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Editorial

“Mean Graphs” of NCI Screening Data

In this issue of the Journal there are two papers, one by Acton et al. and the other by Jurayj et al., on compounds with unusual cytotoxic selectivity for CNS tumors. This selectivity was discovered as a result of a new high-flux anticancer drug screen utilizing a diverse panel of human tumor cell lines in culture developed by the Developmental Therapeutics Program, Division of Cancer Treatment, National Cancer Institute. For medicinal chemists who submit compounds to this screen, the NCI provides a detailed, computer-generated set of “mean graphs” that facilitate rapid perusal of the screening data to uncover possible indications of tumor-line or tumor-subpanel selectivity. Authors of manuscripts with such data are understandably confused as to how these data should be presented for publication in this Journal.

After much deliberation, the editors have decided that, except in extraordinary circumstances, these “mean graphs”—even edited and condensed versions as seen in the two papers alluded to—will not normally be acceptable for publication in the printed version of the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*. However, such edited/condensed versions will be acceptable as supplementary material for the microfilm edition of this Journal.

In the manuscript by Acton et al., most of the data have been reduced to alphanumeric form suitable for line printing. Even these will not normally be accepted, except as supplementary material. The publication of these mean graphs and alphanumeric data in the text of these two papers was intended to be illustrative only in order that our readers may see what these data look like. Hereafter, all such data will be placed in the supplementary material.

The Editors