

EDITORIAL

Rights and Responsibilities of Publication

Publication of research or review articles in this, or any other refereed journal of international stature, is not easy. At present about half the manuscripts submitted to us for publication are not accepted.

Any potential author who submits a manuscript has the right to expect a timely acknowledgment of receipt. (This step generally causes no problems although sometimes mail does go astray.) On receipt of a manuscript in our Editorial Office the review process is started. We try to inform potential authors of the results of the review within three months of our receiving the paper. However, there are sometimes occasions when unexpected delays occur and authors may have to wait somewhat longer. Papers accepted in the original or modified form have to stand in line until publication can be effected. If the authors can present truly convincing arguments justifying "fast track" publication this process can be accelerated. However, this is an unusual procedure which is only used if it is clearly in the interests of our readers that the paper be published as soon as

possible. Reasons such as "I am coming up for tenure" are not acceptable. Work representing a significant breakthrough in the theory or practice of pharmaceutical technology may well qualify for this treatment.

All potential authors have the responsibility to read carefully and comply fully with the current Instructions to Authors given on the rear inside cover of every issue of this journal. The first paragraph is of particular importance. It points out inter alia that parallel publication is not in accordance with our policies. This practice wastes valuable space, extends delays in publication and gives our subscribers reduced value for their money. Twice within the past year members of the Editorial Board have become aware of incidents involving this problem. We have reacted firmly in both cases. If potential authors believe that there may be a possible parallel publication problem with their manuscript they are invited to supply me with all the relevant facts and I will advise them.

"Brevity is the soul of wit." This is true for papers sent for consideration for publication in this journal. Authors should try to express their reports as concisely as possible. We often have to request authors to cut their first drafts quite extensively. A length of five papers or less is optimal for many papers.

At present we have a quite substantial backlog of accepted papers we are doing our best to cut down the length of time between acceptance and publication. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Christopher T. Rhodes

Editor Drug Development and

Industrial Pharmacy