



Editorial

THE RECENT CHANGE in editorship of *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* has not altered the overall goals and thrust of the journal but necessarily brings with it some changes in the policies of the journal. As stated in the Instructions to Authors, the goals of the journal remain the same. *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* will continue to publish original reports in the areas of pharmacology, biochemistry, and toxicology in which the primary emphasis and theoretical context are behavioral. Contributions may involve clinical, preclinical, or basic research. Purely behavioral studies generally will not be published unless they have direct relevance to the areas of pharmacology, biochemistry, or toxicology.

However, there are a number of areas where policy may be construed to have changed and they are listed below. In fact many of these policies are minor modifications of previously established policies.

Special encouragement is directed to the participation of promising young scientists as well as investigators from the growing neuroscience communities in Europe and Asia.

Prompt publication of original articles will be the standard procedure, and NO brief or rapid communications will be considered henceforth. Our goal is to publish manuscripts within 6 months of initial submission. This will require a team effort on the part of Editors, manuscript reviewers, and authors:

- (1) Rapid reviewer response: reviewers need to return manuscripts promptly to allow a 6-8-week turnaround of the initial review.
- (2) For minor revisions, authors should make revisions within 1-2 months of receiving the reviews.
- (3) For major revisions not requiring additional experiments, authors should make the revisions within 3 months of receiving the reviews.

Review articles of high quality are encouraged and will receive rapid processing and publication. Generally these review articles will be solicited by the Editorial Board, but authors are encouraged to submit letters of interest.

A limited number of special issues similarly will be encouraged and can be the result of special focus meetings or symposia. Generally these special issues will be solicited by the Editorial Board, but authors are encouraged to submit letters of interest. Guest editors may be appointed.

Articles not meeting a minimum standard will be rejected. The criteria for rejection will be a recognition by the reviewers and the editors that no meaningful data will be provided in the manuscript as presented due to any number of reasons including, but not limited to, factors such as poor uninterpretable experimental design to inadequate numbers of observations.

Ethical issues involving animal and human subjects will be

carefully scrutinized. As detailed in the Instructions to Authors, all manuscript submissions must be accompanied by a statement that procedures are in compliance with the regulations established by appropriate governmental agencies and/or individual institutional review committees. In addition, where the Editors or reviewers question the ethical conduct of an experiment, a special Ethics Committee established by the Editors will be consulted. Papers failing to meet standards at the level of those established by AAULAC in the United States may be returned to authors without review.

The members of the Editorial Board may be rotated periodically to reflect the needs of the Editors and changes and developments in the field.

The Editors are committed to a rapid and thorough review process that will provide a vehicle for the dissemination of quality work in our disciplines in a timely manner. We hope that these changes will make *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* an attractive place for behavioral neuroscientists and neuropsychopharmacologists to publish exciting and interesting new findings.

Sandra E. File
European Editor-in-Chief

George F. Koob
US Editor-in-Chief