

Transformation in Open Access Publishing at Two Universities

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Objective:

Two Academic Health Sciences Libraries studied the publishing patterns of their authors in relation to free full-text journals, both true open access publications and those that embargo titles for a limited number of months. The study addressed several questions; how many OA articles were published and what similarities and differences existed between the two institutions, one public and one private.

Methods:

Duke University Medical Center Library and the Health Sciences Library at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill collaborated on a project to identify publications by institutional authors. Using standardized search strategies, articles in Open Access journals were identified by each school. The results will compare the differences and similarities between these two schools' open-access publishing patterns, analyzing the publications chosen and departments represented as well as the number of articles published. A comparison of the authors' OA publishing choices to other publishing will be examined; and an analysis will look at trends in "born free" or immediate open access titles as well as embargoed journals.

Results and Conclusions:

The study was successful in generating a list of institutional citations and comparing the open access titles. The data for the journals with the highest number of articles were compared. While publication rates between the two institutions were similar, only five of the top 10 journals (based on number of articles) were common to the two schools. Each school had five unique titles in its top ten. When looking at departments, there were more similarities; medicine representing a majority of the publications, but with more basic sciences departments choosing OA journals. The study did underscore the difficulty of identifying which journals were truly "born free" journals at the time of publication, from those that became open access after an embargo period. Follow-up studies are needed on the authors' awareness of and reasons for choosing open access journals over others in their fields.

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1: Medical Center Library, Duke University; 2: Health Sciences Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Question

How are Open Access (OA) journals affecting publishing by biomedical faculty at UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University?

Study

- Analyze articles authored by Duke or UNC faculty in free full-text journals from Jan. 2004 to July 2005

Conclusions

- It is possible to compare faculty OA publishing between two institutions
- Large scale OA publishing patterns are similar; differences begin to appear on the smaller scale
- The OA environment is complex but warrants further study

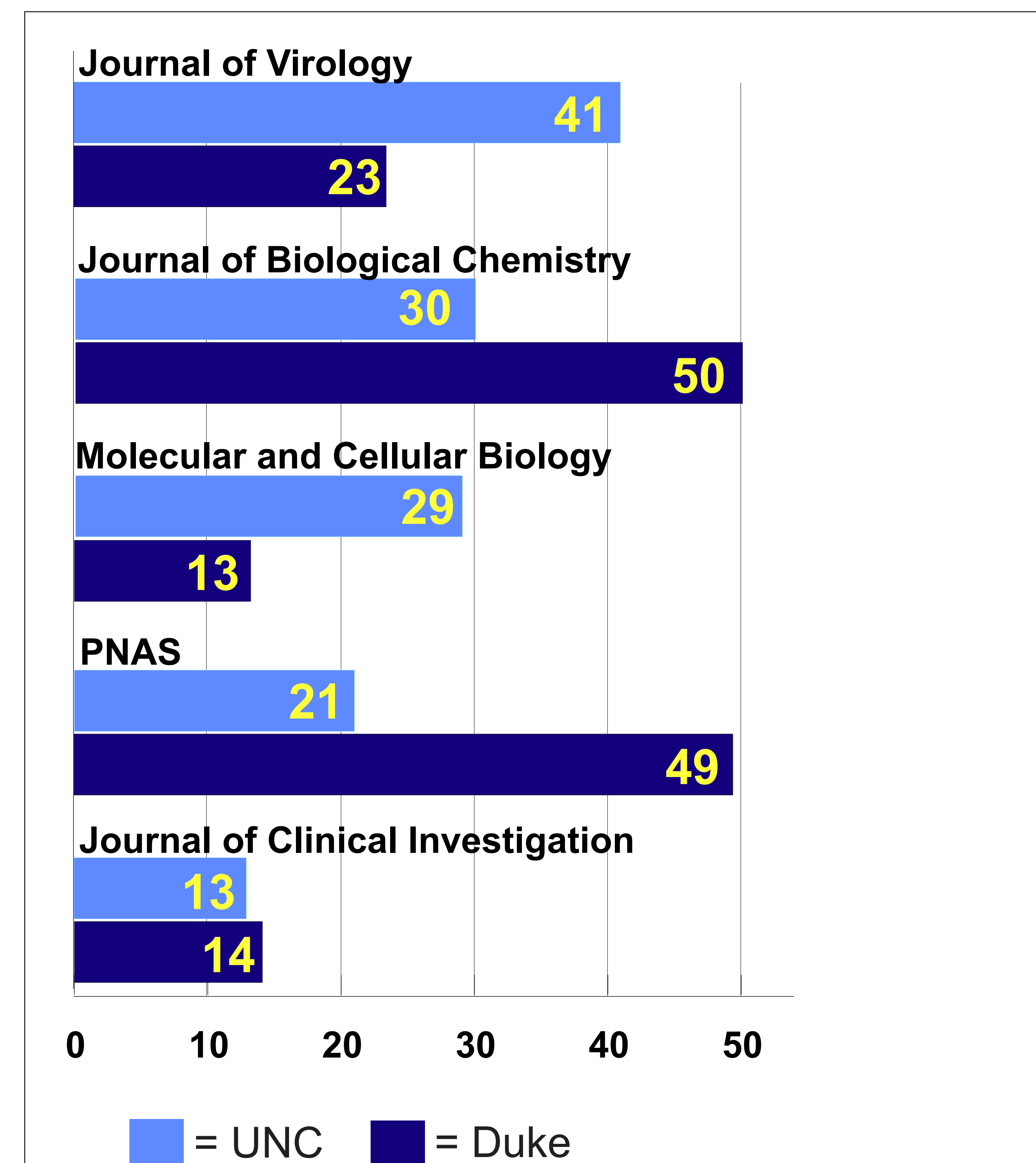
Questions for Further Study

- What factors influence authors' decisions?
 - Who influences choice of where to publish?
 - How important is OA policy over impact factors?
 - Is the embargo period a factor in choice?
- How does OA publishing compare to overall publishing behavior?
- Will choices about OA change over time?

Possible Answers (Warlick 2006)

- Authors' stated factors for journal choice:
 - Target audience
 - Impact Factor / perceived quality
 - Prestige & quality
 - OA status is LEAST important factor overall

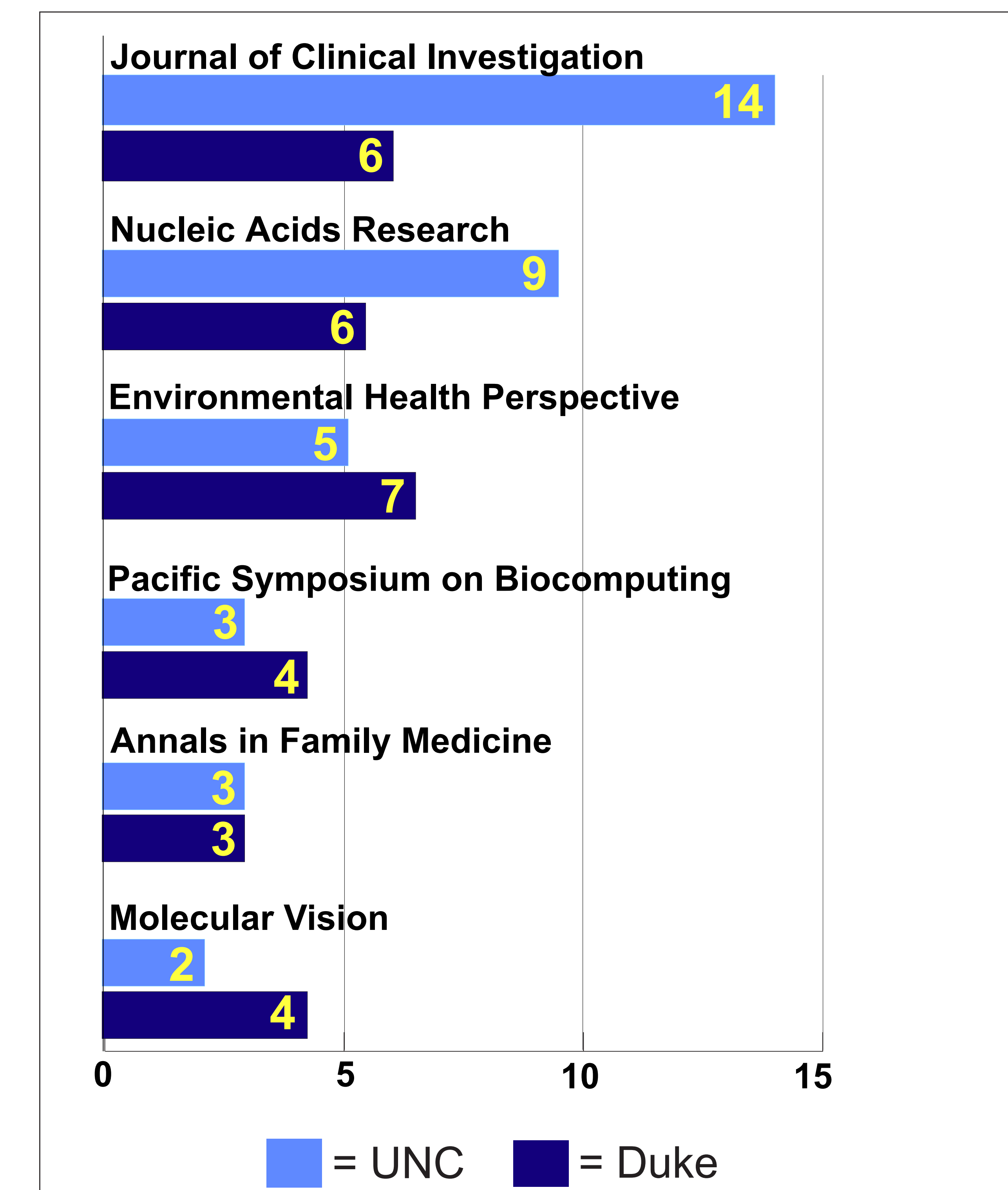
Common Free Full-text Titles in Top Ten



Other Free Full-Text Titles in Top Ten

UNC	Duke
Molecular Biology of the Cell (18)	Eukaryotic Cell (18)
Genetics (11)	Journal of Immunology (11)
Pediatrics (10)	JAMA (10)
Applied & Environmental Microbiology (9)	Journal of Clinical Microbiology (9)
Nucleic Acids Research (9)	Circulation (9)

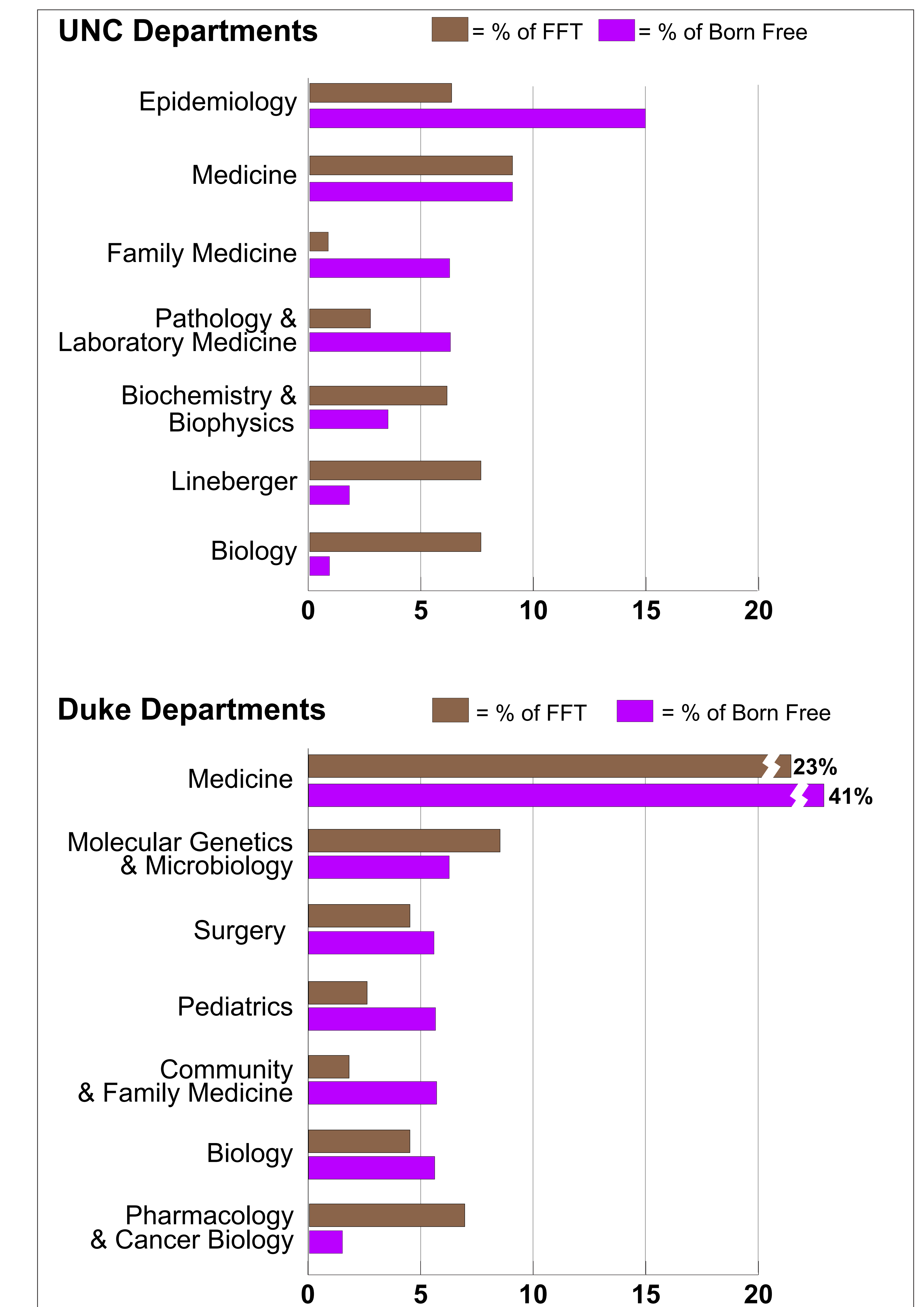
Common Born Free Titles in Top Ten



Other Born Free Titles in Top Ten

UNC	Duke
BMC Neuroscience (6)	Respiratory Care (8)
Breast Cancer Research (4)	CMAJ (6)
BMC Public Health (4)	Oncologist (4)
Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health (3)	PLOS Biology (4)

Publishing in Free Full Text and Born Free Journals by Department Affiliation



Free full-text articles, January 2004 to July 2005: UNC = 410; Duke = 490

Born free articles, January 2004 to July 2005: UNC = 99; Duke = 90