

## Editorial

With *Pharmaceutical Research* maturing into an established and widely accepted journal in its field, we wish to change editorial policies on the classification of full-length Research Articles and Reports. In the past, the distinction between these categories allowed the editors to deny publication of unduly lengthy manuscripts that received only average priority by the referees. Whereas Reports (~12 pages, double spaced, maximum) had to receive overall average priority, Research Articles (~24 pages usual maximum) required above average priority be assigned by at least one referee. This general policy, which served as a guide, but not absolute rule, for the editors in deciding the fate of a manuscript, was designed also to highlight major scientific contributions as Research Articles. However, many Reports were published that received "above average" or "high priority," whereas an adjacent Research Article may have received an "above average priority" by one referee and was thus classified as a Research Article largely on the basis of the length of the manuscript.

We will now recognize as Research Articles only those manuscripts that contain a substantial amount of work and received above average to high priority by the referees. These manuscripts must then be expressly recommended, by the referees and the responsible editor, for classification as a Research Article. I anticipate that only 10% of all accepted scientific manuscripts will be recognized as full-length Research Articles, which thus will represent a special recognition of the impact of the presented work. This recognition will be based on the collective judgment of the referees and editors.

In order to maintain the ability of the editor to judge lengthy manuscripts with moderate priority, general acceptance criteria for Reports will be modified as follows. Reports with a manuscript length of ~12 pages or less (double spaced) require overall average priority (a below average rating precludes publication unless balanced by positive recommendations by other referees and editors); any manuscript of 12 to 24 pages must receive an above average priority rating by at least one referee. At their discretion editors may waive page limits, as we do not want to curb the full reporting of required experimental data.

These new policies are being communicated to the referees so that they can properly pass judgment on papers under review and recommend classification as Research Article where appropriate. Further, we have changed the Instructions to Contributors to make authors aware of the changes. Thus, the Report format will represent the main staple in *Pharmaceutical Research*, whereas Research Articles will represent work of *unusual* importance and scope. Technical Notes will continue to facilitate rapid dissemination of new scientific and technical information with a well-defined focus. These changes are being implemented now and will take full effect in the journal by 1992.

I wish to emphasize again that we do not want to curtail required descriptions of experimental procedures and results by imposing page limits. However, past experience shows that only a few manuscripts are written in a truly concise and clear fashion. To achieve and maintain outstanding quality of publication in *Pharmaceutical Research*, we need the full cooperation of each author in presenting results in the most effective way possible; each editor is willing to work with the authors to make maximum use of journal space. Certainly, the overall quality of papers submitted to *Pharmaceutical Research* has improved progressively, so that our rejection rate has remained rather constant at 30–40%, despite more stringent quality criteria applied by the referees.

In concluding, I would like to indicate that the referees are the main source of quality control for the journal. Many, but not all, of the referees are AAPS members, and they have responded admirably to incessant requests for reviewing papers. We deeply appreciate their efforts. Finally, I am also much indebted to the editors who freely give of their time as volunteers and set the standards in each of their specialty areas. The editorial process of *Pharmaceutical Research* must be viewed as a team effort, which has produced a well-respected publication forum.

W. Sadée  
Editor-in-Chief