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## Editorial

## A critique and two corrigenda

Following the publication of two papers in this journal in 2009 (Farahmand and Maibach, 2009a,b) the journal received a critique of the work which was sent to the authors for their comments, as apparent discrepancies and errors in their papers had been raised. Two corrigenda to the papers were provided and covering notes in which they agree that there had been mistakes made in the handling of some of the data. The two corrigenda are published below. The authors of the critique having seen the corrigenda and correspondence are still, however, unsatisfied with the results. In this issue I have decided to publish the critique by Kissel and Bunge along with the revisions and the final criticisms from them, even though the original authors declined to respond to the latter.

Amongst other things, Kissel and Bunge criticise the peer-review process which "allowed" the publication of the papers. Peer-review may often be flawed, but it is the best journals have. Reviewers not infrequently come to different conclusions about manuscripts. We all know that reviewers also can be both too lenient and too harsh, the latter preventing the publication of work which is subsequently found to be worthy and commendable. Ultimately the Editor-in-

Chief and regional editors take responsibility for decisions made on the basis of reviewers' reports. In this case there has been no willful wrong-doing but the interaction has been useful in correcting mistakes. What it does not do is to undermine peer-review. The ultimate test of a paper is its reception by readers and as in this case readers are free to offer comments in the spirit of scientific debate.

**References**

- Farahmand, S., Maibach, H.I., 2009a. Transdermal drug pharmacokinetics in man: interindividual variability and partial prediction. *Int. J. Pharm.* 36, 1–15.
- Farahmand, S., Maibach, H.I., 2009b. Estimating skin permeability from physico-chemical characteristics of drugs: a comparison between conventional models and an *in vivo*-based approach. *Int. J. Pharm.* 375, 41–47.

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