

Editorial

Editorial response to author review in publishing science

The editors of the Journal of Chromatography B agree with Dr. Krull on the importance of the requirement that all authors be allowed to review a manuscript prior to submission. We also agree that they should have the right to have their names removed if they choose. We also share Dr. Krull's concerns about non-ethical behavior on the part of corresponding authors and appreciate the fact that he has shared his concerns with us. This problem however, appears to occur only rarely since none of the current editors of the Journal of Chromatography B can recall a single incident of this nature over the last 10 years.

Regarding Dr. Krull's suggestion that the journal require signatures from all authors prior to submission, we believe that the policy of the Journal of Chromatography B is very clearly expressed in the J. Chromatography B guidelines for authors. The relevant paragraph from these guidelines is reproduced below:

"Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the Publisher. The submitted manuscript represents original research work not being submitted previously to any other journal."

All authors should be aware of the statement above but we agree that on occasion this may have been overlooked. This policy puts the responsibility for approval of manuscripts, by all authors, with the corresponding author. The editors of the Journal of Chromatography B believe that while it is clear what the policy is, we may be able to improve the way in which this policy is communicated. We also believe this can be accomplished

without significantly complicating the manuscript submission process. Therefore in response to Dr. Krull's expressed concerns, we have made this statement more visible, by adding it to the first submission page in the Elsevier Electronic Submission system. In this current release of the Elsevier Electronic Submission system, authors must confirm that they are in compliance with this guidance by responding yes or no prior to proceeding with submission.

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