

Editor's LETTER

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Peering at Editorial Review

Our editorial office at *ACS Chemical Biology* receives regular requests for information on the way decisions are made at the journal. A number of us have made the jump from research to publishing, so we can sympathize with those of you who turn your much-loved research over to the curious world of peer review. I'll try to answer some of your questions so you can better understand the future of your manuscripts here at the journal.

The first choice any researcher must make in submitting their manuscript is where it should be sent. In a world of interdisciplinary journals, this can be a daunting task, and potentially time-consuming, when each journal requires its own format. At *ACS Chemical Biology*, we encourage presubmission inquiries—just send us your abstract and cover letter, and we will let you know within two days if we think it is a good fit for us.

We also receive questions about how we handle submissions from our own Associate Editors and the Editor-in-Chief. That is a particularly relevant question at *ACS Chemical Biology*, because we like to call upon the expertise of as many of our Editors as possible for each paper. In this case, technology has taken the lead. As of July, all ACS journals receive submissions through ACS Paragon Plus, which will automatically blind any author from seeing their own paper in review. In addition, we avoid conflicts of interest by adhering strictly to the ACS Ethical Guidelines to Publication of Chemical Research, found online at <http://pubs.acs.org/ethics/index.html>.

Of course, every author's hope is a decision letter marked with the words "Publish as is", but this is rarely the case—black and white decisions do not comprise the majority. We rely on the judgment of our reviewers, so at times our best course of action is to request a revised manuscript for further review. And yes, we really do need you to respond to every reviewer comment. That does not mean you need to perform every requested experiment and control, but let us know why you feel those might not be within the scope of the manuscript. Ultimately, the final decision will be made by the Editor-in-Chief in conjunction with the Associate Editors, who are guided, but not ruled, by the reviewers.

So what happens if you do not agree with our final decision? By all means, send us an appeal. The reviewers and the editors are not infallible, and we want to publish quality research as much as you do. Send us a thoughtful response—it will likely take us a week to reread the paper and reviews, but we will certainly get back to you.

I hope this answers some questions. But please do not hesitate to contact us at chembiol@acs.org with any more you might have.

Happy publishing!



Eric Martens
Managing Editor, *ACS Chemical Biology*