Exploring the Relation between Biomedical Entities and Government Funding

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ABSTRACT

In order to study and analyze the effect of grant funds on the promotion of scientific research in the field of medicine and to help the government manage research funds more rationally, this study proposes a framework for analyzing the relationship between entities in the field of medicine and funds. The framework consists of four parts: biomedical abstracts acquisition, NIH funding information acquisition and biomedical entity extraction; Development trend analysis of biomedical entity; Analysis of the most funded entities; Analysis of the relationship between entity research popularity and government funding. The results of preliminary analysis are as follows: the field of genetic research is in a period of rapid development, while the field of species research is in a "flat period"; Disease research catch NIH's continuous attention; the stimulating effect of government funding on the research popularity is decreasing, which is affected by various factors.

CCS CONCEPTS

• Applied computing → Bioinformatics • Applied computing → Computing in government • Information systems → Information retrieval

KEYWORDS

Biomedical entities, Government funding, Entitymetrics, Evolutionary trend

ACM Reference format:

Fang Tan, Siting Yang, Xiaoyan Wu and Jian Xu. 2020. Exploring the Relation between Biomedical Entities and Government Funding. In *Proceedings of 1st Workshop on Extraction and Evaluation of Knowledge Entities from Scientific Documents (EEKE2020). ACM/IEEE, Hubei, Wuhan, P. R. China, 4 pages.* https://doi.org/xx.xxxx/xxxxxxxxxx

EEKE2020, August, 2020, Wuhan, Hubei P. R. China

https://doi.org/10.1145/1234567890

1 INTRODUCTION

By 2019, the total number of literatures in PubMed, the database of biomedical papers, has reached 29 million [1], and statistically, nearly 1/3 of US patents come directly from federally funded programs [2], meaning that the federal government plays an important role in the development of scientific research. Entitymetrics was originally proposed by Ding et al. [3]. Current research around entities in medicine mainly includes the identification and classification of named entities [4], and the extraction of entity relationships [5], while research on government funding is limited to quantifying the effects of government funds in terms of institutions, patents, employment resolution capacity, etc. [6, 7]. Meanwhile, most of the research on scientific research and funding is limited to the exploration of the relationship between some indicators of research achievements (e.g. quantity and citation) and funding, and lacks a detailed study on the impact of funding on entity level. Therefore, this paper combined PubMed medical database and funding information published by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to compare the actual research focus and funding focus in the biomedical field from 1988 to 2017. First, the trajectory of the field is mapped from a physical research perspective to understand macro trends; second, the most funded entities are counted, the focuses and tendencies of government funding on biomedical entities are summarized; finally, the specific relationship between biomedical research funding and research popularity is further analyzed, which provides a reference for the government 's choice of funding recipients and funding levels.

2 METHODOLOGY

This paper proposes a framework for analyzing the relationship between biomedical entities and funds, as shown in Figure 1.

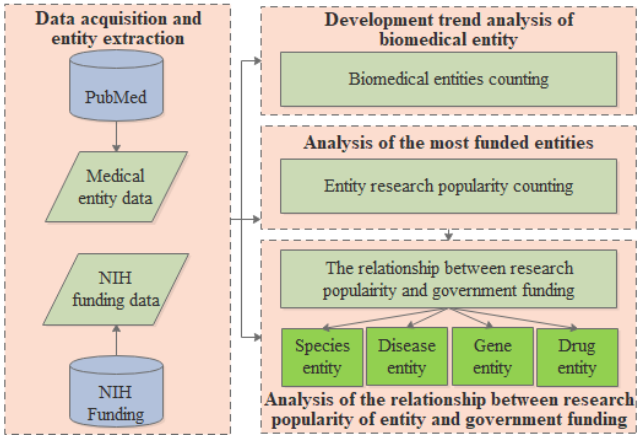

Figure 1. Our Research Framework

In Figure 1, the analysis framework can be divided into four main modules: data acquisition and entity extraction; Development trend analysis of biomedical entity; Analysis of the most funded entities; Analysis of the relationship between entity research popularity and government funding.

1) Data acquisition and entity extraction. Obtaining biomedical data from PubMed between 1988 and 2017, obtaining funding information and relevant research papers of project outputs from NIH funding database, and biomedical entity extraction based on BioBERT [8, 9].

2) Development trend analysis of biomedical entity. Biomedical entities are categorized into Species, Diseases, Gene, and Drug for evolutionary analysis.

3) Analysis of the most funded entities. Combined with the biomedical entity data, the entities mentioned in the NIH project output articles are extracted to count the amount of funding for the entities.

4) Analysis of the relationship between entity research popularity and government funding. We define the entity research popularity as the number of papers in which the entity is occurred. Thus, the annual number of four types of entities is counted according to the year of research paper in which the entity is located. The years 1988, 1998, 2008, and 2017 are selected, with the entity's research popularity as the vertical axis, and the entity's annual funding amount calculated by step 3) as the horizontal axis to create scatter plots.

3 PRELIMINARY RESULTS

3.1 Development trend analysis of biomedical entity

Based on the change of the number of research entities of each type, the development trend of biomedical fields in the past three decades is analyzed. The number of entities studied in each year is the number of biomedical entity types mentioned in all papers published in that year. Figure 2 shows the number of research entities for each type over time. From the perspective of development trend, the number of gene entities is rising the fastest and is in the stage of rapid development. The research on species entities is in the flat stage and is less numerous.

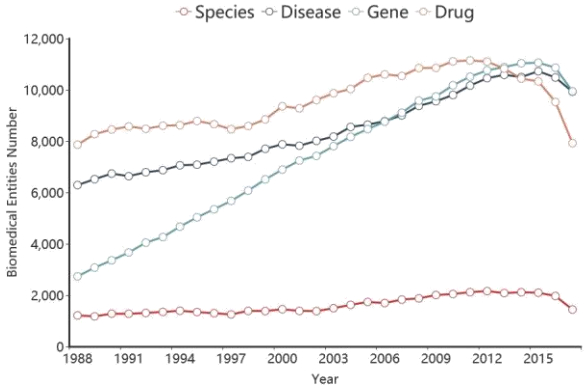

Figure 2. Mention Trends of Biomedical Entities

3.2 Development trend analysis of biomedical entity

Table 1 shows the top twenty biomedical entities in terms of total NIH funding dollars. The highest number of disease entities occupying nine seats, and the lowest number of gene entities, only two. This indicates that the study of disease is an area of research that the NIH has always valued and continues to focus on.

Table 1. Entities with the highest total funding (top 20)

ID	Entity ID	Entity Name	Entity Type	Funds (100 million)
1	1009505	Mice	species	1838.69
2	1272105	HIV	species	1653.83
3	106985801	Human immunodeficiency disease	disease	1273.03
4	256225101	Tumor	disease	1010.86
5	255268301	Cancer	disease	940.70
6	1009005	Mouse	species	932.19
7	1011605	Rat	species	669.36
8	4168403	Alcohol	drug	621.29
9	323759402	Insulin	gene	512.40
10	1167605	HIV-1	species	486.96
11	258006601	DM	disease	427.08
12	325454802	CD4+	gene	409.69
13	291977503	Glucose	drug	399.87
14	107480901	Breast and epithelial-myoepithelial carcinomas	disease	345.00
15	287734103	Ca2+	drug	286.02
16	107550501	AD	disease	259.30
17	261400701	Obesity	disease	238.07

18	267406001	Depression	disease	237.97
19	106971701	Bronchial asthma	disease	236.52
20	325464002	p32	gene	220.71

3.3 Analysis of the relationship between research popularity of entity and government funding

Based on biomedical entities in the four fields (Species, disease, gene and drug), the years 1988, 1998, 2008 and 2017 are selected for scatter plotting, and the relationship between entity's research popularity and government funding is visually analyzed, to identify the driving effect of the fund on research in each field from the entity's perspective.

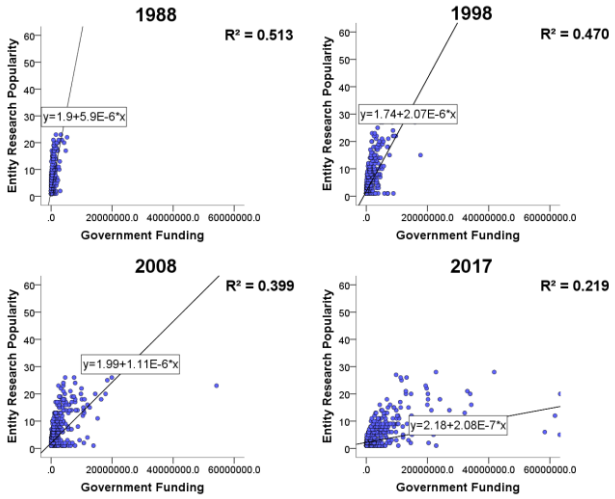

Figure 3. Scatterplot of species entity research funding and research popularity in 1988, 1998, 2008 and 2017

As shown in Figure 3, the linear fit reveals that with the passage of time and the increase of the funding amount, the stimulating effect of funding amounts on the popularity of species research slows down.

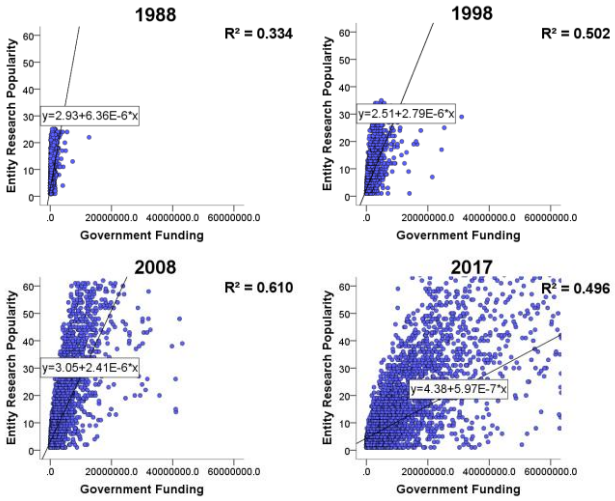

Figure 4. Scatterplot of disease entity research funding and research popularity in 1988, 1998, 2008 and 2017

As shown in Figure 4, from the linear fit trend of the scatter plot, the slope of the fitted line gradually decreases since 1988, and the stimulating effect of the funding amount on the research popularity is gradually slowing down. The linear coefficient obtained by fitting the linear trend of disease entities in four years is slightly larger than that obtained by species entities.

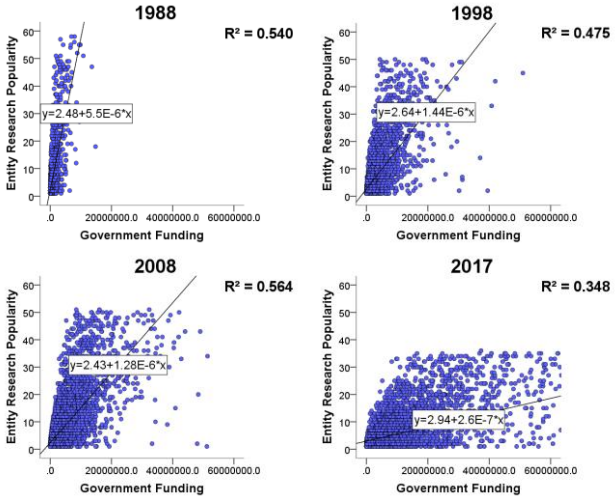

Figure 5. Scatterplot of gene entity research funding and research popularity in 1988, 1998, 2008 and 2017

As shown in Figure 5, for gene entities, the amount of funding plays a negligible role in the average research fervor of the entity, and the strength of the impact continues to fall.

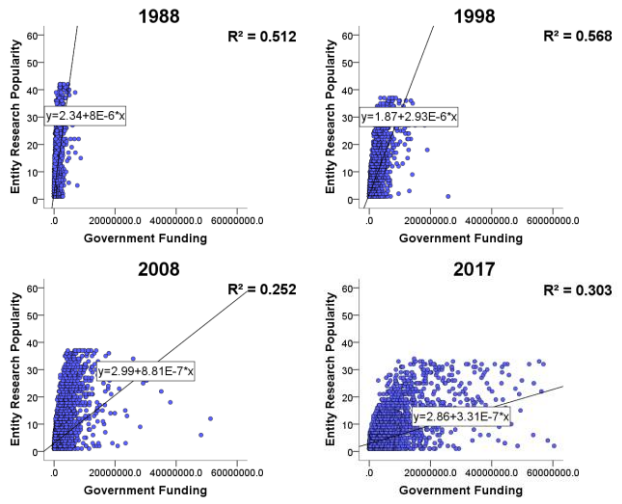

Figure 6. Scatterplot of drug entity research funding and research popularity in 1988, 1998, 2008 and 2017

As shown in Figure 6, similar to the gene entity, the amount of funding does not play a significant role in the drug entity's effect on research popularity. Over time, it is not possible to stimulate research popularity by increasing the amount of funding.

4 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

4.1 Conclusion

Studies linking entities to government funding and exploration of trends from an entity perspective barely visible as far as we know. This study puts forward a preliminary research idea, applying the idea of entitymetrics to biomedical field from the perspective of scientific research funds, and carries out a preliminary research trend exploration and knowledge discovery. The conclusions are as follows: a) the field of genetic research is in a period of rapid development, while the field of species research is in a "flat period"; b) Disease research catch NIH's continuous attention; c) the stimulating effect of government funding on the research popularity is decreasing, which is affected by various factors. These findings provide the basis for a follow-up study.

4.2 Future work

Inspired by the initial results, our future work will focus on a more in-depth exploration of the relationship between government funding and entity development. In this study, we summarized the trends in four categories of entities in the biomedical field and counted the entities that received the highest funding. However, Is there some commonality among these entities? Is entity-related research with some certain characteristics always more likely to be funded by the government? In addition, current research shows that the incentive effect of increased government funding on research in various fields is decreasing, while the impact of other factors such as the continuity of government funding on research enthusiasm has not been explored. Therefore, further research will be conducted on the study of the characteristics of the funded entities and the rules of government funding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We acknowledge the editors and the anonymous reviewers for insightful suggestions on this work.

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