Training Program one particular example of these efforts. PICH, established in 2002, is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and joins national and international leading research centers on pediatric pain. The current study aimed to examine to what extent Canadian researchers, and PICH in particular, have contributed to the growth in pediatric pain literature.

METHODS

Categorical and bibliometric meta-trend analysis were adopted to provide a synthesis of peer-reviewed pediatric pain literature published between 1975-2010. Abstracts from 4256 articles were retrieved from Web of Science and coded for first authors affiliation and membership of PICH. Additionally, the citations each article had received by December 2014 was gathered.

RESULTS

Although first authors were most often from the United States (38.06%), Canada holds a firm second place of first author's affiliation (10.95%). Since the inception of PICH, 8.71% (N = 216) of first authors of all articles published between 2002 and 2010 (N = 2481) were affiliated with PICH. Moreover, 5 of these PICH-affiliated publications were amongst the top 20 most cited articles.

DISCUSSION / CONCLUSIONS

These findings confirm the strong position of Canada, and PICH in particular, as a leader on pediatric pain research, by publishing more articles on pediatric pain than expected using average world and adult pain publication rates as a guidance.

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