

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Is the Mean H-index of 38.5 Right for 40 Researchers?

Huseyin Bayramlar, Remzi Karadag

Department of Ophthalmology, Goztepe, Istanbul Medeniyet University School Of Medicine, Istanbul, Turkey

Corresponding author: Prof. Dr. Huseyin Bayramlar. Istanbul Medeniyet University Medical Faculty, Dept. of Ophthalmology, Istanbul, Turkiye. Tel: (90) 0532 5601884. e-mail: hbayramlar@yahoo.com

We read with interest Ahangar et al's paper on evaluation of scientific outputs of 40 Iranian researchers. The authors reported a mean h-index of 38.5 for 40 Iranian researchers (1). We think that this should be an incorrect evaluation. Because, the total number of articles and total citations were given as 877 and 3858, respectively. It is impossible to obtain a mean h-index of 38.5 from those data. Indeed, a mean value of h-index of 38.5 necessitates at least $38.5 \times 38.5 = 1483$ citations for every researchers who had a h-index value exceeding the mean value. In addition, they gave a mean published articles of 21.9 for all researchers in Table 1. It is not logic that a researcher who have a mean article number of 21.9 have a h-index of 38. Secondly, the authors did not state the tables as Table 1 and 2 in the text.

Thirdly, the authors rightly suggested that "only the h-index should not be a criterion for scientific ranking of the researchers and other complementary indexes such as M parameter and G index along with h-index must be used...". But they did not describe and give any information about M parameter and G index. It would be better if they did this.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: NONE DECLARED.

REFERENCES

1. Ahangar HG, Siamian H, Yaminfirooz M. Evaluation of the scientific outputs of researchers with similar h index: a critical approach. *Acta Inform Med.* 2014; 22(4): 255-258.