

4.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

This study has surveyed Israeli scientific publications dealing with biological and toxin research. In all databases examined, there were approximately 178,000 publications, including duplicate reporting, from Israel between 1970 and 1992. Using over 100 key-words related to biological and toxin research, 16,055 publications were selected from Israel. Since it was beyond the scope of this study to examine all these publications, a unique set of 962 publications (6% of the key-word selected publications) were sampled to survey Israeli research.

Two research centres, the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School accounted for 35% of the sampled publications. Clearly, these are the most important research centres related to biological and toxin research.

The Weizmann Institute of Science is a world-class research centre publishing innovative basic research related to peptides, toxins, cell membrane function and immunology. The greater emphasis is on basic as opposed to applied research, as noted from the sampled publications. There is an affiliated biotechnology company called Bio-Yeda Ltd. which appears to commercialize biotechnical processes. This may reflect the attempt to provide more applied products from the basic research carried out at the Weizmann Institute.

The Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School is a major centre of biological and toxin research in Israel. It appears to cover the basic and applied research that was sampled by this study more evenly than the Weizmann Institute. The Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School published research detailing field tests of vaccines in collaboration with the Israel Defense