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Launch Editorial

Such is the prevalence of drugs in society that during the composition of this introduction I have learned that: five soldiers have been dismissed from the UK's showcase Royal Horse Artillery for testing positive for class A drugs,^[1] four horses have been ruled out of Olympic competition for positive testing of Capsaicin,^[2] the US department of education has awarded a three year grant to Hobart schools for the controversial drug testing of 7–12 graders for alcohol and drug abuse,^[3] Carbamazepine, lopromide, Sulfamethoxazole and Triclosan have been found in a Tucson water supply.^[4,5] These are just a handful of news reports that have passed over my desk in the past few days.

Drug testing is an extremely visible area; as seen in the news stories above, a positive test result in many cases is likely to have a life-altering affect. As the scales of society add weight to the consequences of positive test results, then there is a sagacious obligation to explore and advance the *apparatus modus* with scholastic rigour. This is the locale of this new journal *Drug Testing and Analysis* (DTA).

DTA is anchored by one central theme, to provide a focal point for the detection of illicit and controversial substances. The methods for detection are purposely broad in scope, as are the sites in which the form of detection is executed. DTA is focused on the practical problem and solution of detection, exploring an almost limitless array of established and experimental techniques to better the efficiency and accuracy of the detection methods used in establishing the presence of extraneous substances.

Why a new journal? A number of scientists take the view that one more journal merely makes more mandatory reading matter for an already overburdened researcher. Arguably this is not the case if the material in which a community is interested is focused into one single specialist journal.^[6] Poring over the reactions to the proposal for this new journal it is evident that the latter is certainly true. From the roots of conception DTA has been born out of desire for drug testing practitioners to have their own unique multidisciplinary platform.

Publications in the drug testing arena have tended to appear in a wide range of journals, from multidisciplinary forensic titles^[7–20] to more acute, technique focused publications.^[21–102] One of the aims of this periodical is to provide a focal point or home, if you will, for the wealth of research devoted to testing for the presence of extraneous substances.

In order to address this community cohesively *Drug Testing and Analysis* provides drug testing practitioners with a number of unique practical features. A comprehensive literature survey in the form of an independently supplied 'Current Awareness'. Updated and published bimonthly, this feature will inform the readership of the latest research in the field. This facet, together with an Annual Banned Substance Review (providing a critical assessment of the multitude of detection techniques for banned substances) will make DTA an invaluable centre point for drug testing practitioners.

As DTA is heavily analytical in its focus we are conscious that the subject matter of the journal is intrinsically attached to broader social issues. In order to address this important contextual aspect, DTA offers the more discursive publishing formats of perspective articles and podcasts and invites members of the community to participate in these initiatives.

These are just some of the exciting article types adopted by DTA. Full guidance can be found in the 'Notes for Authors' located on the journal home page or in the back of the print journal.

On behalf of the editors, the Editorial Board and John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. I would like to invite you to submit your excellent work to DTA and benefit from the following advantages:

- Opportunity for your article to feature on the journal sleeve
- Free colour for contributions of reviews, tutorials and perspectives
- No page charges
- Free online access throughout 2009
- On-line article submission via Manuscript Central™
- EarlyView™ service allowing access to contributions online ahead of print edition
- Free hosting of supplementary material
- EndNote templates
- Crossref™
- RSS feeds
- Opportunities to feature your paper on the separationsNOW.com and spectroscopyNOW.com platforms

As I now hand over the reins to the subject editors, it is with great pleasure that I announce the launch of this new journal and I look forward to the exciting issues to come.

Welcome to DTA!

Paul Trevorrow
Journals Editor
Wiley-Blackwell
28th August 2008

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