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AN "EQUAL OPPORTUNITY" JOURNAL

Fair treatment and equal opportunity are topics which have enjoyed considerable attention in recent years. Race, religion, sex, ethnic origin, and age are some of the areas in which prejudices have been challenged and barriers are being successfully removed.

In every aspect of its operation, this Journal has consistently strived to consider all things strictly on their merits and to exclude any element of bias. Quality and qualifications are what count in considering the acceptability of papers for publication, referees for reviewing manuscripts, authors for review articles, members to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board, and personnel for the editorial staff.

Unfortunately, however, the way in which things are perceived is often quite different from the way in which they actually exist. Erroneous conclusions are drawn from a situation largely because they have been based on false assumptions.

Specifically, indignant complaints have been received by the editors from time to time over the past fifteen years, alleging that the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* is prejudiced against pharmacy administration. Various groups and various individuals have heatedly charged that this Journal has a policy that denies equal access to its pages for publication purposes in the case of papers emanating from the field of pharmacy administration.

This simply is not true. The pages of this Journal are open to any research in the pharmaceutical sciences, providing that the resultant manuscript fulfills all prevailing Journal criteria for acceptance. Manuscripts in the field of pharmacy administration are required to meet the same standards as manuscripts from any other area of research. Among these standards, the most fundamental requisite is that the paper reports original, basic research.

Absence in the past of such papers from our pages has not been due to any limitation of Journal scope. Rather, it has been due to the unfortunate fact that the occasional manuscripts submitted from this field of science have reported upon poorly conceived studies or have been deficient in other respects so that they did not fulfill the quality standards established for the Journal. And lest there be any suspicion that this assessment reflected biased opinion on the part of the editors, it should be mentioned that the manuscripts were reviewed by competent, recognized experts in the field of pharmacy administration and that these peer referees recommended rejection on the basis of the quality of the manuscript—or more correctly, on the basis of the quality of the research study on which the manuscript reported.

On a somewhat related subject, many of our readers and authors have regarded as arbitrary and confusing the use of separate sections in the Journal for publication of reports dealing with "Pharmaceutical Analysis" and "Pharmaceutical Technology." In an effort to eliminate such segregation of these articles, this practice is being discontinued, effective with this month's issue. In the future, all articles in these subject areas will simply appear under the common heading of "Research Articles" or "Notes."

In conclusion, it has been and remains the policy of the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* to consider for publication papers reporting on any area of pharmacy-related research, provided that the editors and reviewers determine that: (a) the research study is well designed, (b) the research is adequately reported, and (c) the study and its results are of sufficient importance to warrant publication for the benefit of the scientific community.