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Editorial

A new direction for the Journal of Chromatography B: Biomedical Sciences and Applications

Over the past two years the Editors of the Journal of Chromatography B have begun the process of changing the direction of this journal. We started from an understanding that the development of the Journal of Chromatography B mirrored the movement of chromatography out of the research laboratory into the applications laboratory. This transformation produced an explosion of chromatographic applications in the biomedical area and the formation of *Journal of Chromatography B: Biomedical Applications* out of the Journal of Chromatography.

The use of liquid and gas chromatography, electrophoresis and related separation techniques in research and practice has matured. These changes have compelled the Journal of Chromatography B to alter its scope and direction.

The initial step in this process was a change in the scope of the journal and the inclusion of an emphasis on new bioscience separation techniques and applications areas. This movement was reflected in a change in the title of the journal from Journal of Chromatography B: Biomedical Applications to *Journal of Chromatography B: Biomedical Sciences and Applications*. The scope of the journal was defined as:

The Journal of Chromatography B addresses developments in and applications of separation science related to drugs and other pharmacologically active compounds, and to research in biomedical sciences. The areas considered include: clinical diagnosis or alterations during medical treatment; screening and profiling of body fluids or tissues related to the analysis of active substances and to metabolic disorders; drug level monitoring; pharmacodynamic, pharmacokinetic, and pharmacogenetic studies; analysis of toxicants in biological and food matrices; pharmaceutical analysis; forensics medicine; veterinary medicines; occupational medicine. Techniques covered include the various facets of chromatography, electrochromatography, electrophoresis and related methods, as well as hyphenated techniques, applied mass spectrometry and immuno-affinity separation techniques.

The second step was the definition of the criteria for the publication of a validated assay in the Journal of Chromatography B {see Volume 683, No. 2, pp. 133–134}. This development was necessitated by the broad-based application of separation techniques to pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, metabolic, forensic and clinical studies and because some laboratories did not apply fundamental assay validation principles. Therefore, the Editors in collaboration with the Editorial Board developed the validation criteria in order to ensure that the assays published in the journal were reproducible and applicable.

We are now beginning the next phase of the journal's transformation. In this stage, the Editors propose to clarify the acceptance criteria for papers that will henceforth be published in the Journal of Chromatography B. The criteria are as follows:

1. The Journal of Chromatography B will publish papers that report advancements in separation and analysis techniques in biomedical science; according to the journal's scope.
2. The Journal of Chromatography B will publish bioanalytical methods and assays which are clear improvements over current practices and published methods.

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3. Reports of analytical methods for compounds in early pharmaceutical development often lack general interest or novelty, and will not be published unless the authors can demonstrate the broader significance of the methodology employed.

These criteria are intended to ensure that the Journal of Chromatography B will continue to reflect the progressive developments in biomedical science and analysis. We encourage your participation in this process and look forward to your response.

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