



## Erratum

# The growth of the cell death field: an analysis from the ISI-Science citation index

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Our recent report (Garfield and Melino, 1997) elicited considerable interest and comment. This was the first time such an analysis has been conducted in this field. Although we anticipated that the paper was likely to be provocative, we have subsequently become aware of the limitations of the search strategy used to perform the analysis and as a consequence, certain highly cited papers were not selected. An example of this is that by Strasser *et al* (1991). This paper was cited about 500 times and would rank 18th place in Table 2B. Similarly, the papers by Vaux *et al* (1994) and Strasser *et al* (1994) were cited 211 and 318 times, respectively, resulting in a ranking of 2nd and 3rd place respectively in Table 2C. Consequently, there would also be minor adjustments in Tables 3 and 4 (most cited authors and organizations).

Any attempt at quantitative analysis of the literature, however sophisticated, must be interpreted by informed judgement. Absolute citation frequencies may be misinterpreted. It was not our intention to judge the significance of the contributions of individual scientists or institutions. We apologize if the work of a few scientists was not appropriately recognized. On the other hand, we are grateful for the interest generated by our paper. It clearly has provoked readers to reflect on the history of apoptosis. We hope to generate an updated analysis in a few years.

## References

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