Organic Process Research & Development

Editorial

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Use of Footnotes and References in *Org. Process Res. Dev.* Papers

In recent weeks, many authors will have received requests from me to add footnotes to papers, usually after they have responded to the comments from the reviewers and have submitted their revised manuscript. The main reasons I then go back to the senior author with the request to add a footnote is that the author eloquently replies to the criticism of the reviewer (and the discussion may be quite lengthy and makes interesting reading) but then fails to modify the manuscript; this is usually after rebutting the reviewer's comment.

However, as far as the reader is concerned, this discussion may as well have never taken place, since it does not appear in the article. However, the reader may have the same thoughts and questions as the reviewer. For this reason I have asked authors to add footnotes to articles whenever points of interest for the reader would significantly add to the understanding and readability of the paper.

Of course these footnotes will not usually appear literally at the foot of the column, but normally will be incorporated within the numbered references listed at the end of each article.

Whilst on the subject of references, I am reminded of the recent letter to the editor and subsequent response (*Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2012**, *16*, 1185−1186 and *Org. Process Res. Dev.* **2012**, *16*, 1187) concerning the need to adequately reference work done previously. References should, however, be relevant to the work being discussed in the paper. Thus, there is, for example, no need to give large numbers of references to the medicinal chemistry of a particular drug substance if the paper being submitted is solely concerned with synthesis. Only medicinal chemistry papers which contain a synthesis being discussed in the submitted paper need be referenced.

Thus, in the introduction to the subject, a single review article describing the medicinal or synthetic chemistry, or a reference to a comprehensive text such as *Pharmaceutical Substances*[1] may be all that is required.

Trevor Laird, Editor

AUTHOR INFORMATION

Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the author and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

REFERENCES

(1) Kleeman, A., Engel, J., Kutscher, B., Reichert, D., Eds. *Pharmaceutical Substances, Syntheses, Patents and Applications of the Most Relevant APIs*, 5th ed.; Thieme: Stuttgart, 2008; ISBN 9783135584058.

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