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Publications as a barometer of higher education:  
A comparison between Iraq and other regions.

Dr Ismail Kaidar Al-Jalili,  
FRCS, DO, FRCOphth

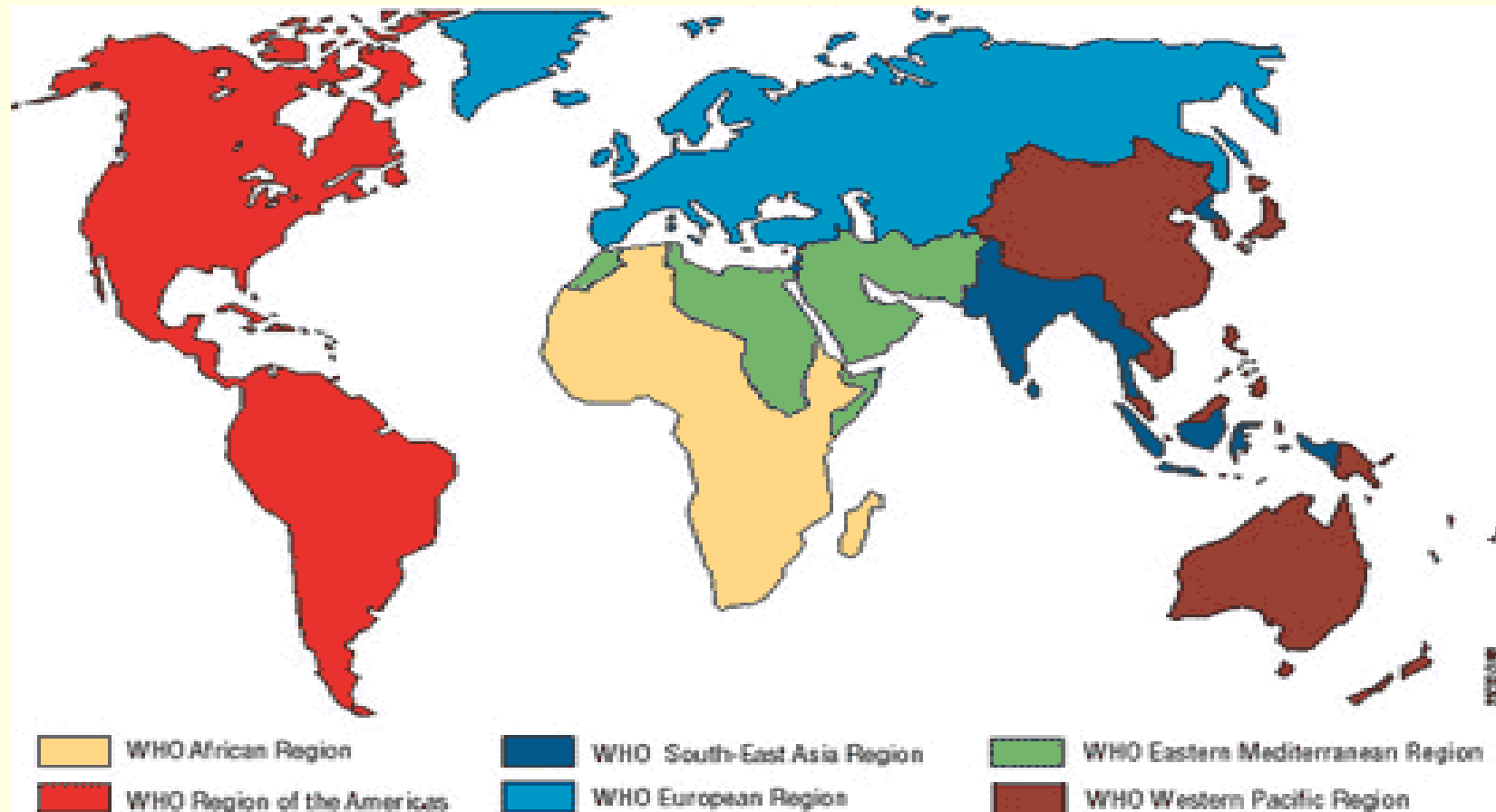
**Consultant Ophthalmologist, UK**

# Methodology



A comparative study of the number of citations in English on PubMed/Entrez database on publications from Iraq, East Mediterranean and other EME countries.

# MENA Region



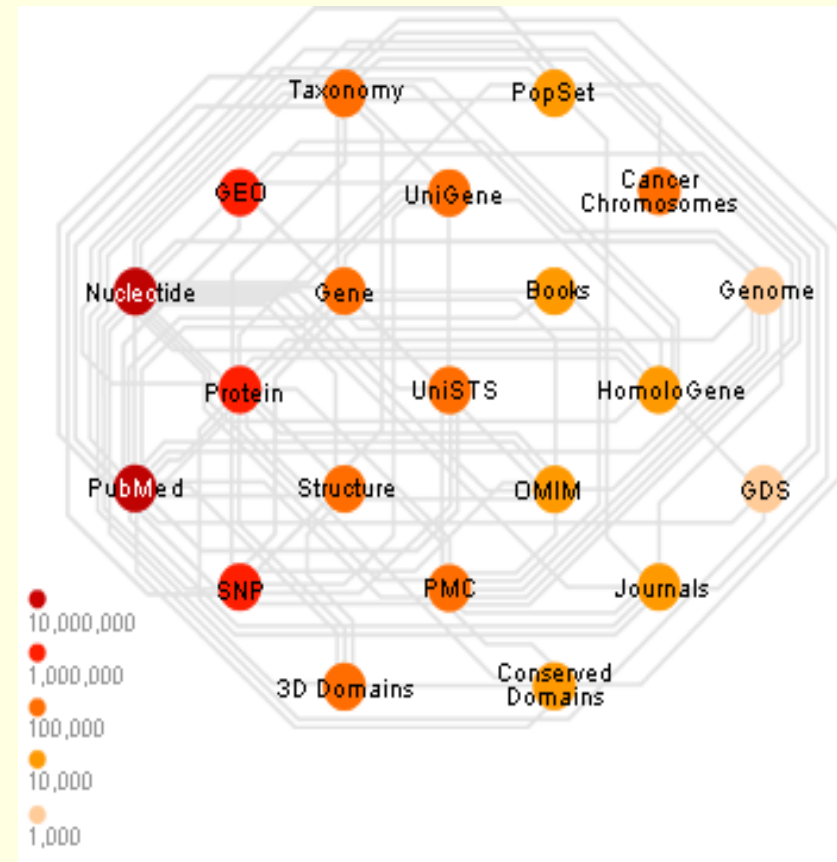


# Methodology



PubMed / Entrez is the integrated, text-based search and retrieval system used at the NCBI (National Centre of Bio-technology Informatics) for the major databases.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=PubMed>



# Methodology



- PubMed searches 20 – 25 Nov 2007
- General Citations:  
*Country\** NOT *Country* [au]
- Specific Citations:  
*Country\** AND *Subject* NOT *Country* [au]
- Modifications when necessary for the best results and to avoid terminology overlap.

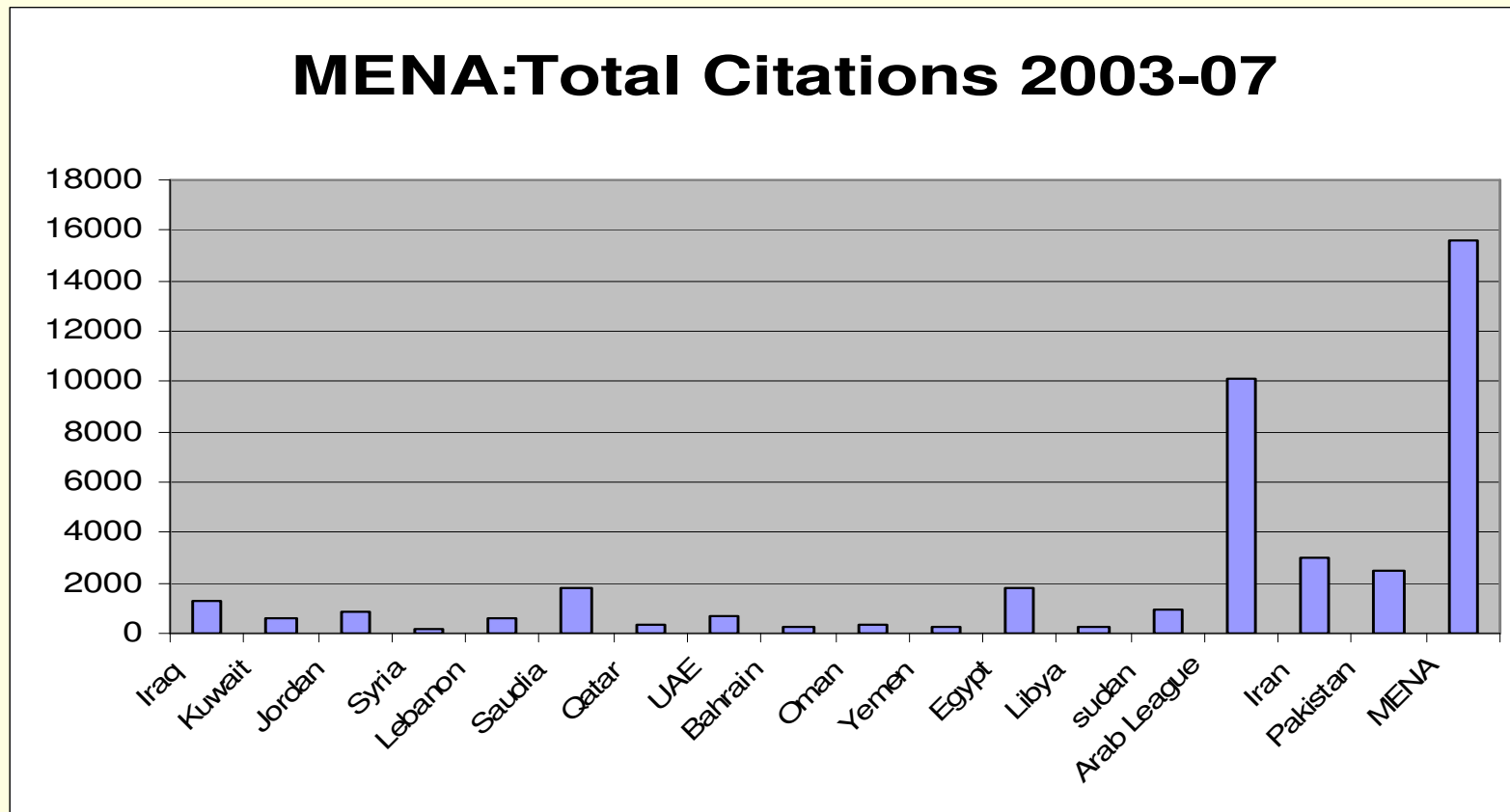
# Methodology



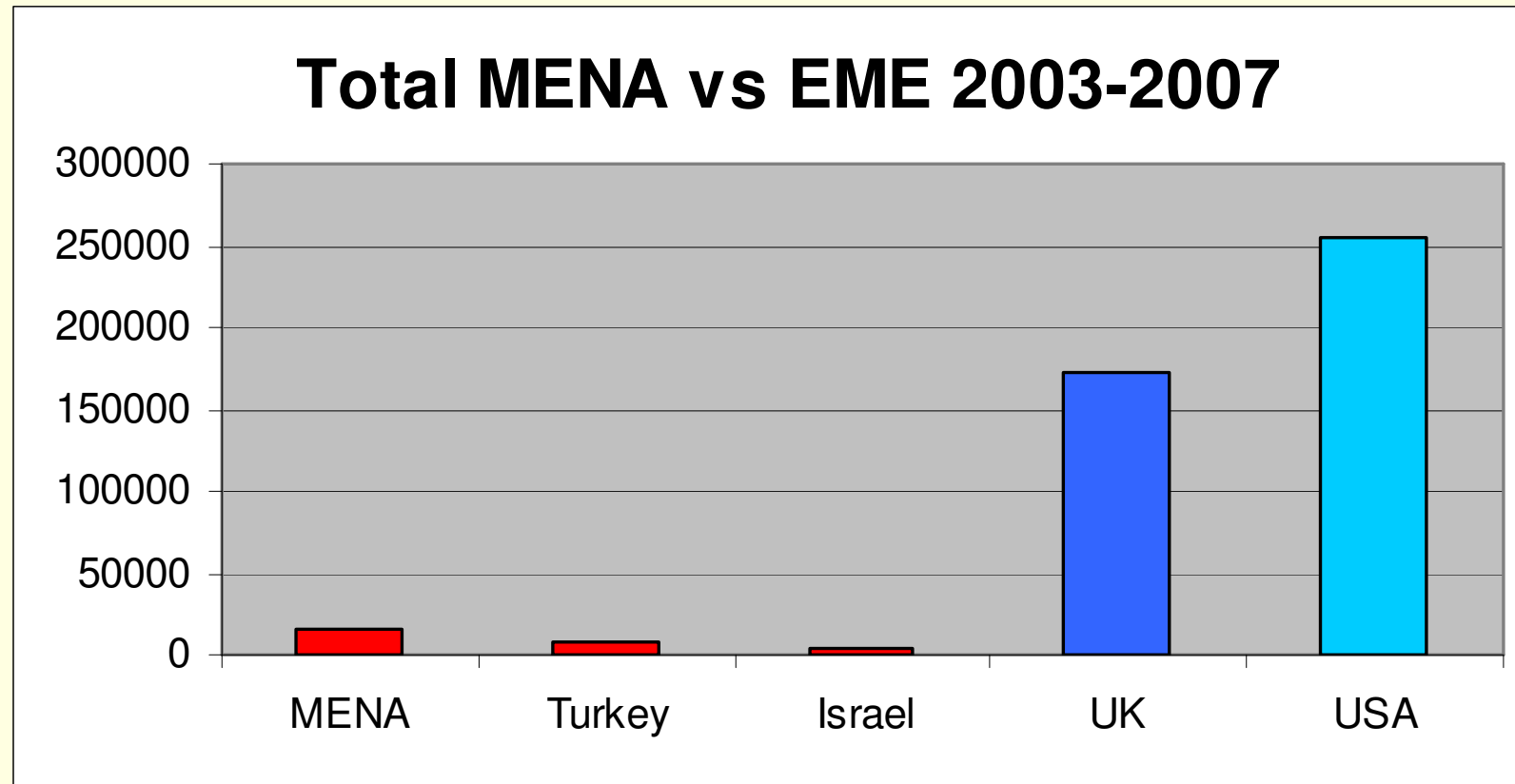
## Examples

- *Iraq\** AND *paediatrics* OR *paediatrics* NOT *Iraq\** [au]
- *Sudan\** AND *Cancer* OR *oncology* NOT *Sudan\** [au]
- *UK* OR *GB* OR *Great Britain* NOT *Britain* [au]

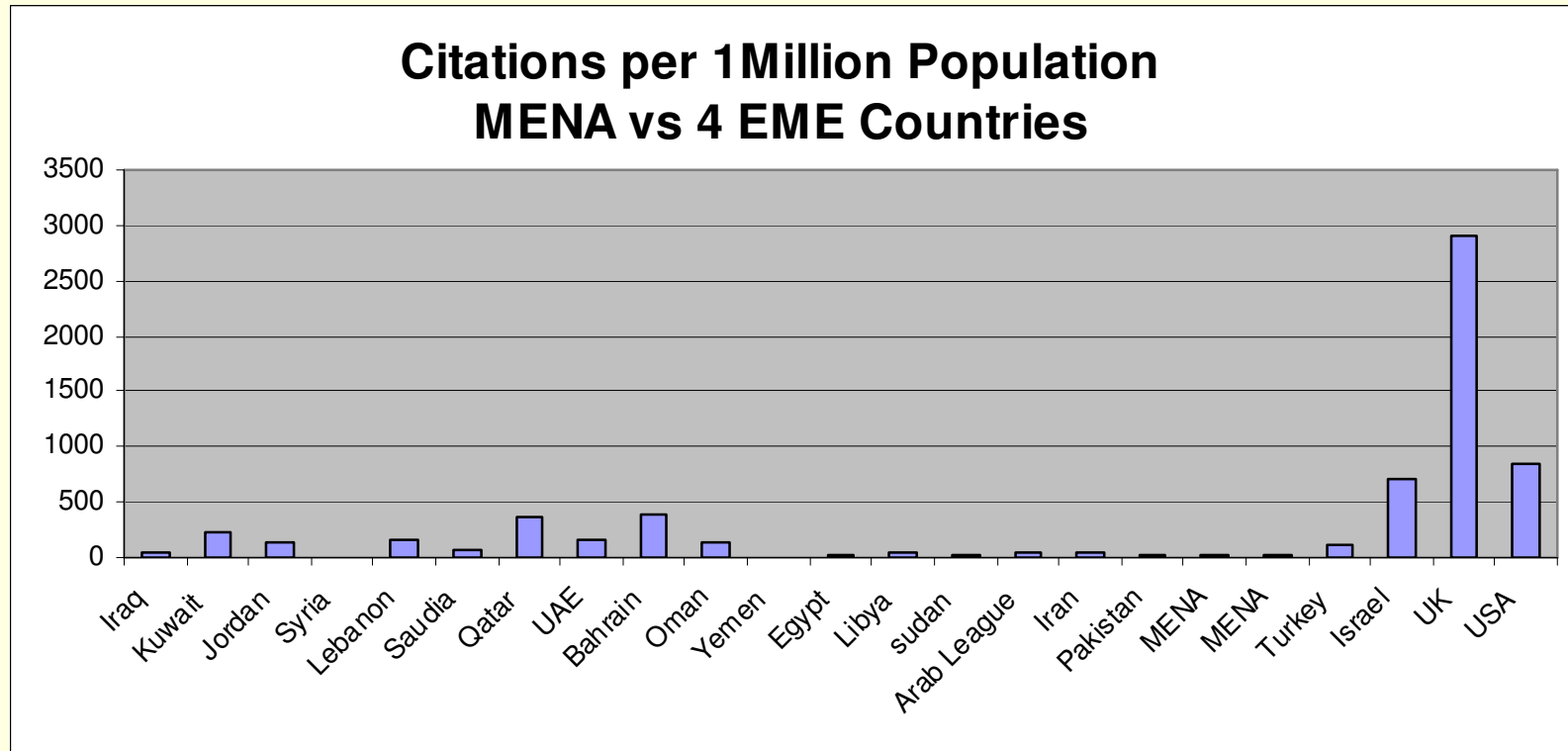
# Results: Total Citations



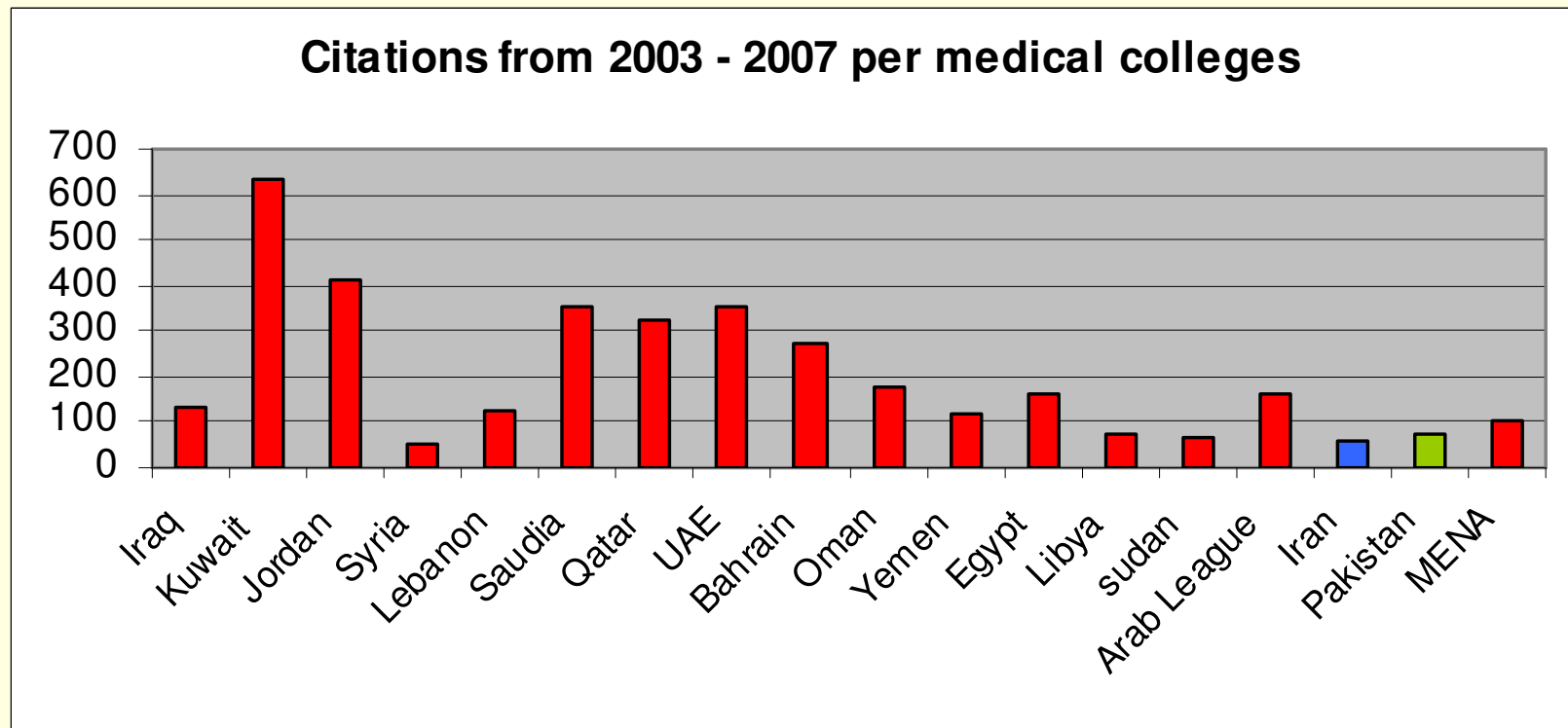
# MENA vs EME Countries



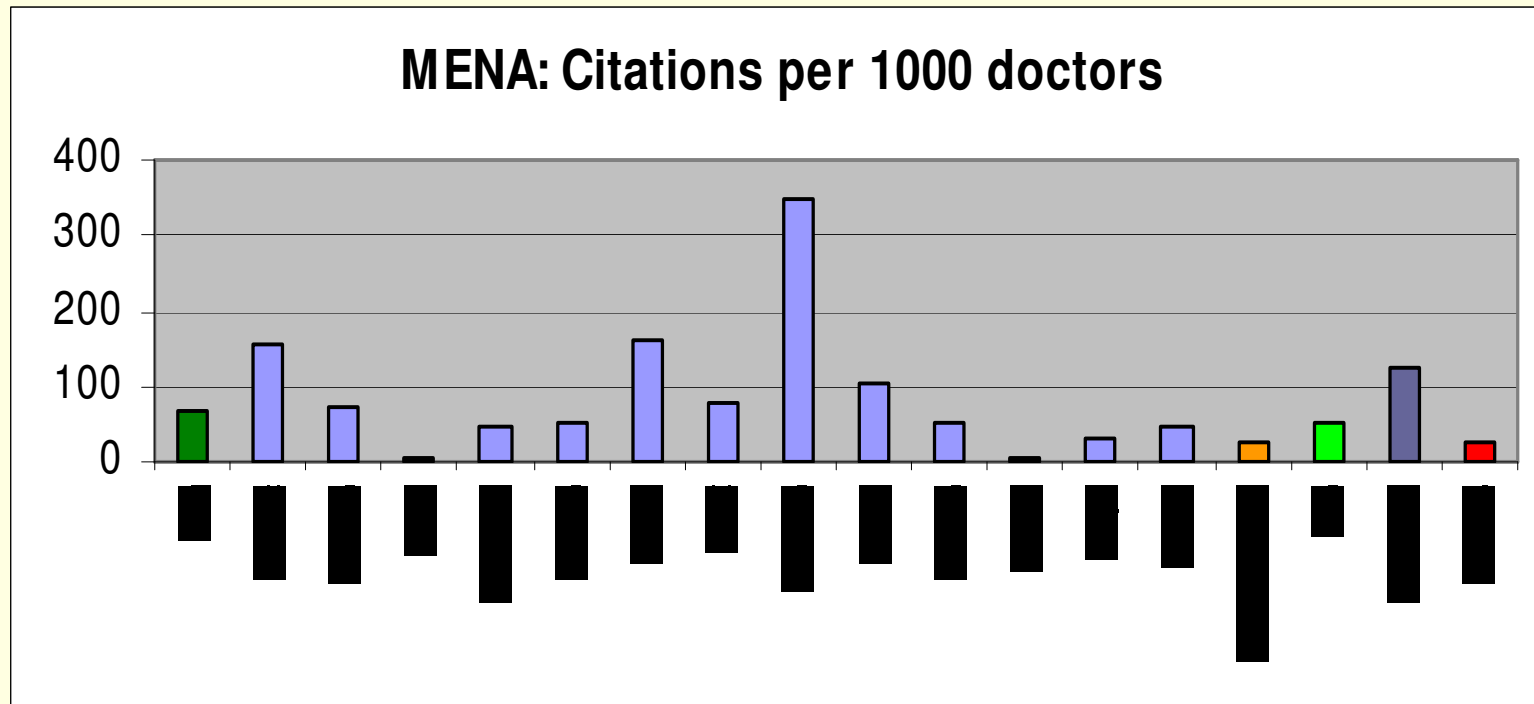
# Results: per Million Population



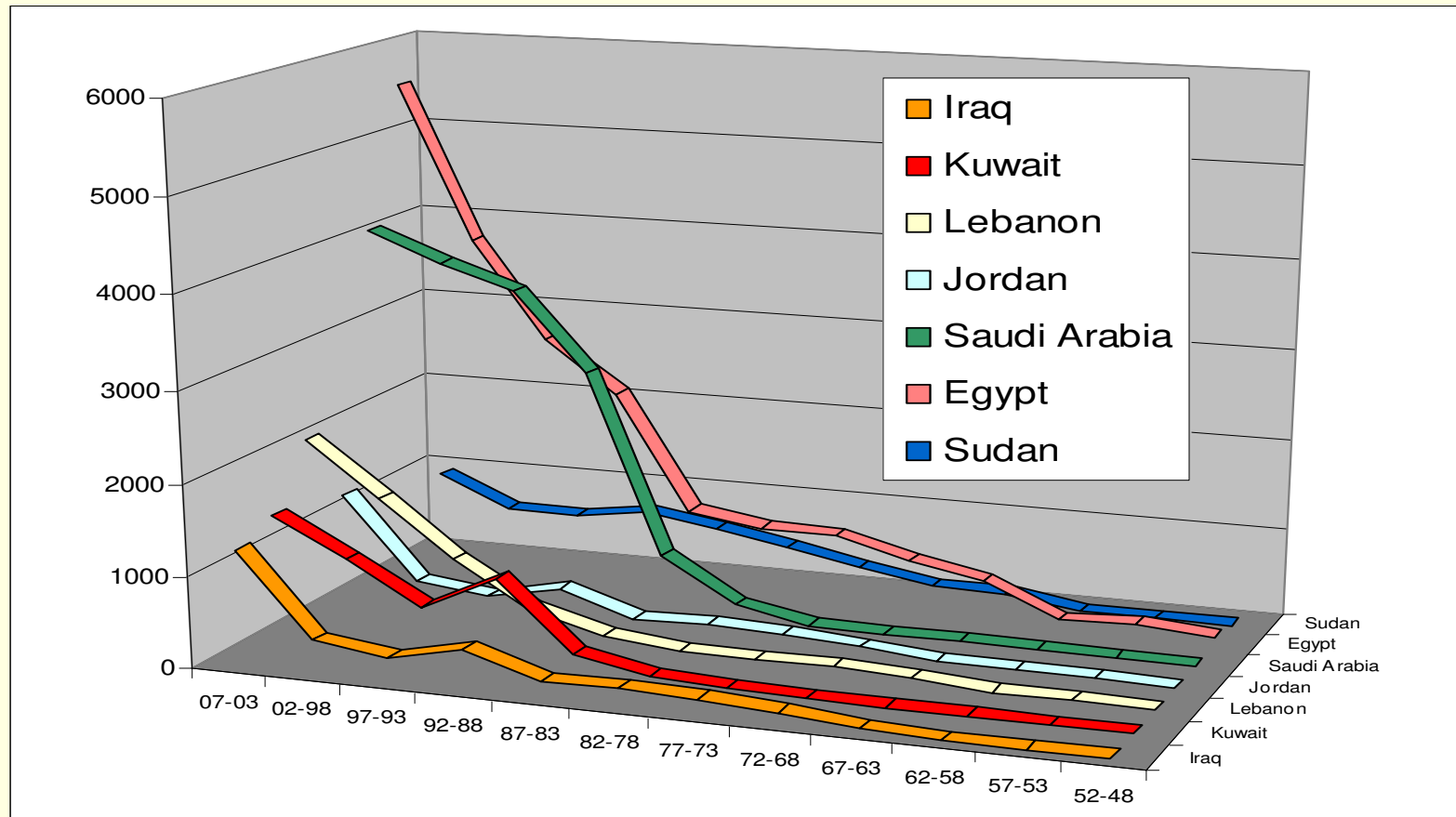
# MENA: Citations per Medical Colleges



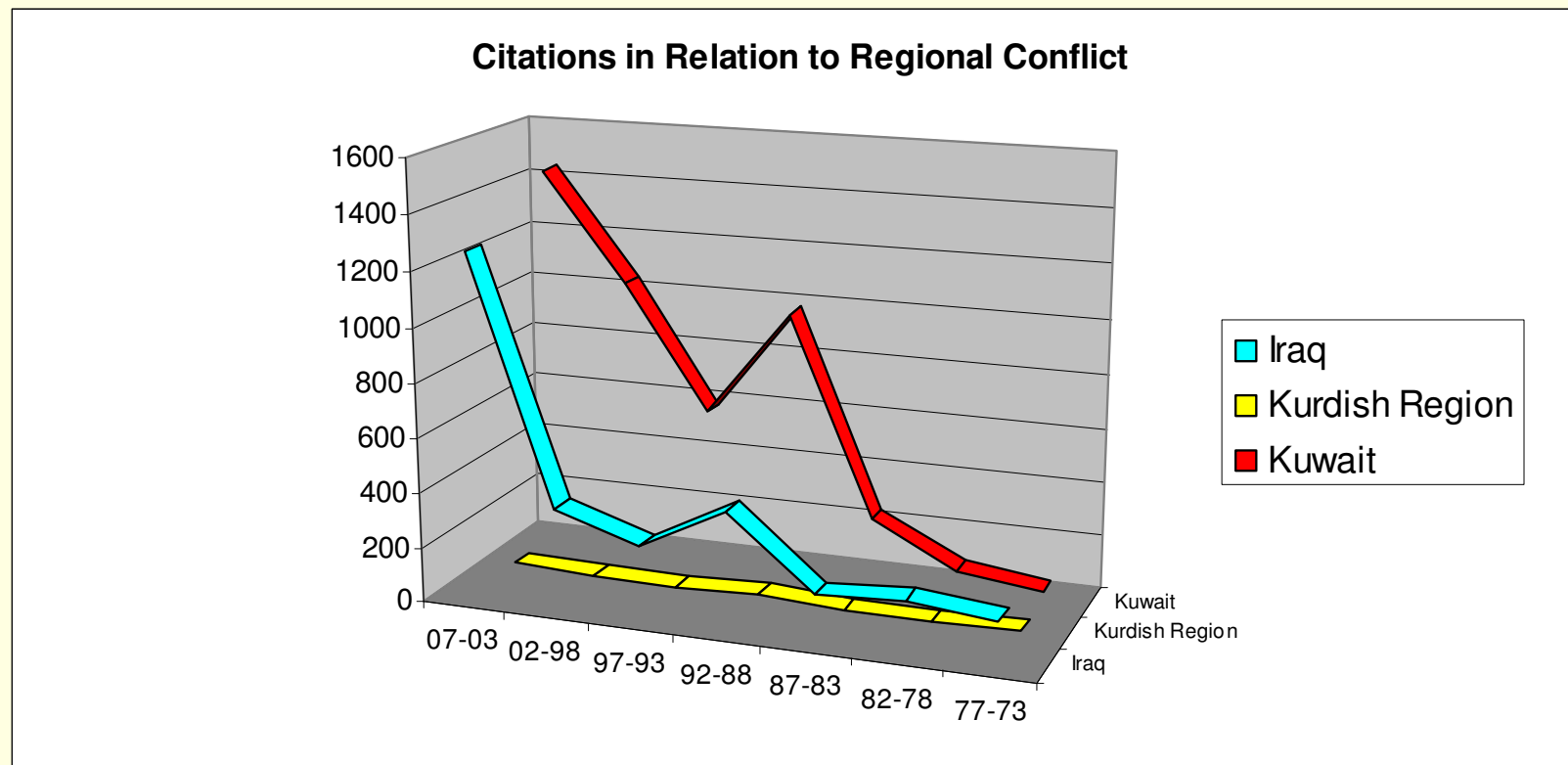
# MENA: Citations per 1000 doctors 2003-2007



# Temporal Trends in MENA



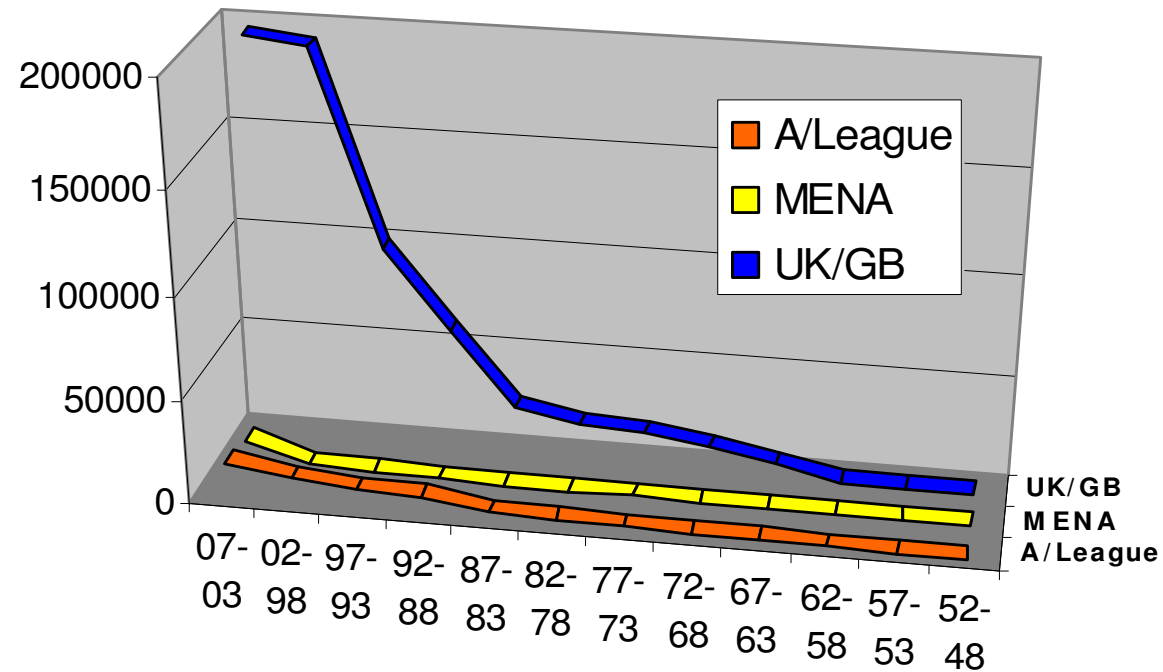
# Results: Trends in Iraq's Regions



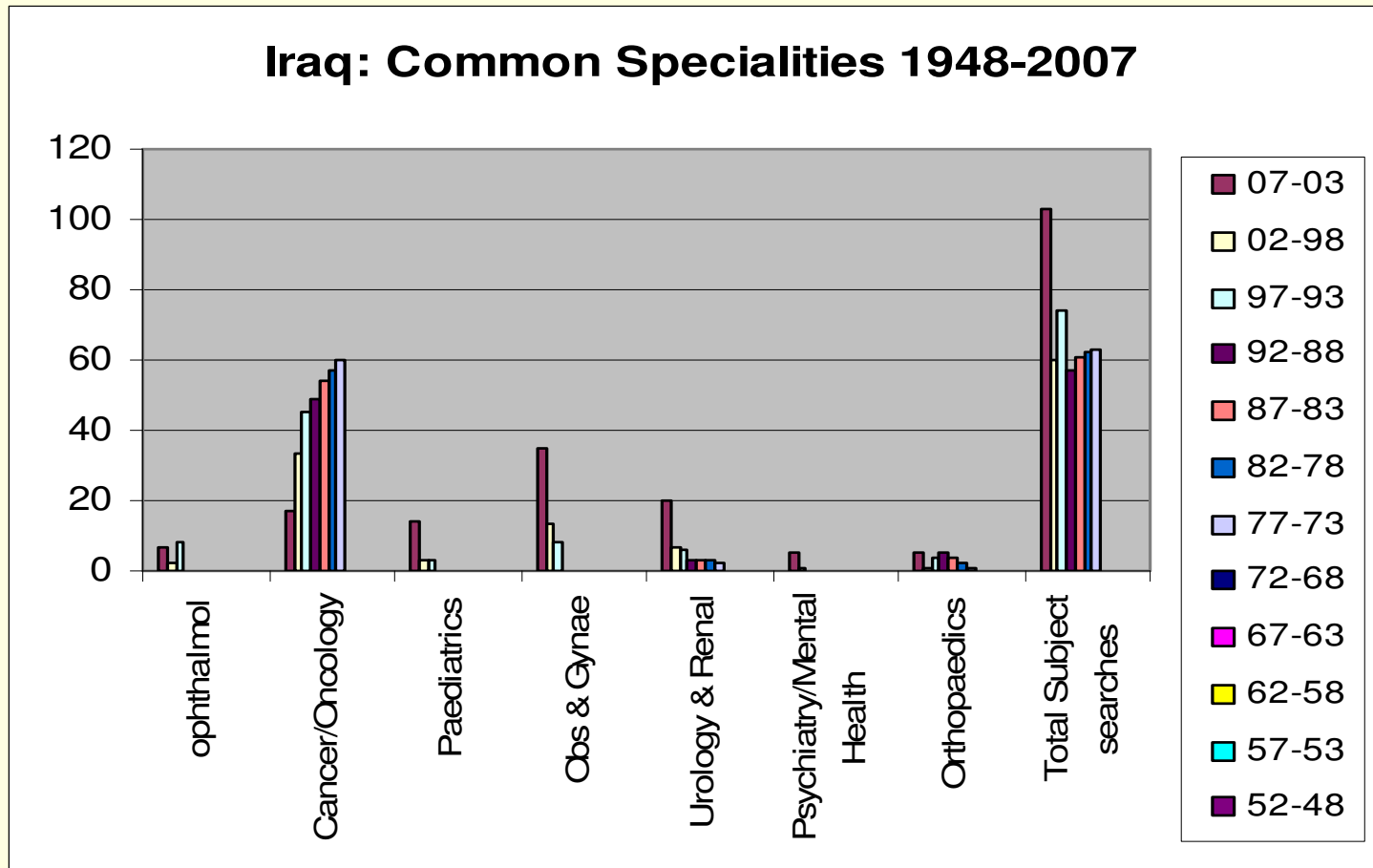
# MENA, Arab League and UK



**Comparison: Arab League, MENA, and UK 1953-2007**

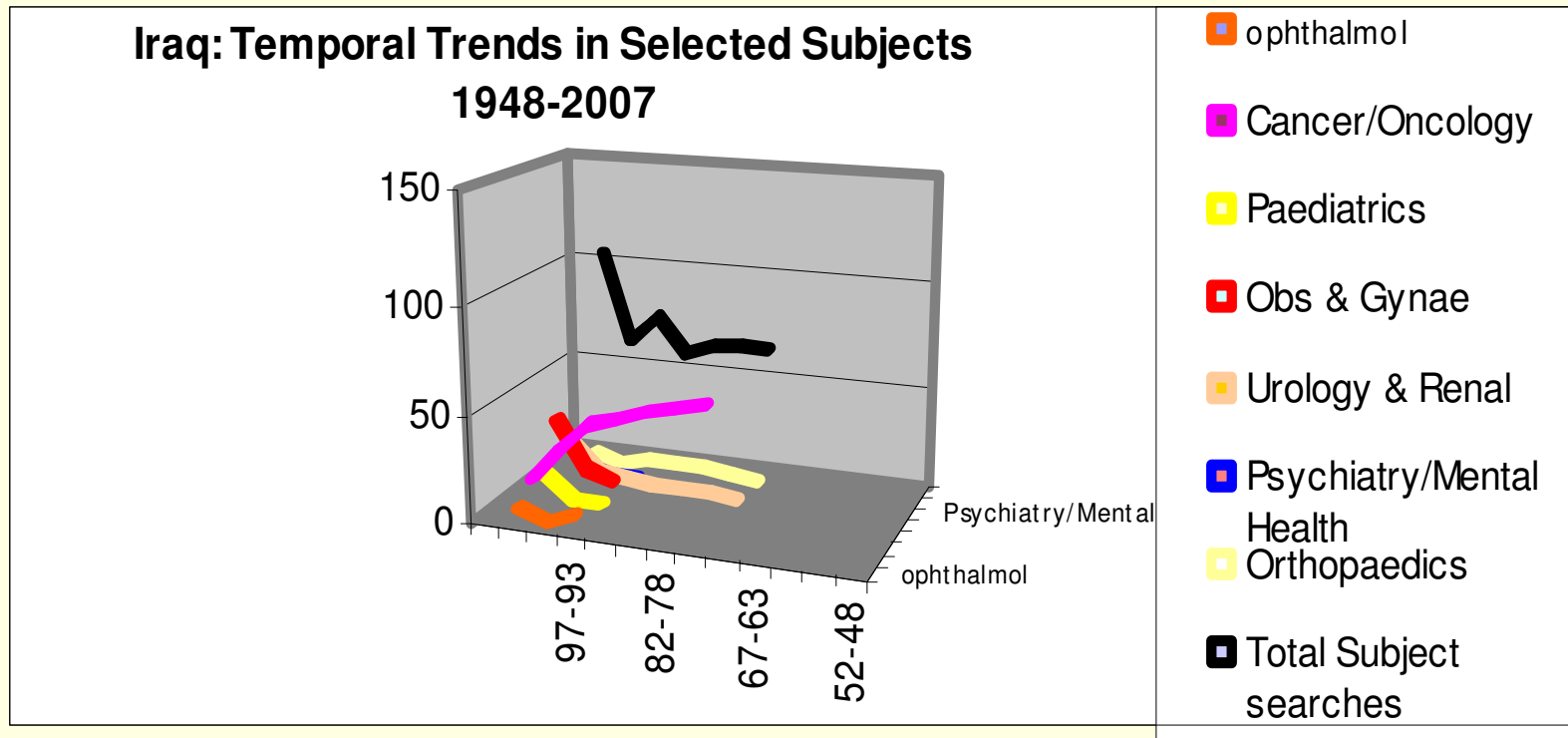


# Iraq: Trends in Selected Specialities 1948-2007

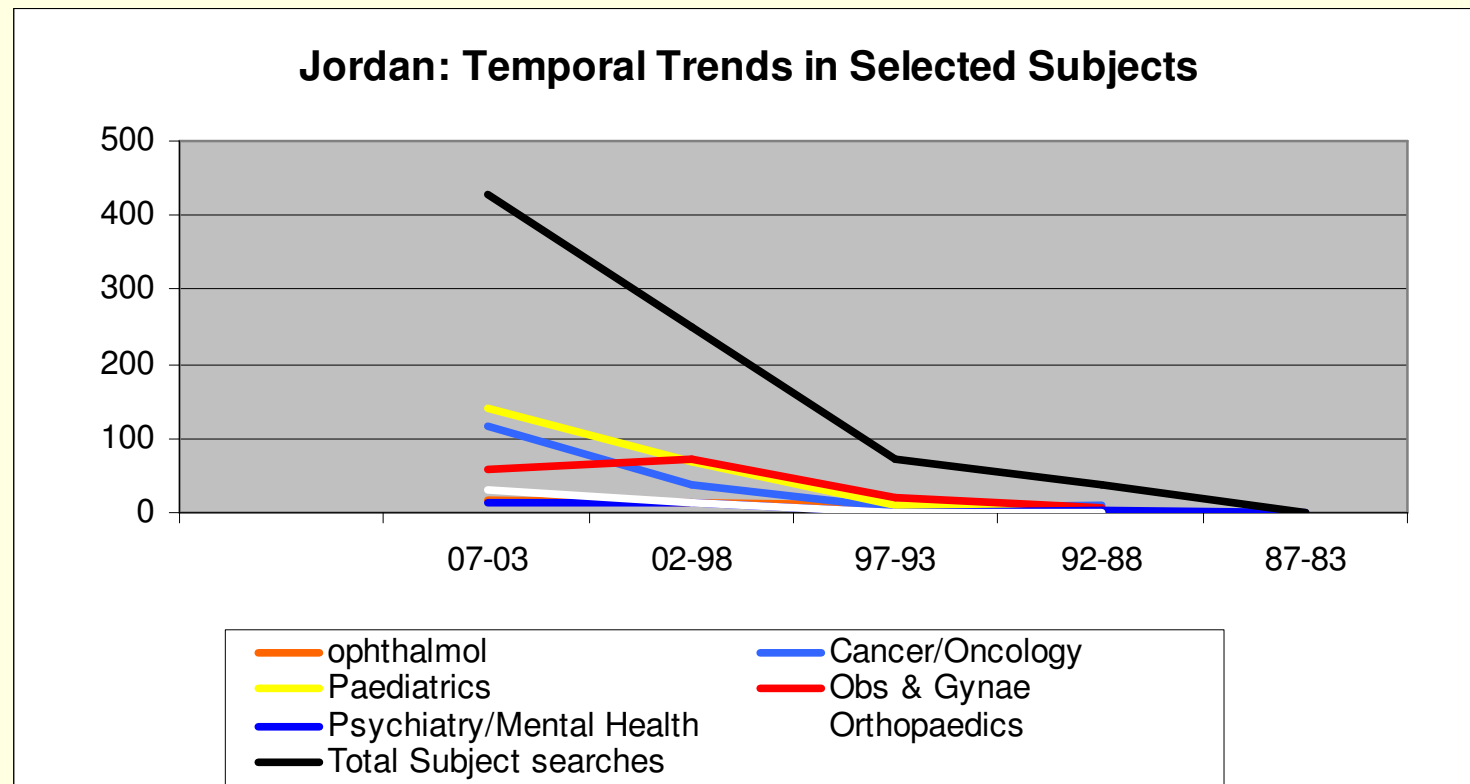


# Iraq: Temporal Trends

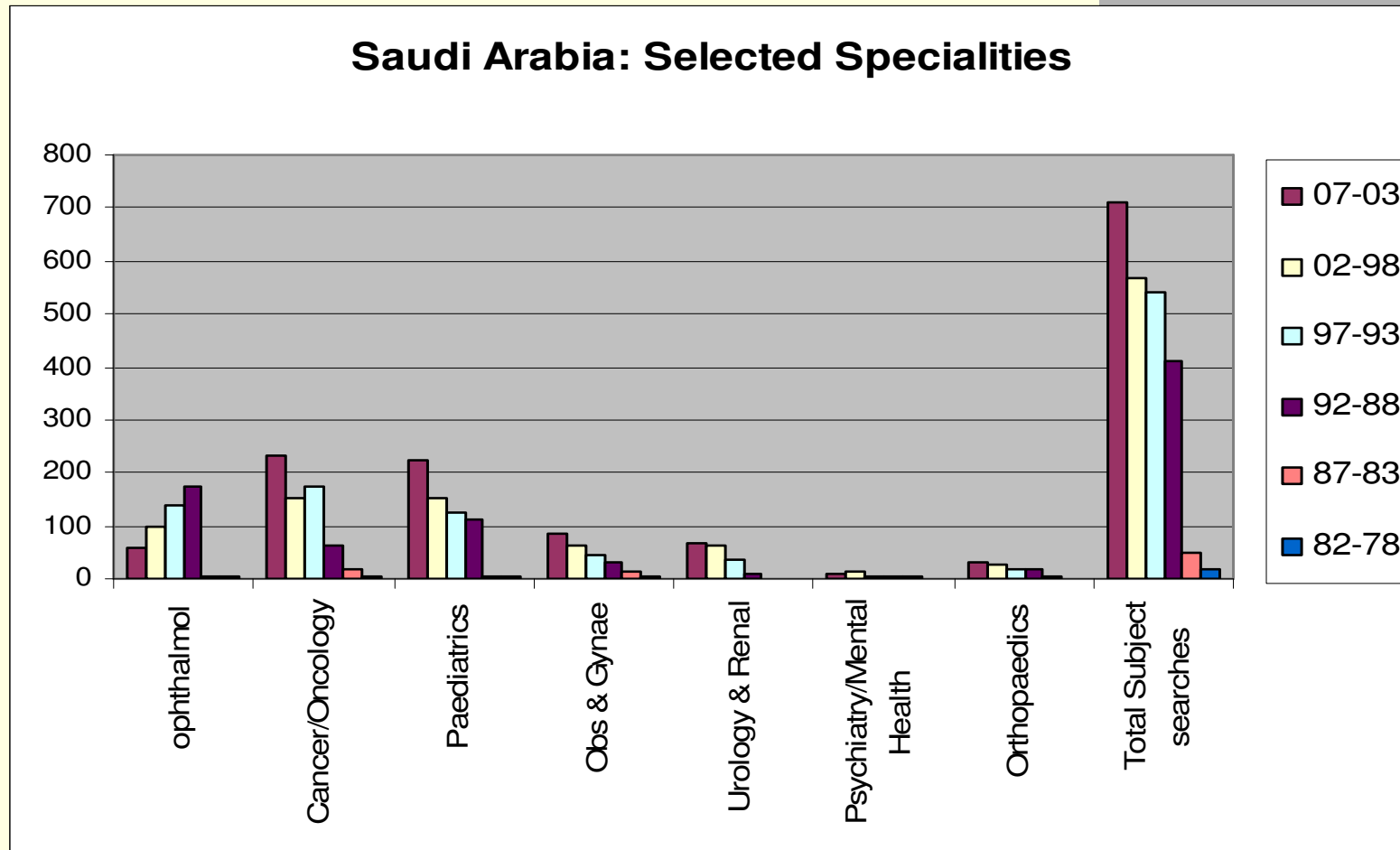
## 1948-2007



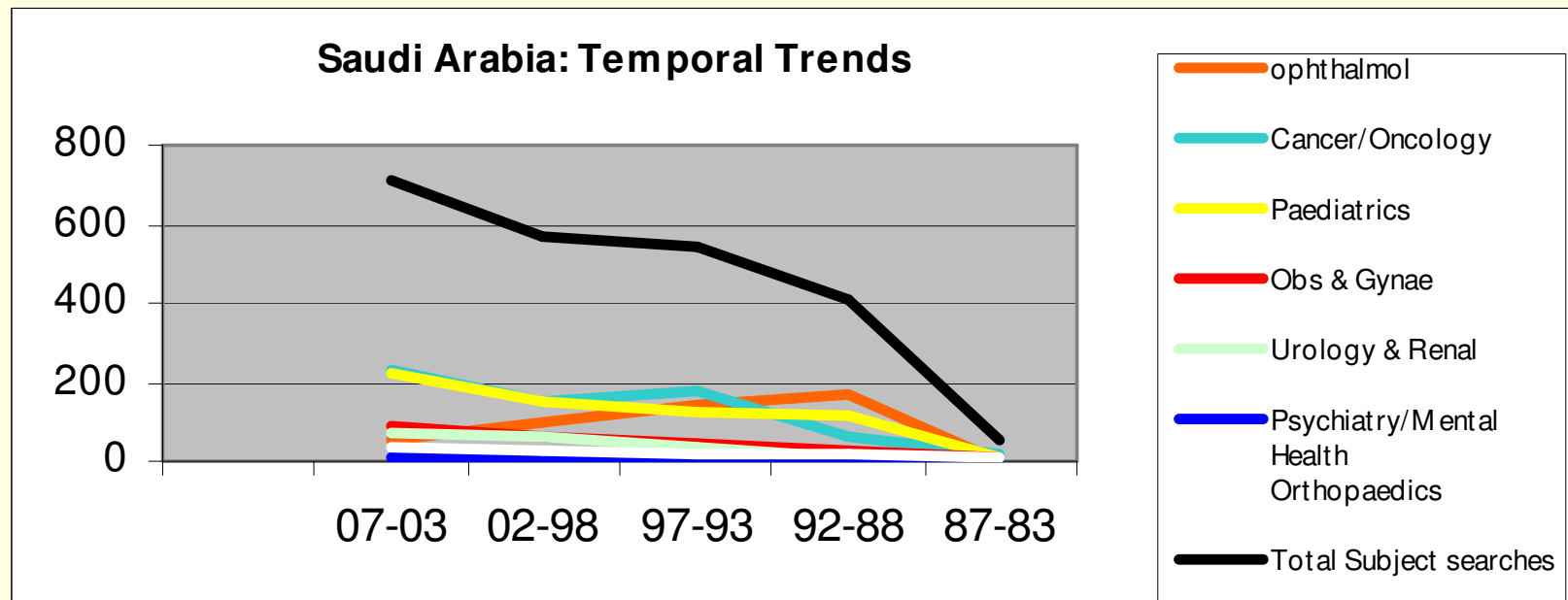
# Jordan: Trends in Selected Specialities 1948-2007



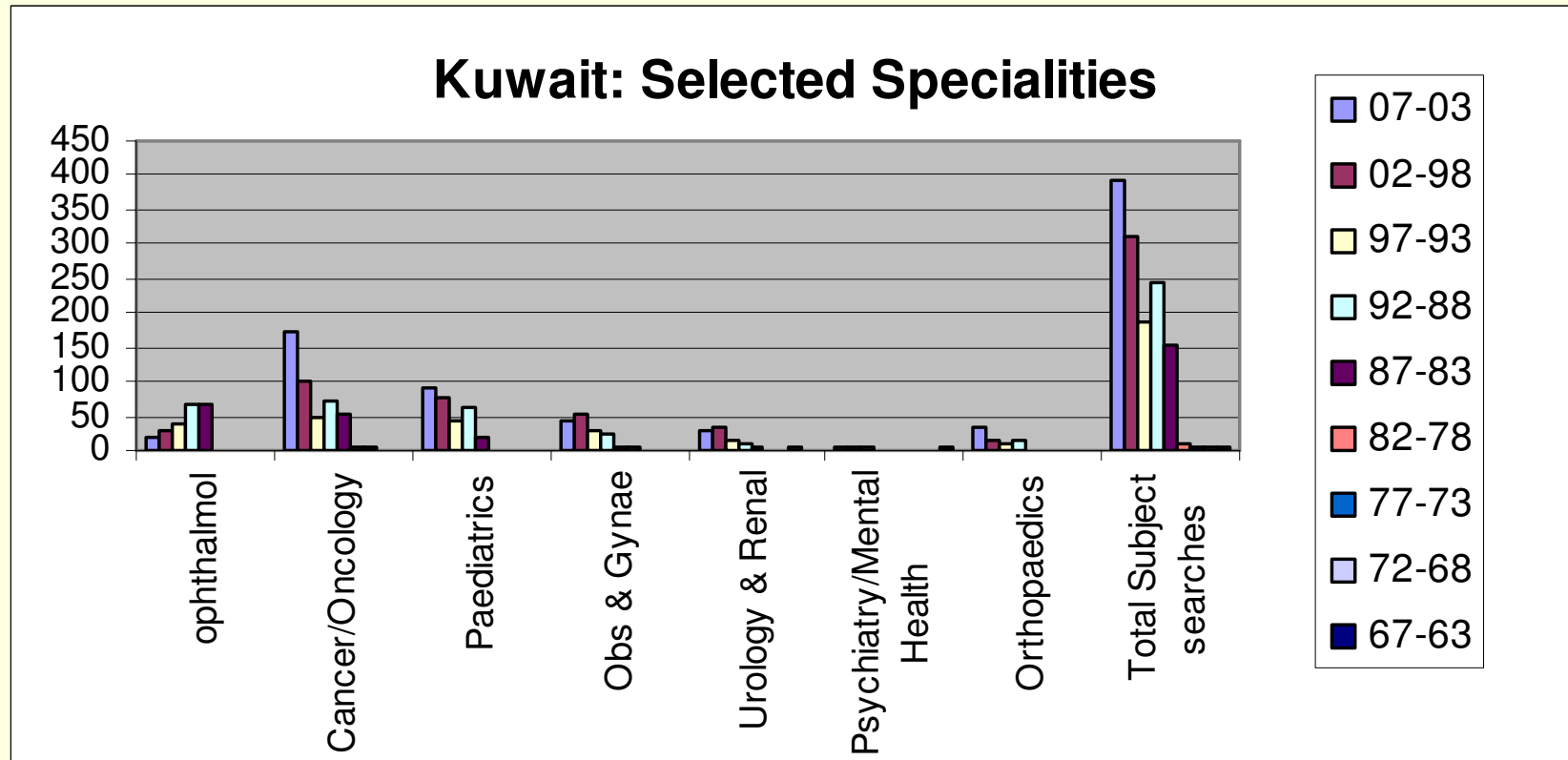
# Saudi Arabia: Selected Specialities



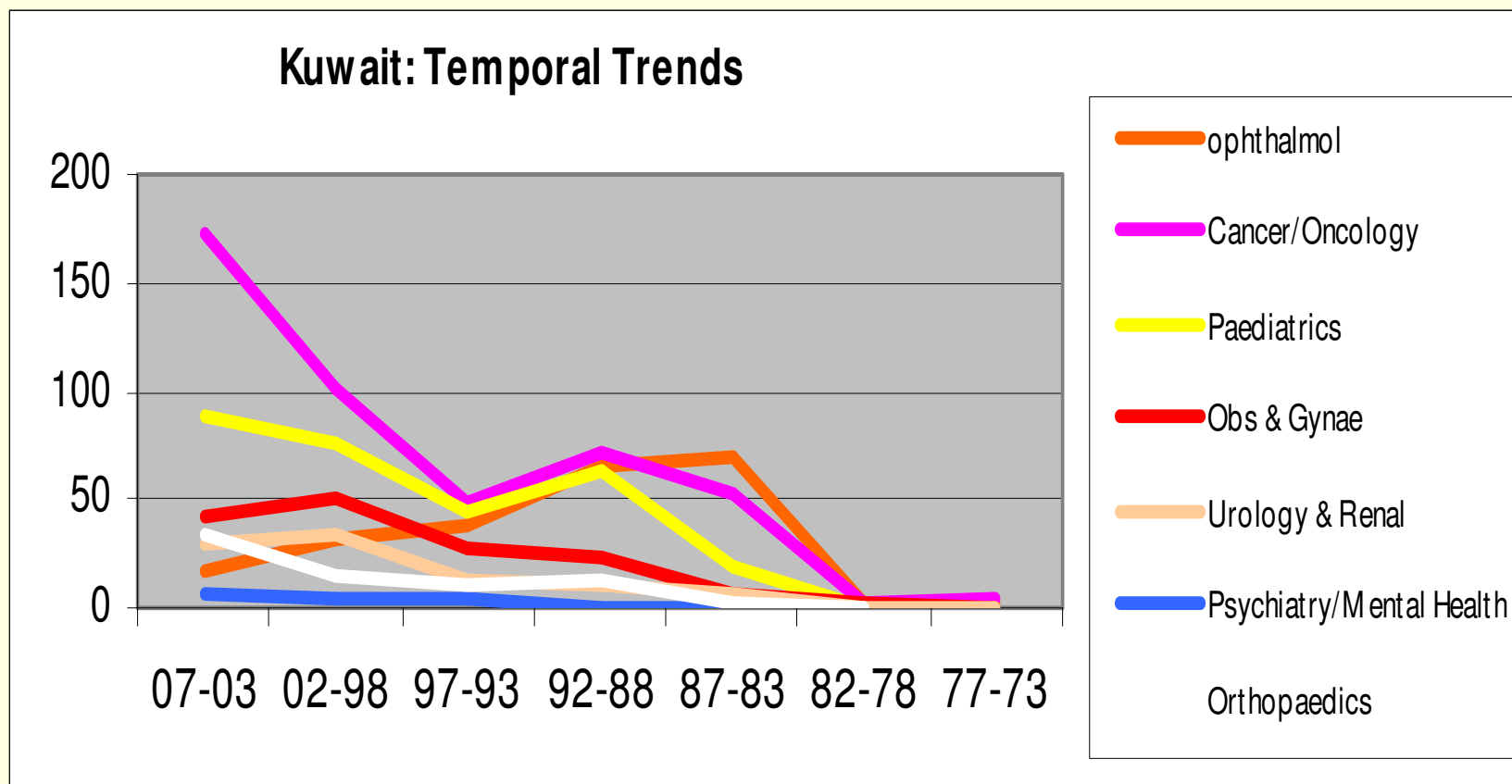
# Saudi Arabia: Trends in Selected Specialties



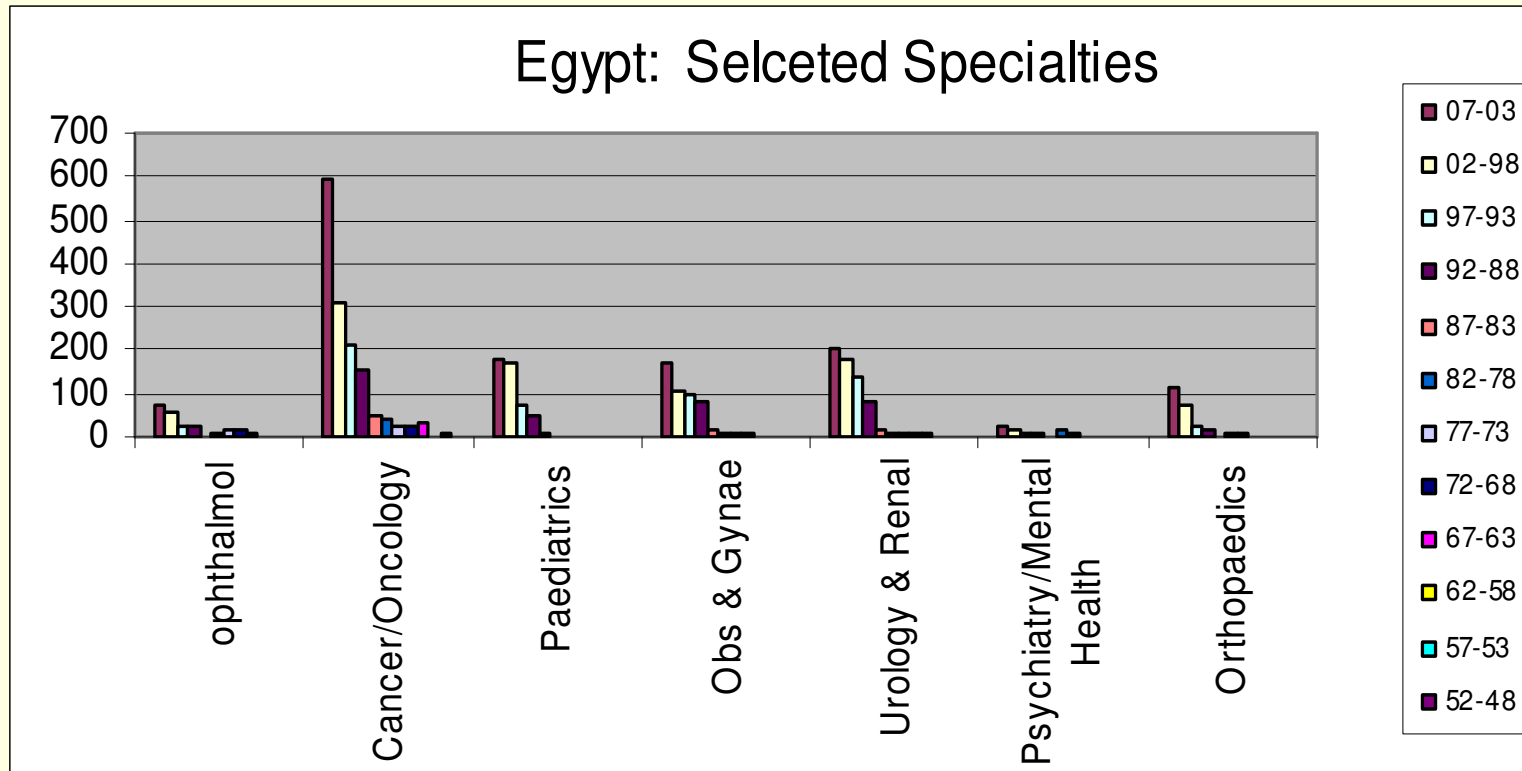
# Kuwait: Selected Specialities



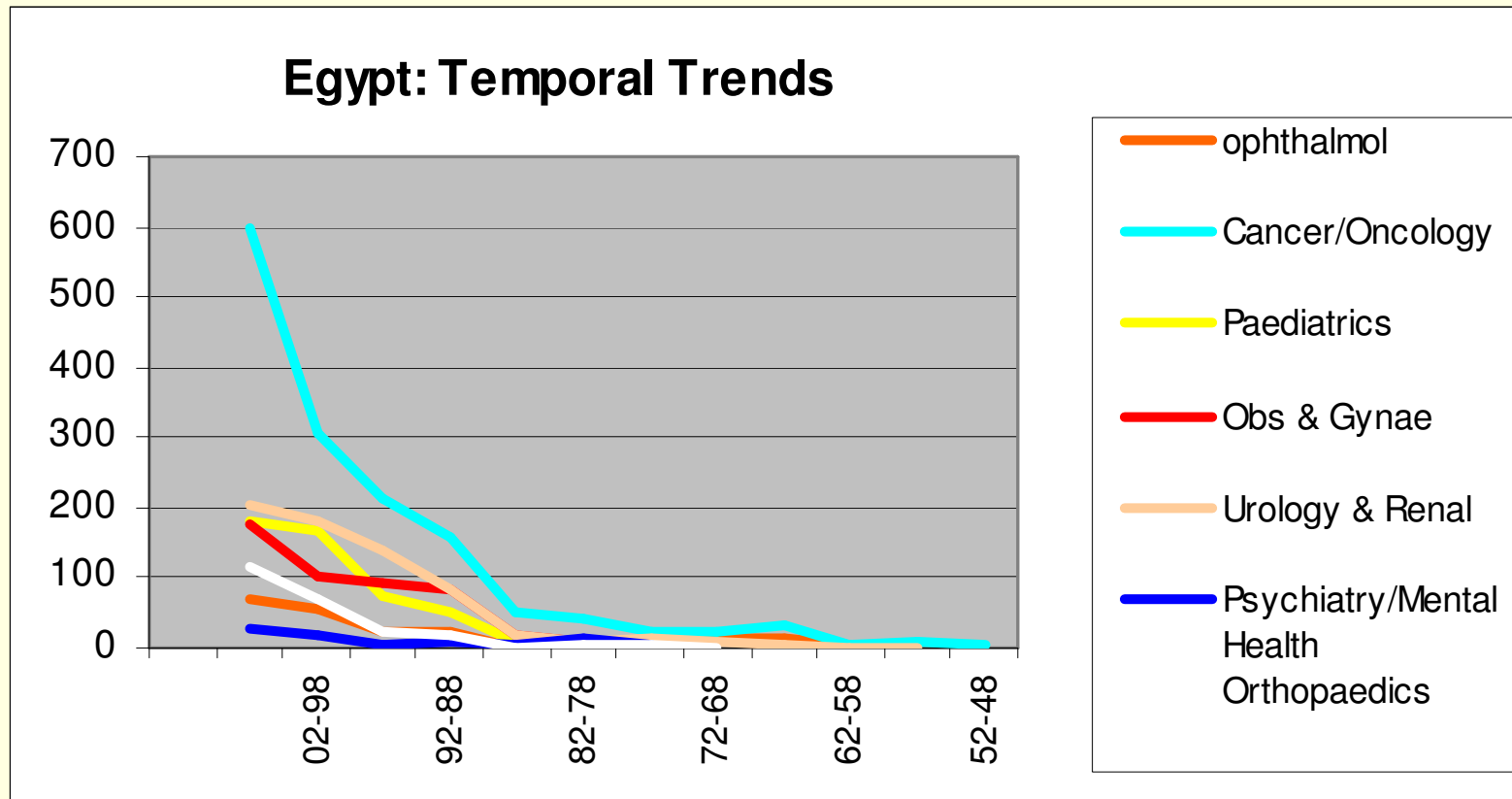
# Kuwait: Selected Specialities



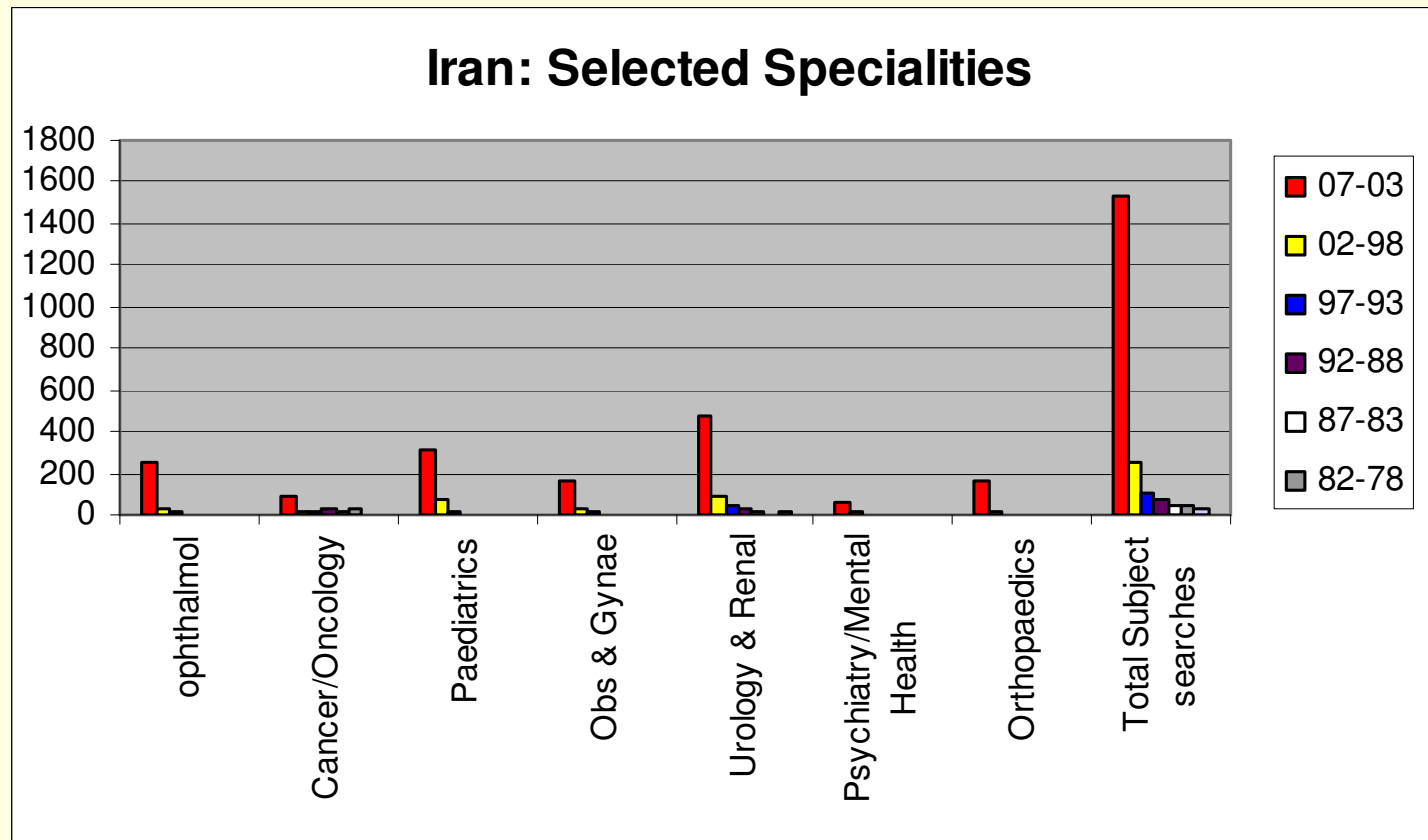
# Egypt: Selected Specialities



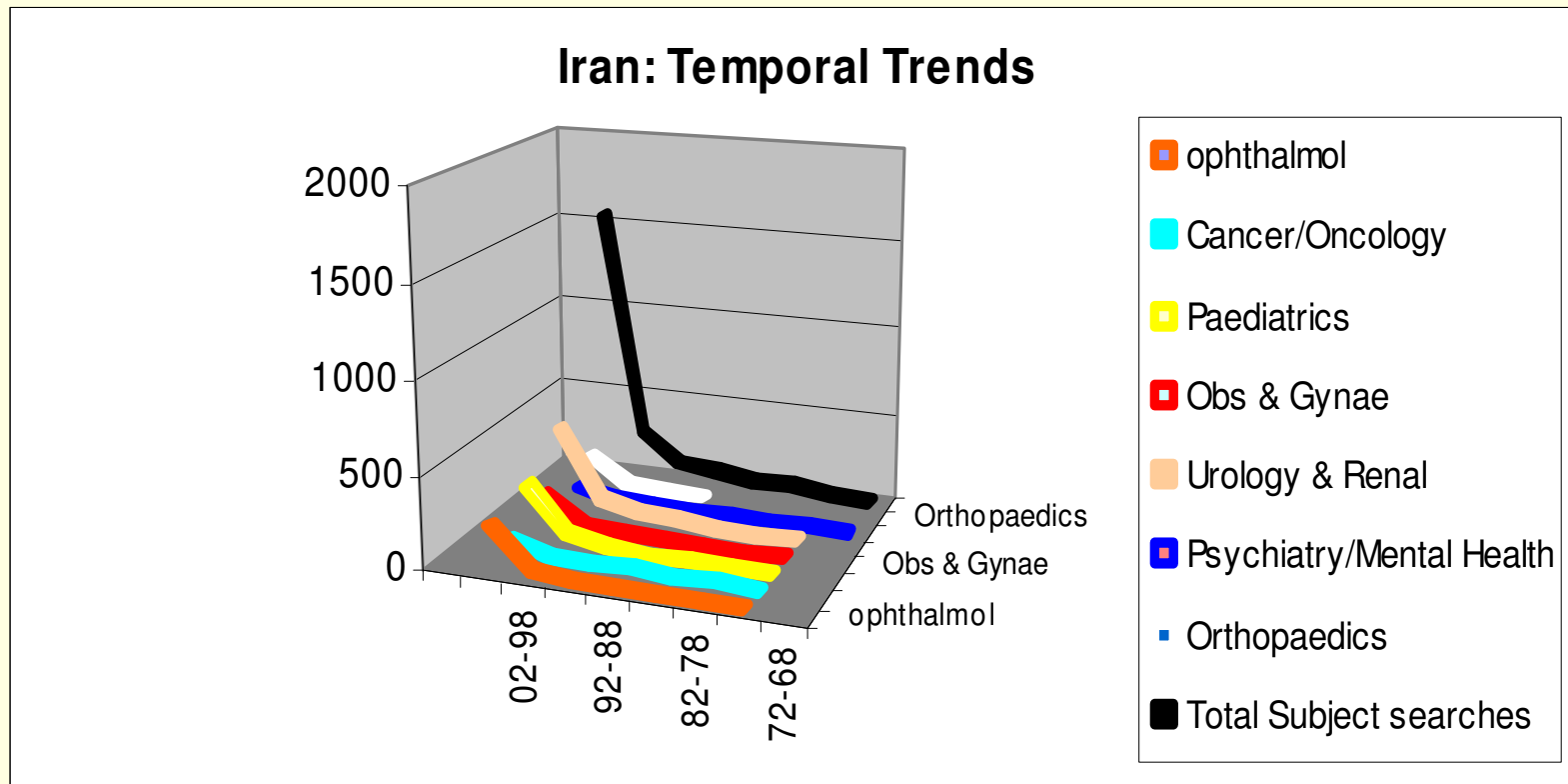
# Egypt: Temporal Trends



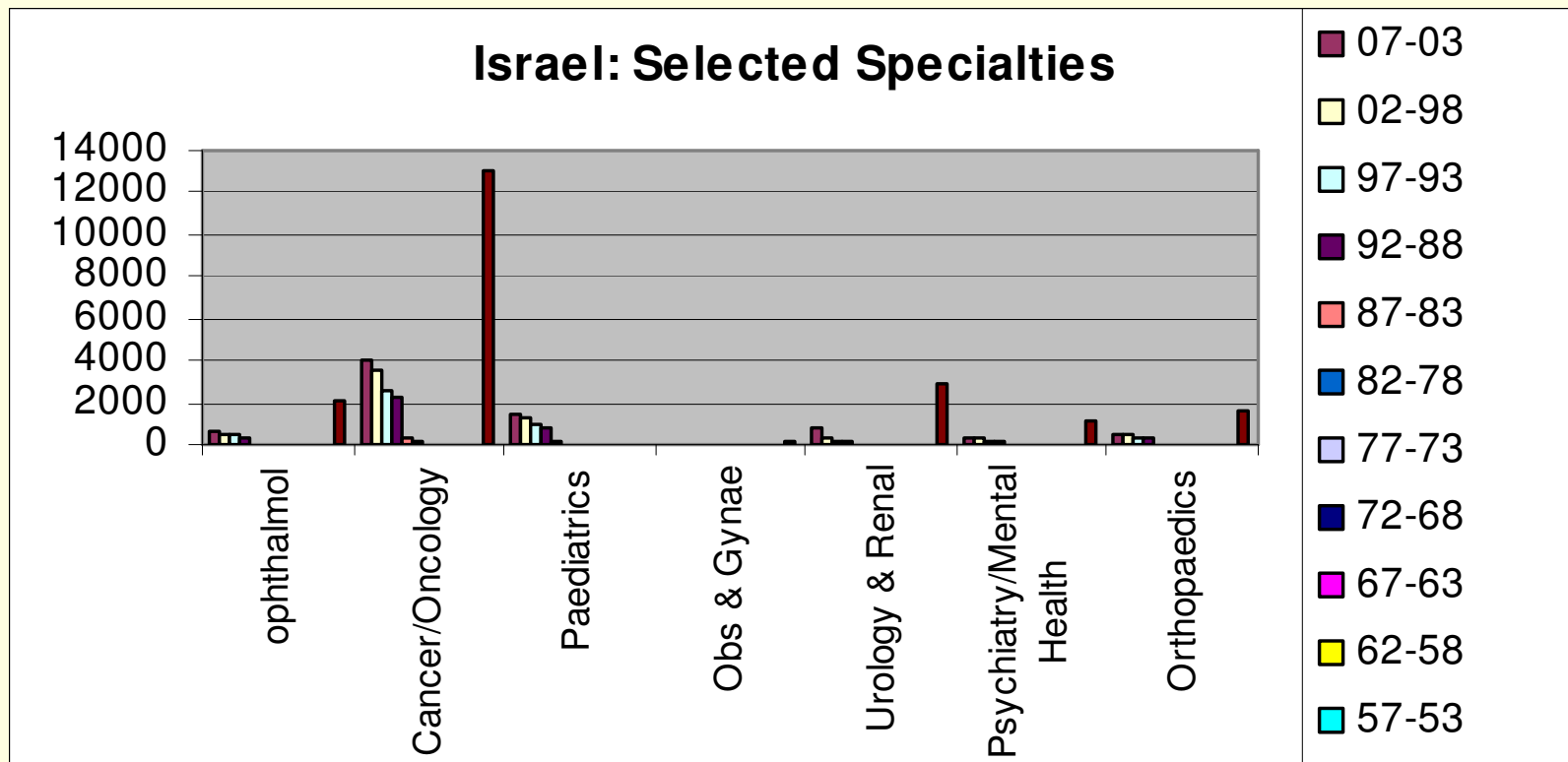
# Iran: Selected Specialties



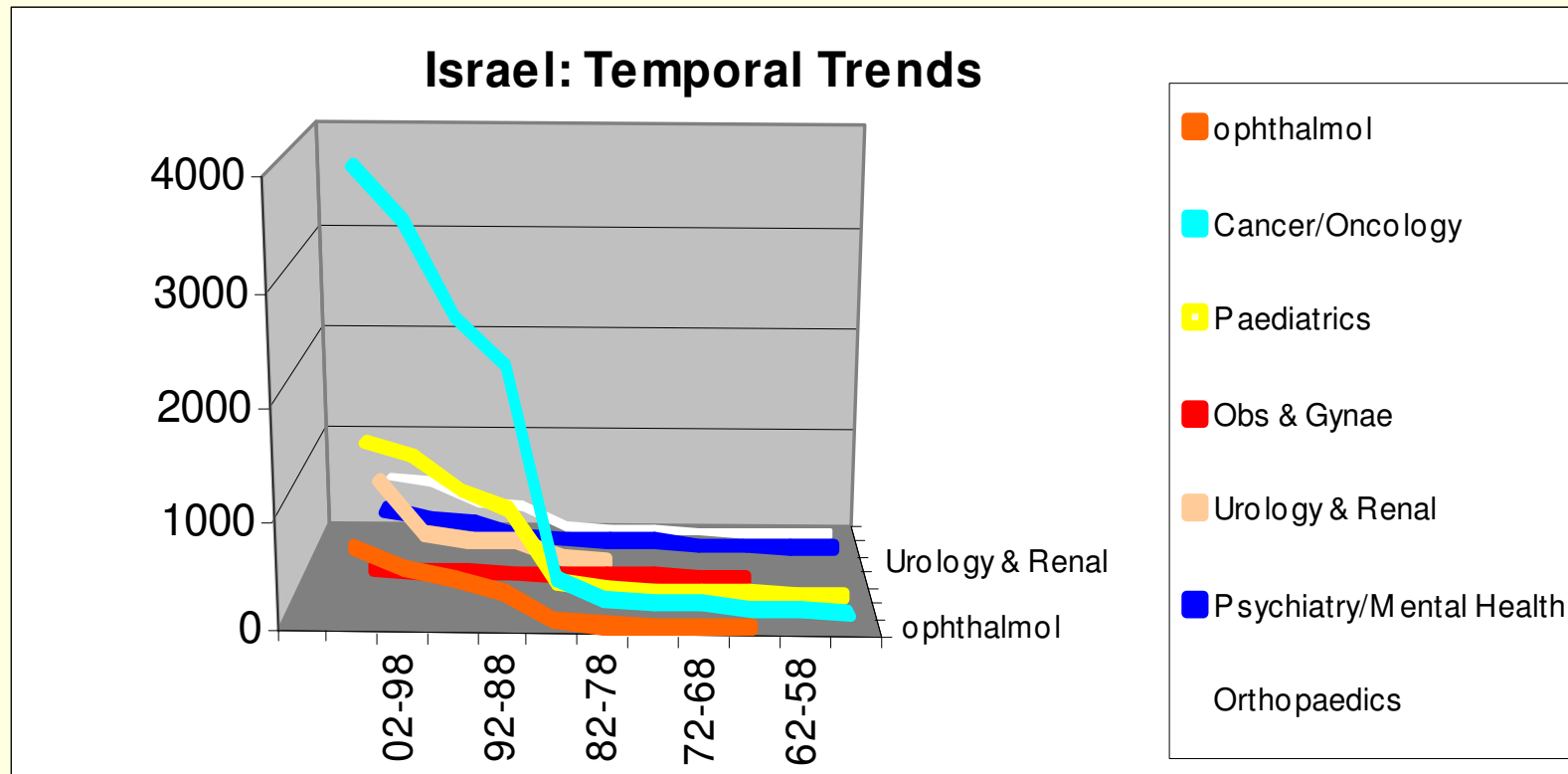
# Iran: Temporal Trends



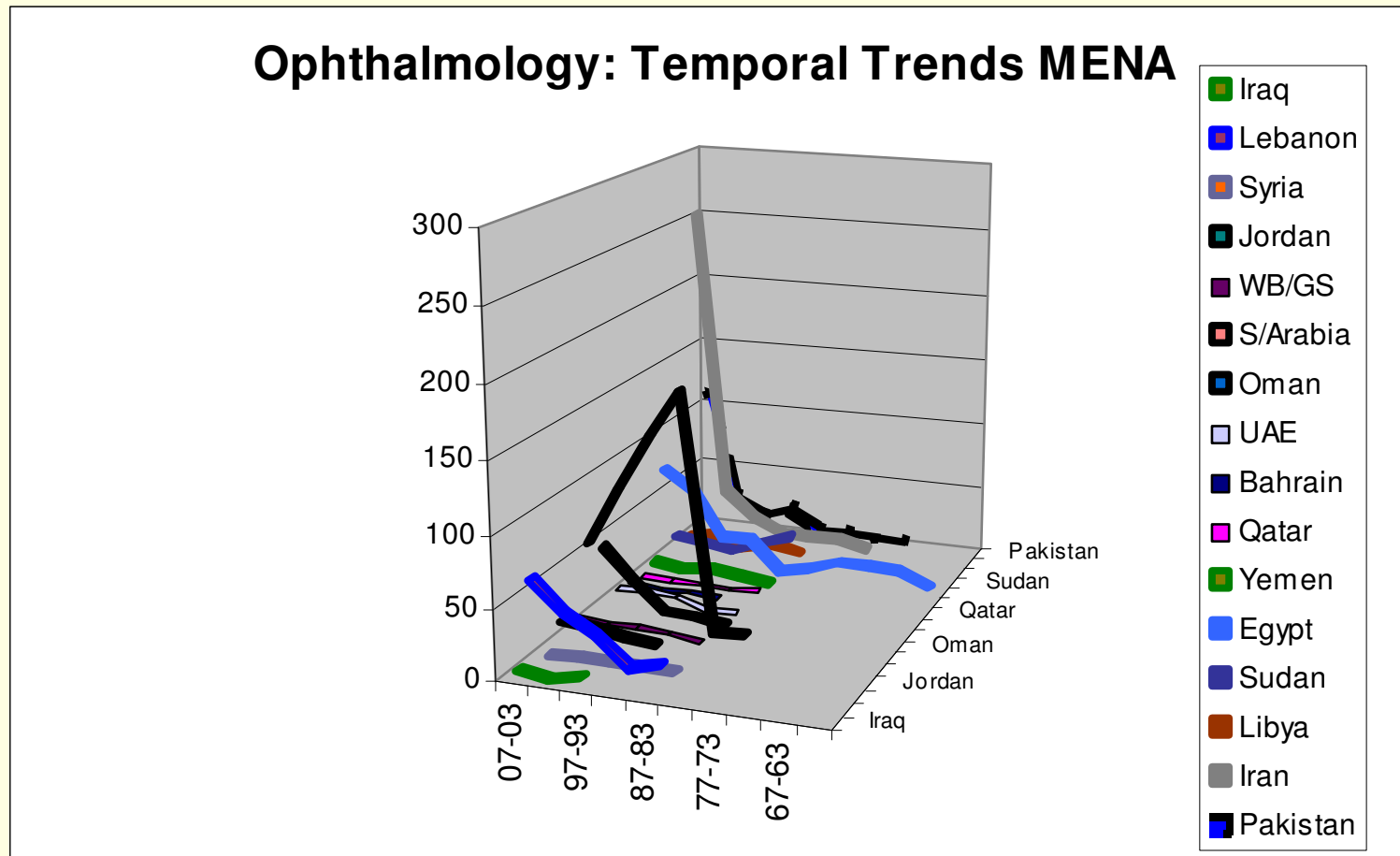
# Israel: Selected Specialities



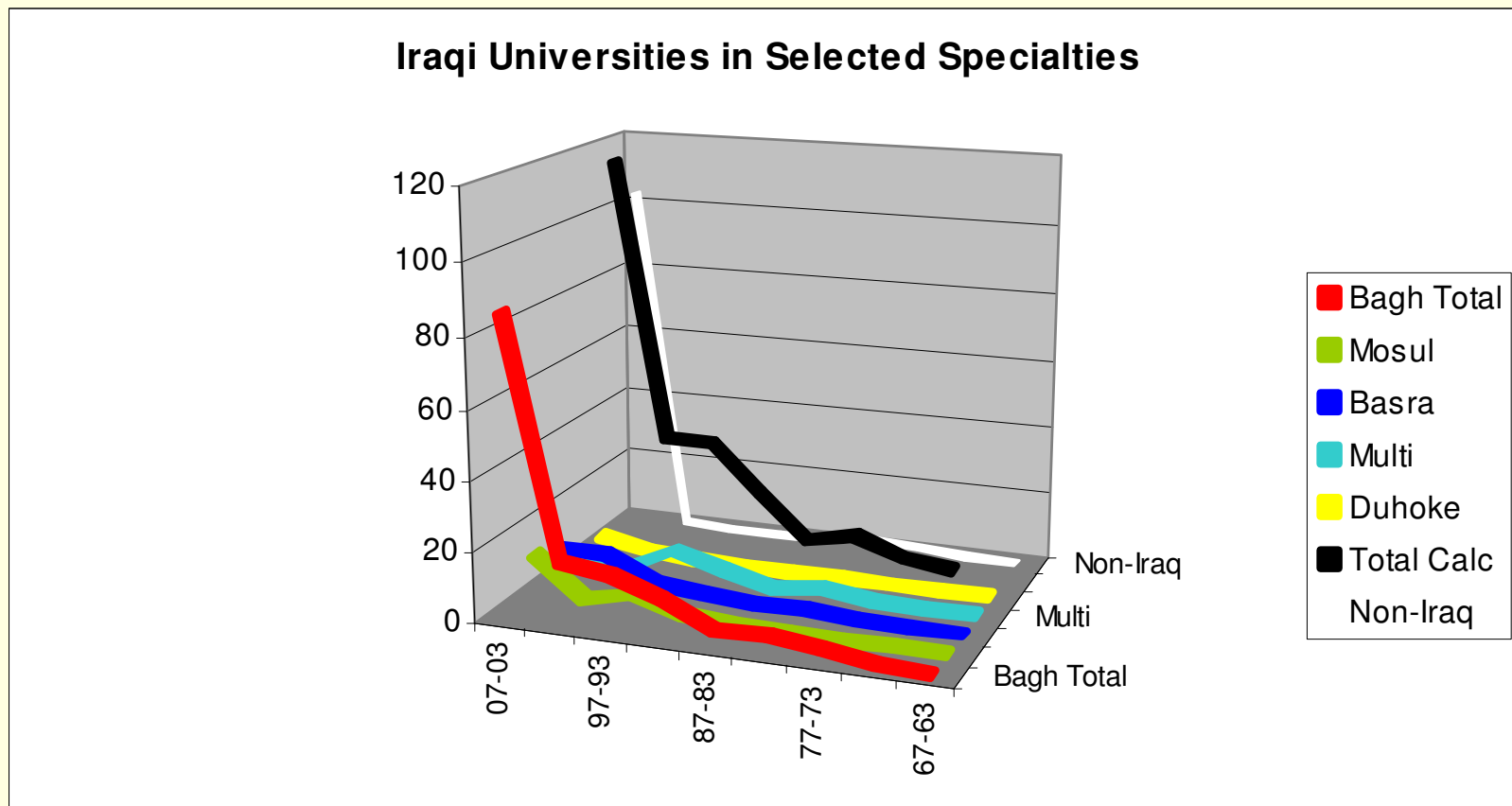
# Israel: Temporal Trends



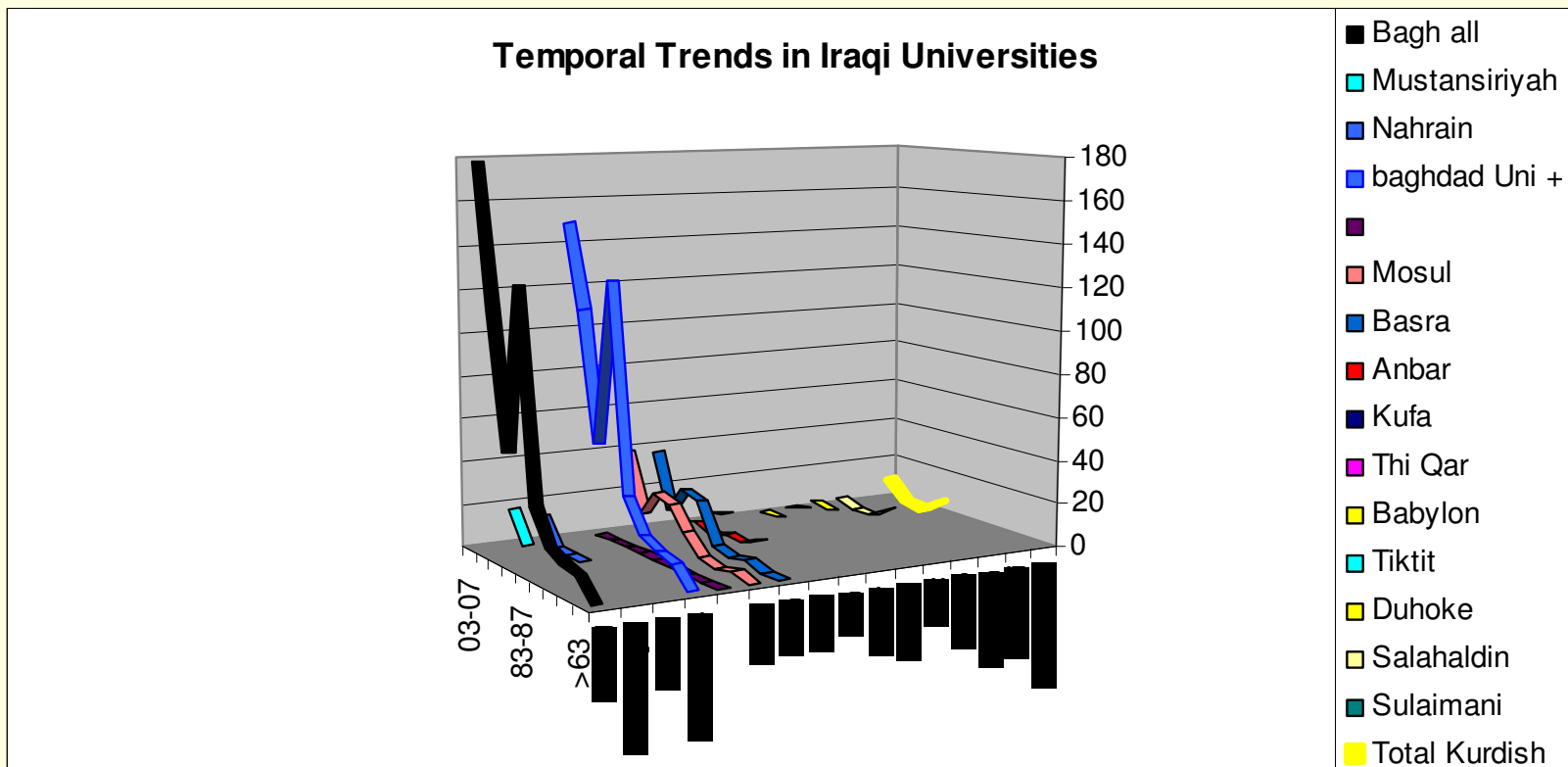
# Ophthalmology: Temporal Trends - MENA



# Temporal Trends for All Universities



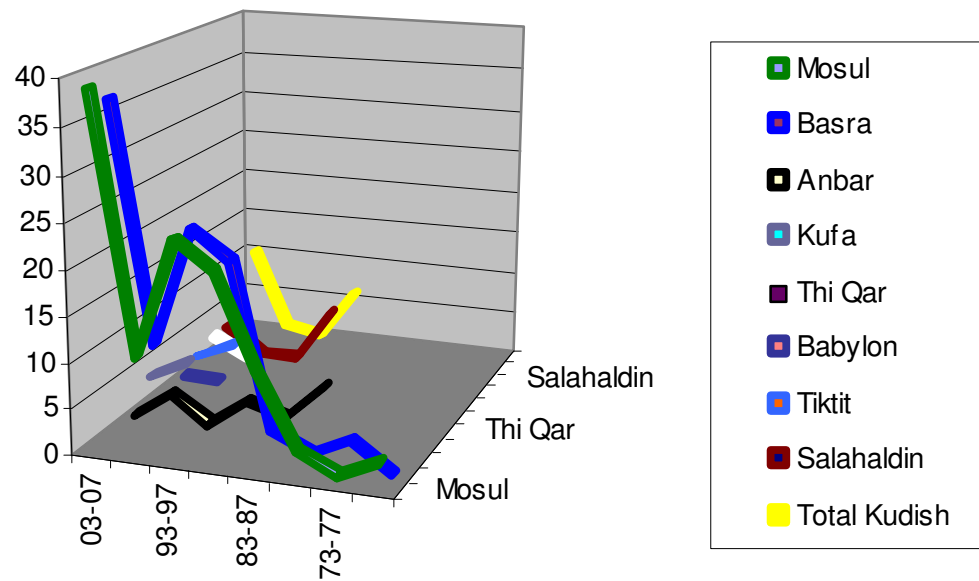
# Temporal Trends Iraqi Universities 1963-2007



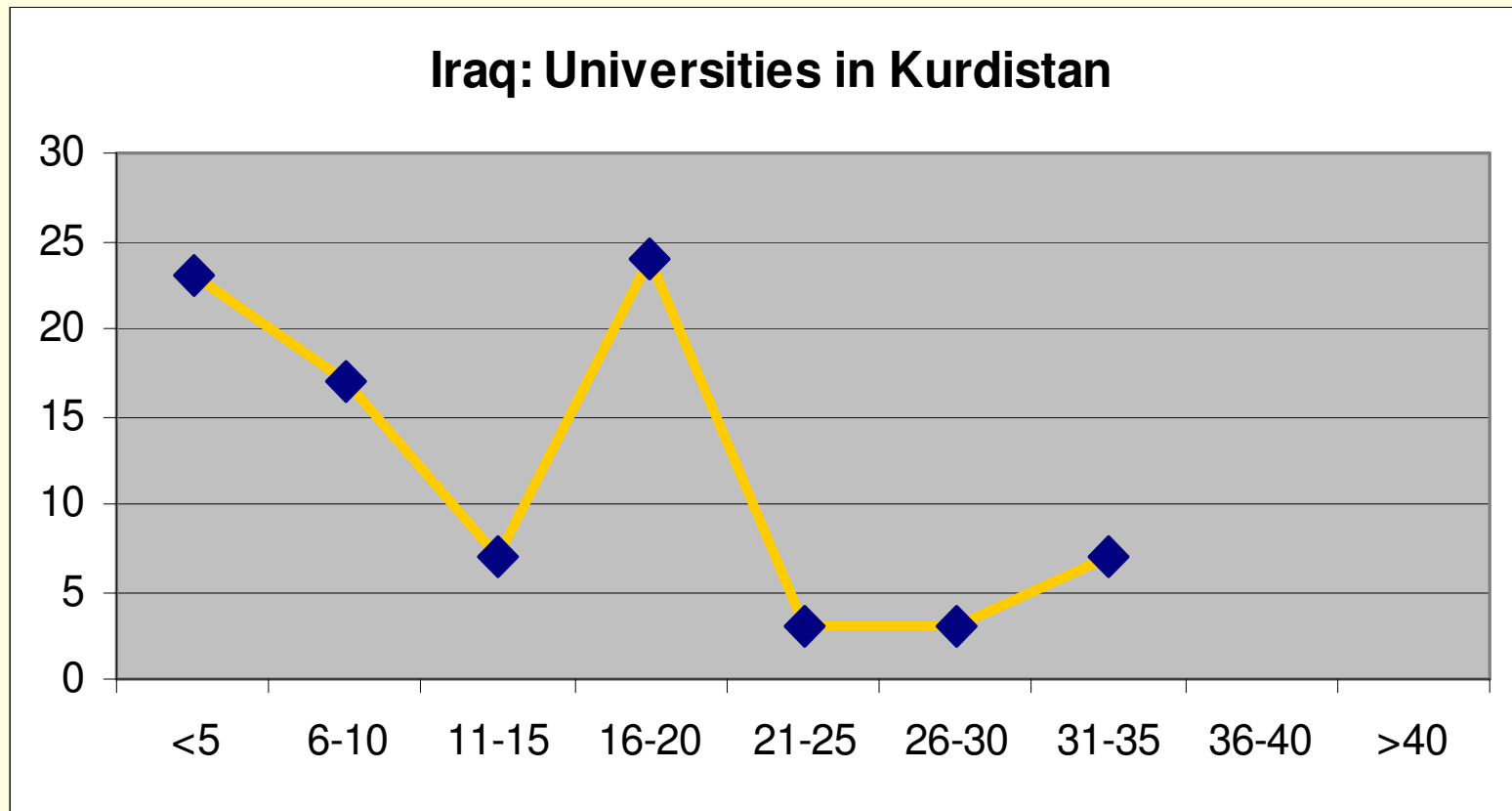
# Temporal Trends: Universities Outside Baghdad 1963-2007



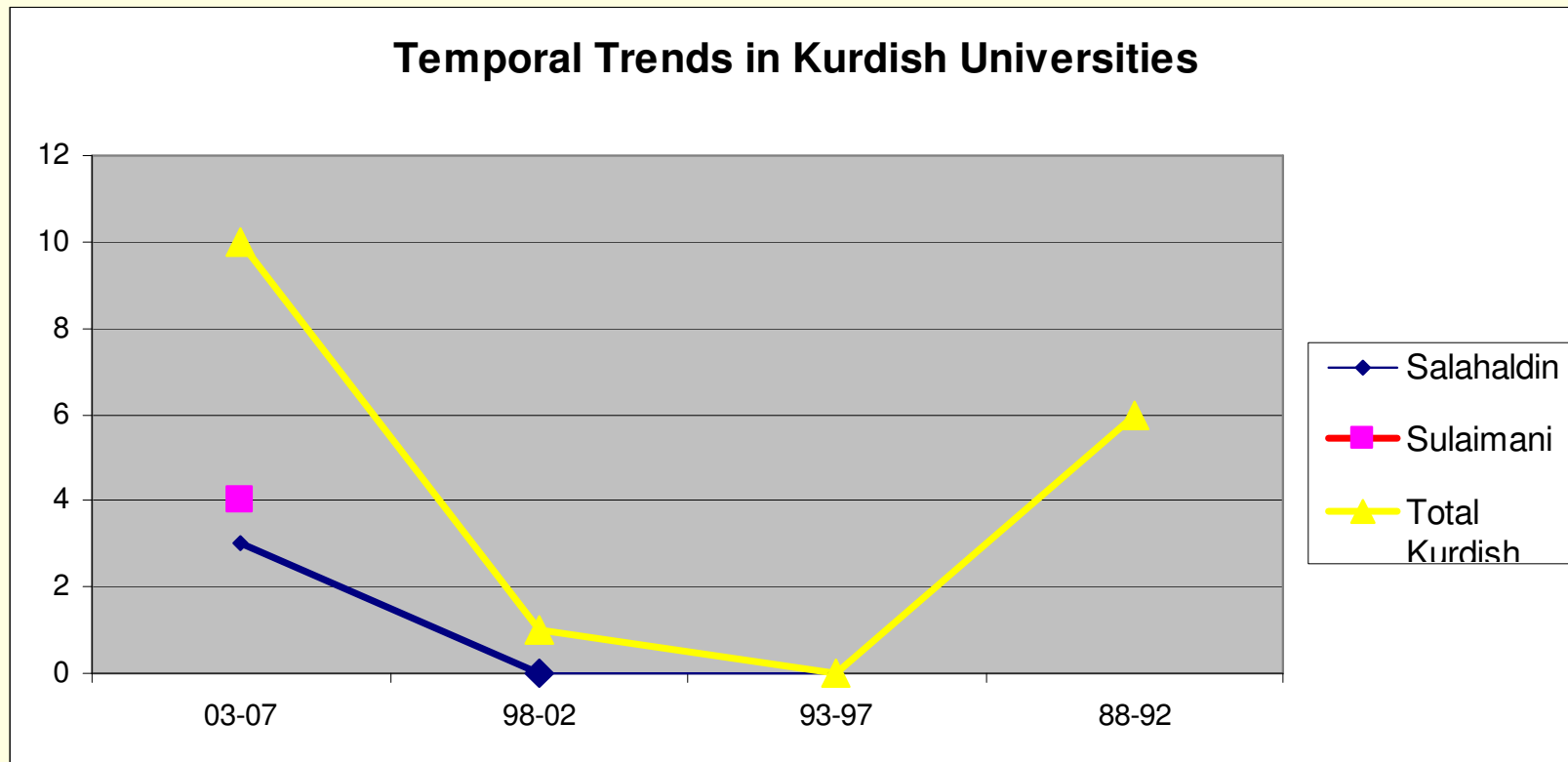
## Temporal Trends Iraqi Universities Outside Baghdad



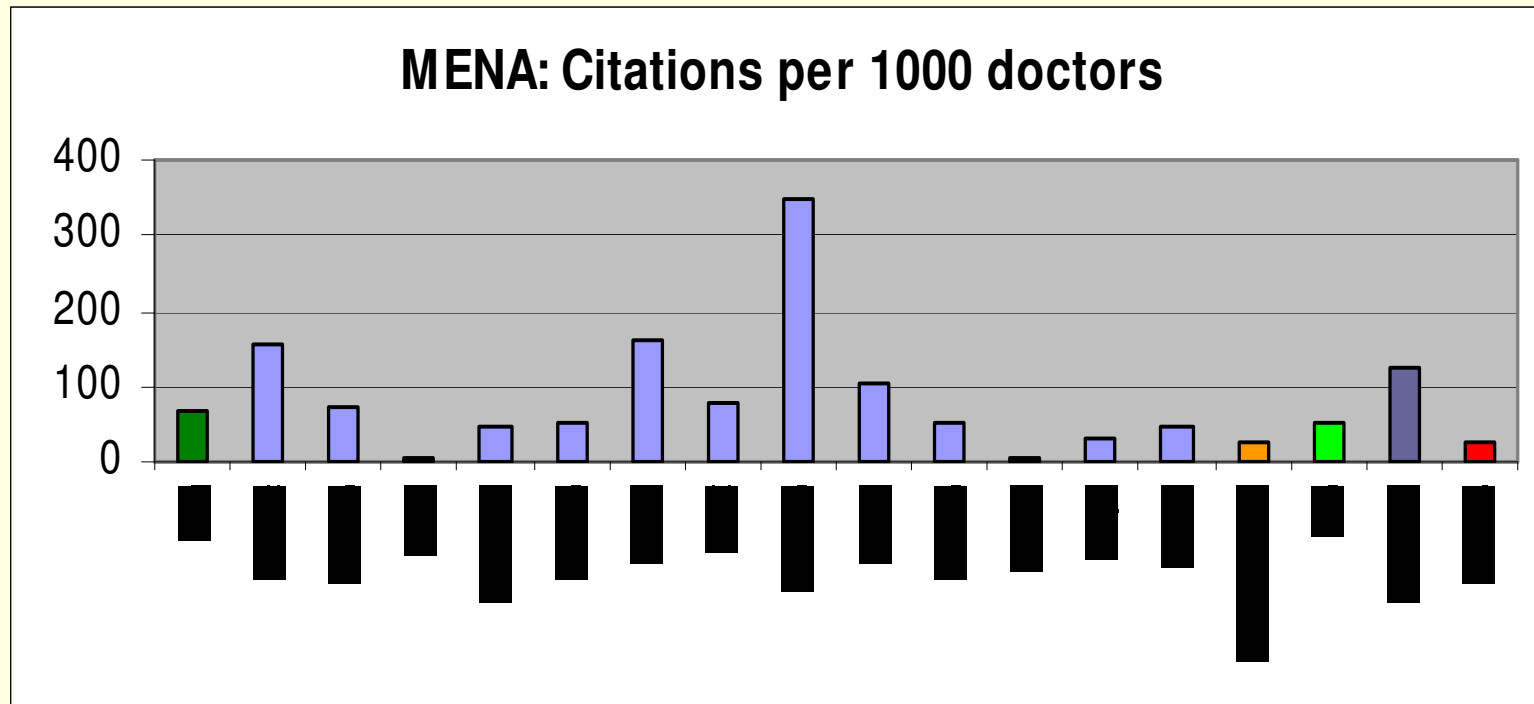
# Kurdish Region: All Citations



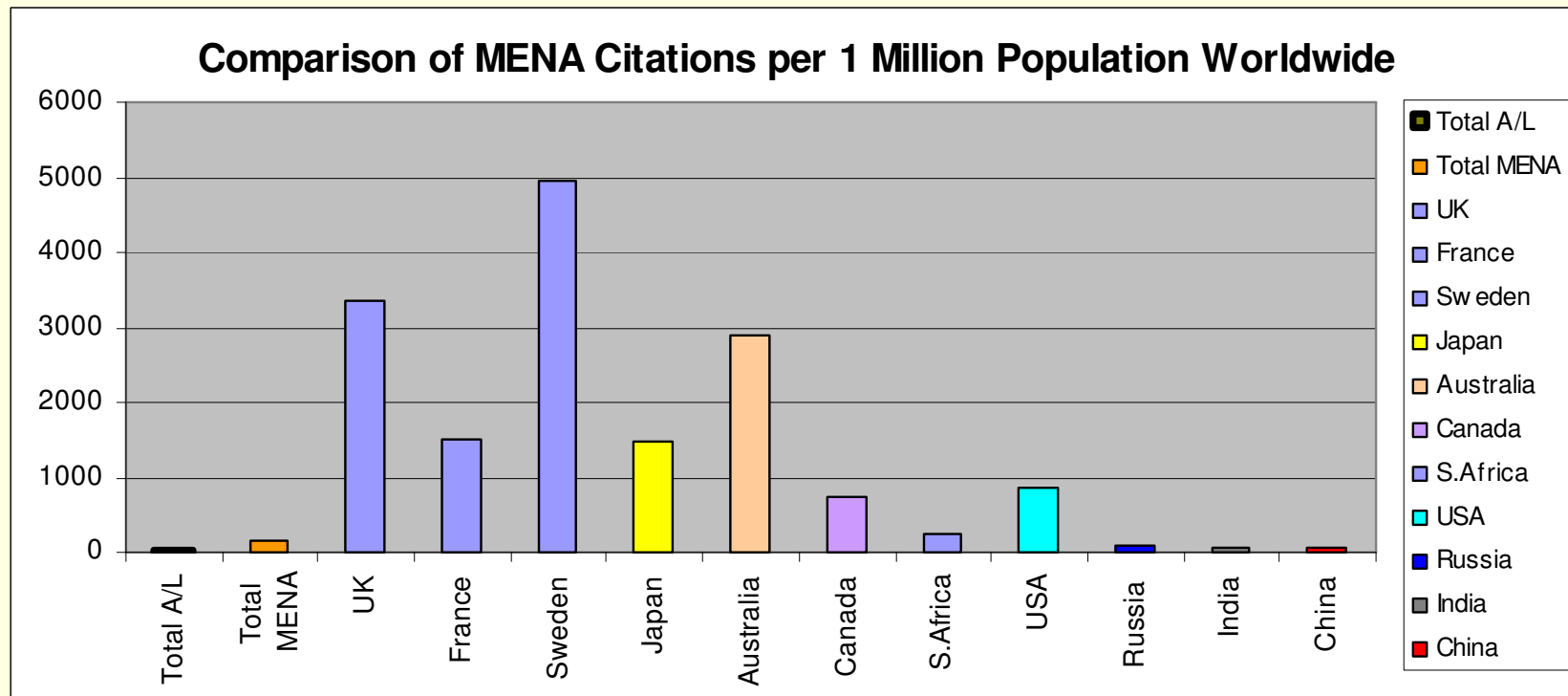
# Temporal Trends Universities Kurdistan 1988-2007



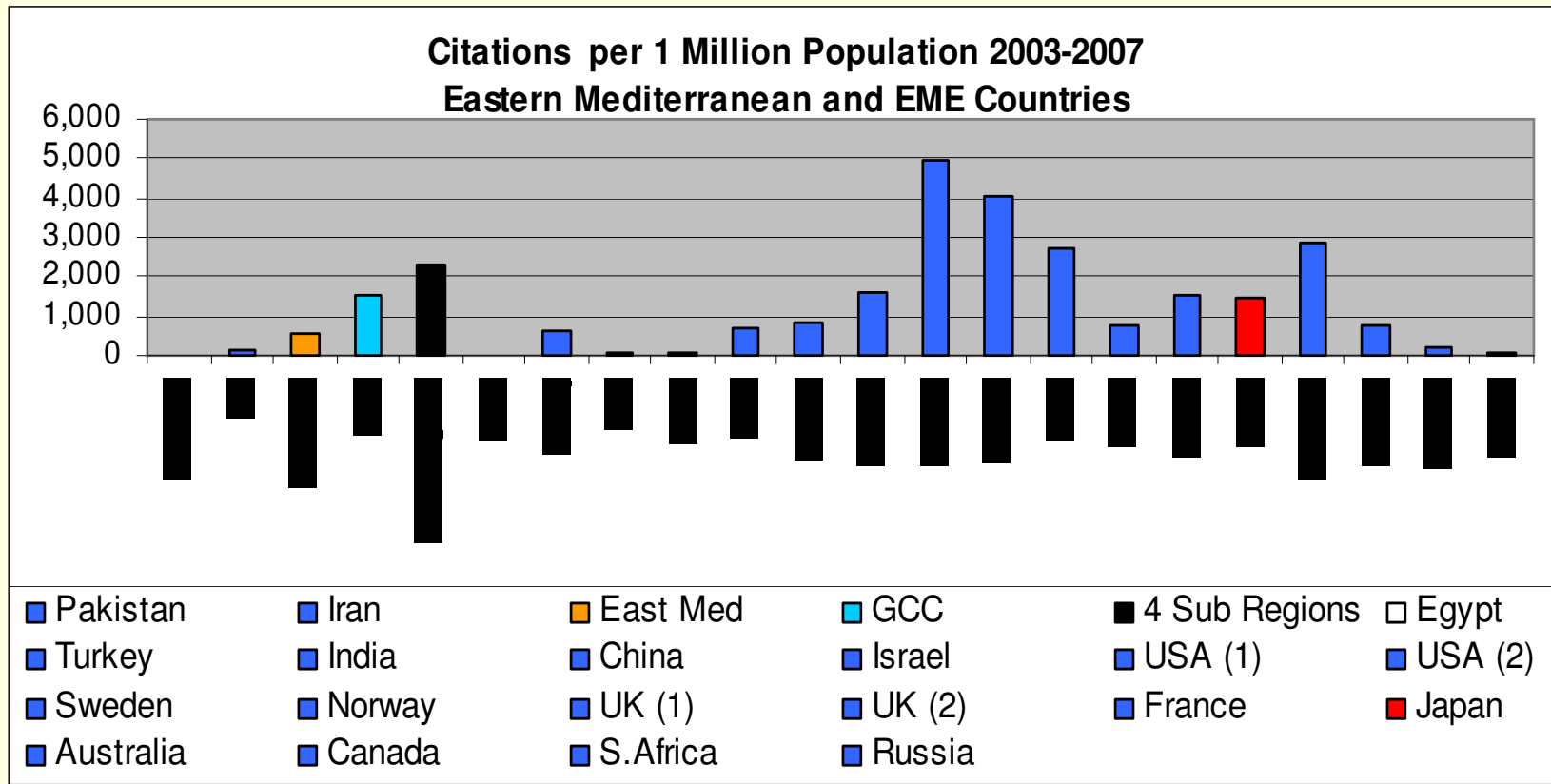
# MENA: Citations per 1000 doctors 2003-2007

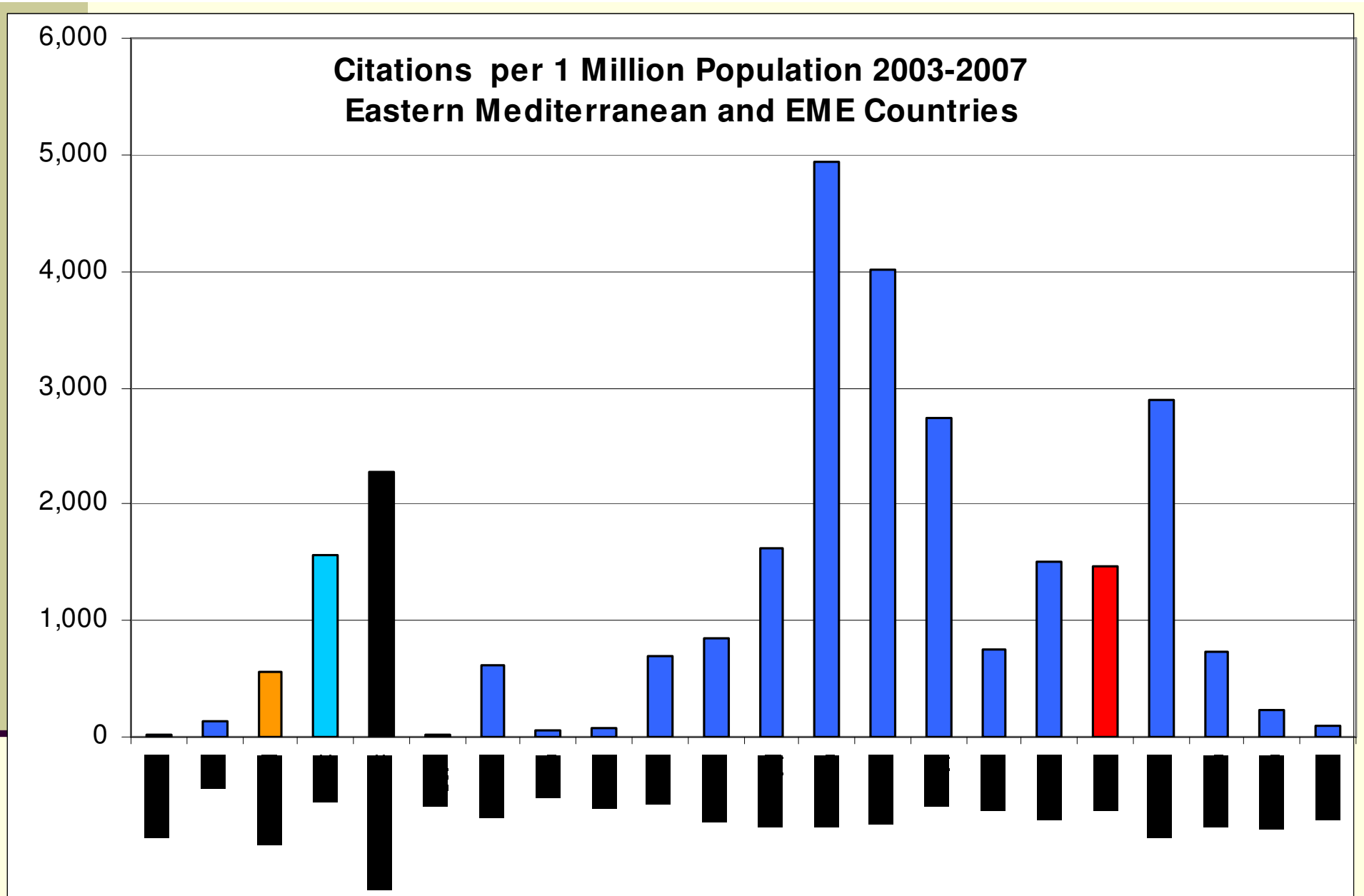


# Comparison: worldwide



# Eastern Mediterranean





# Results: Summary 1



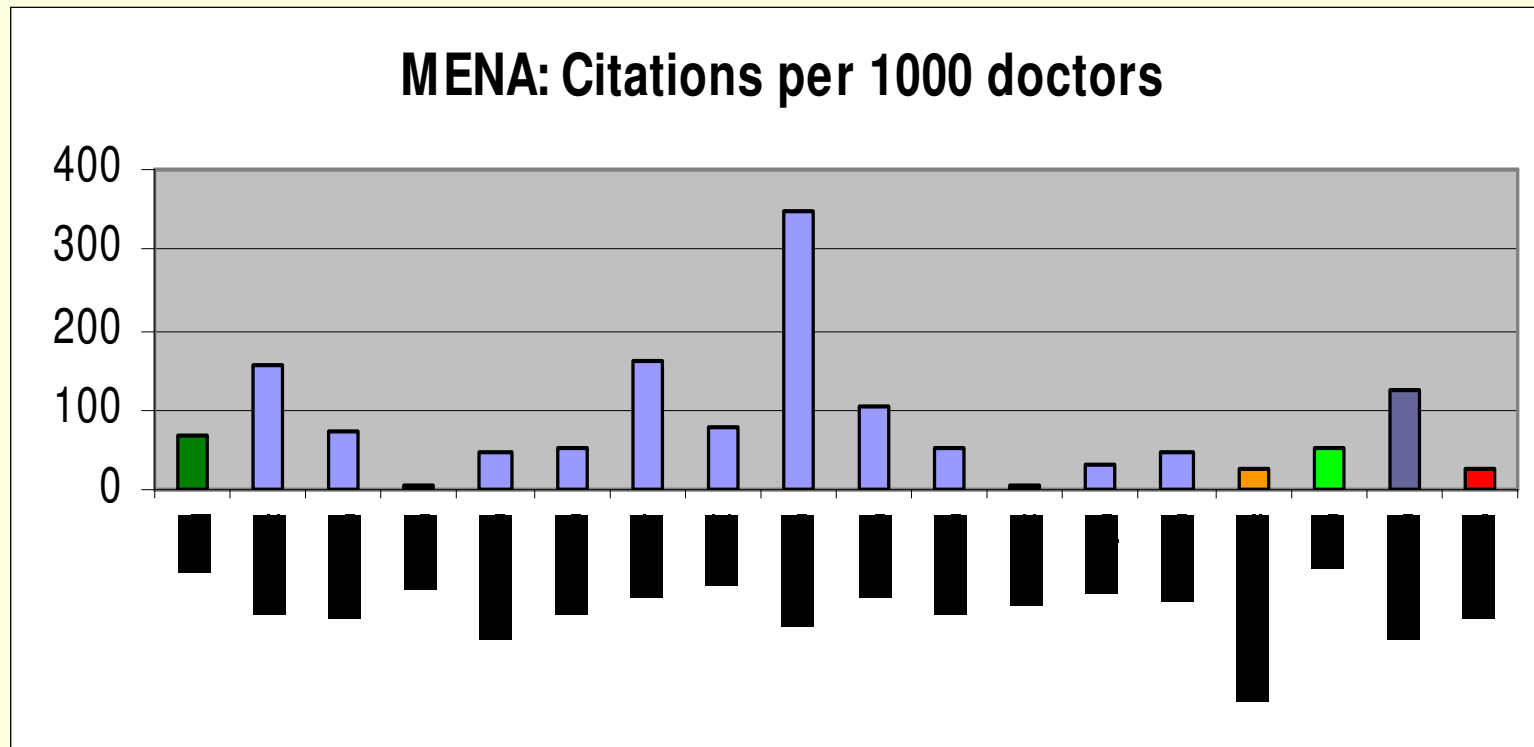
- Numbers of publications coming from Iraqi universities are far below those from EME.
- Less emphasis on important subspecialties such as ophthalmology, psychiatry and obstetric & gynaecology - shared by all MENA countries.
- Given the opportunity, Iraqis have the potential to produce a high standard of publications.

# Results: Summary 1



- Numbers of publications coming from Iraqi universities are far below those from EME.
- Less emphasis on important subspecialties such as ophthalmology, psychiatry and obstetric & gynaecology - shared by all MENA countries.
- Given the opportunity, Iraqis have the potential to produce a high standard of publications.

# MENA: Citations per 1000 doctors 2003-2007



## Results: Summary 2



- Low numbers are despite that Iraq and many other countries have well established universities.
- The new universities, especially in the GCC, are more active than the rest.
- University academia can be significantly influenced by conflict and it takes several years to recover.

## Recommendations: 1



- Attention to high standard research as publications enhances universities standing in the world of academia and this should be addressed in Iraq as well as MENA.
- This is a multi disciplinary task which requires involvement of academic institutions, authorities and academics/professionals.

## Recommendations: 2



- Additional measures are needed to address this shortfall such as:
  - Addressing morale amongst academics and scientists which has dropped progressively in the last 30 years.
  - The use of the available manpower from diaspora in a visiting or emeritus capacity.
  - Adequate funding.



*Thank You*

*Shukran Spas*



















