

## PREFACE

For two decades, *Current Contents*<sup>®</sup> essays were published on a weekly schedule. In 1991, a bi-weekly schedule was implemented. In each alternate weekly issue we now publish either a *Current Comments*<sup>®</sup> essay or *Press Digest*<sup>®</sup> and a group of *Citation Classics*<sup>®</sup>.

The reduced frequency of essays was also accompanied by a major change in their editorial character. Whereas most earlier essays involved significant in-house research, we now seek out guest essays involving condensations or reprints of work by colleagues outside ISI<sup>®</sup>. Many of these topics cover subjects I would have relished researching myself. In any event each essay or reprint is preceded by a personalized introduction, usually including a short biographical sketch of the guest author. These changes are the result of several factors, including a smaller editorial staff as well as greater commitment of my time to *The Scientist*<sup>®</sup> and other outside activities in the scientific community on ISI's behalf.

The size of the usual annual volume of these essays would have been reduced, were it not for the fact that there also existed an additional body of "mini essays" that I published in *The Scientist* since 1986. These 87 essays are also included in this volume as well as a cumulative subject index for volumes 11-14.

The reduction in *Current Contents* editorial staff was essentially concurrent with the advent of *Science Watch*<sup>®</sup>, the ISI newsletter edited and written by David Pendlebury and Christopher King. Both were major contributors to the success of the *Current Comments* series over a ten-year period. Indeed, Chris contributed the essay on inventors and inventiveness, appearing in this volume. *Science Watch* has already become an influential medium affecting international and national science policy. So while the nature and quality of citation studies reported in *Current Contents* has changed, ISI's overall involvement in citation analysis and scientometrics has enlarged significantly.

My long-time colleague Henry Small directs a major in-house contract research effort which has been described recently in "Contract research services at ISI—Citation analysis for governmental, industrial and academic clients," (*Current Contents*, #23, June 8, 1992, p.5-13).

The range of subjects in this volume is, as always, eclectic. But there is usually a string of connectedness, whether it be the subject of poetry and science (Roald

Hoffmann), science and religion (Kevin J. Sharpe), individual and institutional integrity (Walter R. Dowdle), electronic journals (Stevan Harnad), meta-analysis and the scientific literature (Gene Glass), or history of the modern computer (T.A. Heppenheimer).

In spite of the downsizing mentioned above, the present volume still manages to include several citation-based analyses. These include the last two sections of a five-part study of the 500 most-cited papers of all time, several studies of chemistry literature and, of course, our annual analyses of Nobel Prize winners. To round these off, Lowell Hargens and Howard Schuman condensed their work on the impact of citation studies on biochemists and sociologists.

Interspersed among the above is a further story on physician-art patron Albert Barnes, that enigmatic founder of the Barnes Foundation (Lucinda Fleeson), another essay on tinnitus (Morris Rubinoff), dependent care (Cynthia Miller), Werner Heisenberg (David Cassidy) and the introduction to *Social Science Quotations* (David L. Sills and Robert K. Merton).

I was delighted that my good friend Robert Brent, Thomas Jefferson University, agreed to write the foreword to this volume. He symbolizes to me the ideal combination of scientist-physician-humanist.

In several previous volumes of essays, especially Volume 7, appendices were provided which include reprints of many of my papers published elsewhere. In volume 15, we intend to include reprints of many other such publications that have not appeared in *Current Contents*. Volume 15 will also include cumulative indexes for volumes 1-15.

I also wish to acknowledge the dedicated work of my associates Sharon Murphy, Denise Lawson, Meher Mistry, and Cathy Mundy in the preparation of these volumes. In particular, Cathy organized the painstaking work of compiling indexes as well as the relations with printers, etc. While the microcomputer has facilitated this work, we have by no means reached the stage whereby such indexing is automatic. I might add, however, that I do look forward to the time when we will issue a cumulation of all these volumes on a single compact disc.