

# Editor's LETTER

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## The ChemBio WIKISpot, an Online Journal Club

Keeping up with late-breaking research is becoming more difficult with the increasing amount of literature at our disposal. In *ACS Chemical Biology*, we alert our readers to interesting papers in our Spotlight section, which highlights 8–10 papers from a broad spectrum of journals in diverse areas of chemical biology (neurobiology, glycobiology, synthetic chemistry, natural products, methods, etc.). Finding interesting papers to highlight takes time, and we sometimes miss a few good ones. Furthermore, we can't possibly highlight all papers of interest to chemical biologists in a timely manner in six printed pages. *Help us find and highlight the literature you find compelling.* We invite you to write a Spotlight on a paper of your choosing in the ChemBio WIKISpot, a new web page within the journal's WIKI pages. Use this opportunity to hone those writing skills, learn how to pitch science to a broader audience, and contribute to an online journal club with your colleagues. Your contribution will help us keep the chemical biology community up to date on the latest research developments and track the growth of the field. As added incentive, once a month we will select one Spotlight to publish in the journal and help you enhance your publication list.

All scientists (undergraduates to retired) are eligible to participate, so get started by clicking the "Create an account" link at the top of our web pages (it's free, and we will not add your name to any e-mail distribution list). Once you have an account, you will be able to add to and edit the ChemBio WIKISpot at your leisure.

To help our readers have a productive and enjoyable experience on the ChemBio WIKISpot, please follow these simple guidelines:

- Select an original research article (letter or communication) from any journal publication on a topic of interest to you and other chemical biologists. Alternatively, Spotlight a useful web site or meeting.
- Write about a paper published (or an interesting web site) from another lab in another department or institution. The goal is to expand our understanding beyond our individual journal clubs.
- The Spotlight text must be original and *cannot* include quotes from the paper or the authors. We're checking, so be honest!
- The text should be no more than 200 words long (shorter is better). The Spotlight should have two paragraphs with a link to the paper or web site near the end of the



first paragraph and an explanation of the potential impact of the work or web site at the end of the second paragraph.

- The Spotlight should *not* include an image. Using figures requires copyright permission, and that's paperwork we'd like to avoid at this stage. You may insert a hyperlink to a podcast, videoclip, powerpoint presentation, or tutorial of your related work that would enhance our understanding of the paper you highlight.
- There's no limit to the number of Spotlights you can write, so contribute now and contribute often.
- Read, edit, and comment on other ChemBio WIKISpots.

We prefer attributed contributions but will accept anonymous ones. In either case, we'll be able to identify all authors and contact them if we select their Spotlight for publication. We'll tidy the text to meet our styles and may include an image if we publish the Spotlight in print. Authors of the published highlight will gain a publication and will receive a free subscription to the journal.

We expect that the ChemBio WIKISpot will help scientists gain valuable writing and communication skills that will benefit them whether or not they stay in bench science. Writing to people outside of your immediate research area is essential if you plan to convince the National Institutes of Health and the legislature that your research deserves taxpayer funding. For those considering a career change from bench work to science writing, crafting these Spotlights will be a great opportunity to build a portfolio of work.

In addition, contributing to the ChemBio WIKISpot will help all of us find colleagues with common interests, learn something new, and see the research from someone else's perspective. Next time an article or web site piques your interest, write about it in the ChemBio WIKISpot.



Evelyn Jabri  
Executive Editor