

1102 The Impact of Allergenic Molecules in Clinical Allergy. How Far Is the “Bench” From the “Bed”? A 35-Year Retrospective Analysis of Papers From International Scientific Journals

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The IUIS Allergen Nomenclature list contains 406 allergens and 192 isoallergens. 329 allergenic molecules should be added if all those reported are classified (data from www.allergome.org). The clinical application of all these research products seems not to run in parallel. The aim of the present study is to evaluate how much of the work done by bench-side researchers has been clinically applied. Last 35-years selected papers were classified in ten categories: (a) biochemistry; (b) molecular biology; (c) immunochemistry; (d) basic immunology and genetic; (e) environmental detection; (f) epidemiology; (g) diagnosis; (h) immunotherapy. Papers in categories (a-d) were considered “bench-side” studies, whereas those in categories (e-h) were from the “bed-side”. A single paper may be classified in one or more categories. Within the 4550 selected papers, a bench-side aspect was reported 4767 times, whereas the clinical application of allergenic molecules was studied 1451 times (ratio 3.3/1). Papers were distributed as follows: (a) 1417 (31.1%); (b) 1208 (26.5%); (c) 1725 (37.9%); (d) 417 (9.2%); (e) 851 (18.7%); (f) 135 (3.0%); (g) 446 (9.8%); (h) 46 (1.0%). The analysis of the distribution showed a rise in reporting bench-side studies in the second part of the eighties, with an increase during the last ten years. A rise in the number of papers dealing with the clinical application of allergens is recorded in the late nineties. It seems that there is a historical gap between the isolation, identification, cloning and use in basic research of allergenic molecules, and their application by clinical allergist, even for research purposes only.

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