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Editorial

A Flexible Policy Concerning Purity Criteria for Published Target Compounds

The past decade has witnessed the development of a variety of new technologies for facilitating leads to potential drugs. Combinatorial chemistry and high-throughput screening have vastly increased the number of compounds being tested for biological activity. The sheer volume of target compounds being generated has necessitated more rapid and less expensive methods of evaluating purity, with decreased reliance on combustion analyses.

In order to accommodate these changes, the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* has implemented a more flexible policy regarding the purity criteria for published target compounds. Previously, this Journal required combustion analysis data for all new, nonoligomeric target compounds to be within $\pm 0.4\%$. Although combustion analysis data are preferred for all target nonoligomeric compounds, it is now required only for target compounds that are *important* for interpretation of the structure–activity relationship (SAR). When unusual circumstances prevent the obtaining of such analytical data, the results from two diverse HPLC systems are acceptable. Compounds that are not critical for the interpretation of the SAR should have a minimum purity of 95%. The question of “importance” will be determined by the Editors and the Reviewers on a case-by-case basis.

All oligomeric target compounds require assurance that they have a minimum purity of 95%, as determined by generally accepted analytical methods. These revised purity criteria can be found in Section **h** of “Preparation of Manuscripts” in the January 13, 2000, issue of this Journal or on the home page (<http://pubs.acs.org/instruct/jmcmr.pdf>).

As stated in our current instructions for combinatorial chemistry methodology (Section **i**), preliminary SAR screening data may be reported as Supporting Information without confirmation of structure or demonstration of purity when the data is used as a basis for the design of lead compounds for a focused series. Such preliminary data are intended to provide the reader with background information on the possible origin of the structural motif for members of the focused series.

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Editor-in-Chief

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