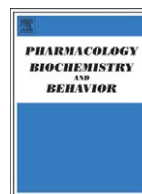




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Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/pharmbiochembeh

Announcement

We wanted to make you aware of some recent significant developments for *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* that should be of benefit to authors and readers:

Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior offers fast and reliable first decision time as well as online and print publication time after final acceptance. We've gone to great lengths to make *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* among the fastest journals that publishes behavioral studies with a pharmacological and/or neuroscience focus. Our vision has been to become the journal of choice for rapid dissemination of key findings in the field, not by offering a Rapid or Brief Communications format, but by striving to process ALL submissions in the most expedient manner possible. We are pleased to report that our average time from initial submission of a manuscript to notification of the first decision was 38.5 days in 2007, and we are striving to reduce this time ultimately to about 30 days, to give our authors the quickest feedback possible on their manuscripts. In addition, our publisher Elsevier now provides author-corrected proofs of "in press" articles online within 5 weeks of final acceptance, and full on-line publication of complete issues (with complete volume, issue and page number citation information) within 10 weeks of acceptance. We believe this now makes *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* amongst the fastest neuropsychopharmacology journals, and we plan to continue working to reduce these editorial and production times still further. Authors currently publishing in the journal are already aware of these changes, as Elsevier's author satisfaction survey shows a significant rise in author satisfaction rating of "Refereeing Speed", "Refereeing Standard", and "Production Speed" in the latter half of 2007. According to this survey, we now rank at the top of our main competitor titles in these categories. So, think of us first the next time you want rapid publication of a timely manuscript.

Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior Initiates a Mini-Review Category for Submission of Timely Focused Reviews on Emerging or Rapidly Developing Topics in the Field. Effective immediately, Gery Schulteis, PhD, Associate Editor of the USA Editorial Office, has been charged with the additional responsibility of Editor for Mini-Reviews. In his role as Editor, Dr. Schulteis, along with Editors-in-Chief Drs. George Koob and Dai Stephens and the Editorial Board, will invite authors to submit mini-reviews for publication by the journal. All invited reviews will still undergo a peer review process to ensure that they present a timely, focused, and inclusive coverage of the current state of the topic under review, but it is expected that all invited reviews will ultimately merit publication.

Authors interested in publishing an unsolicited review are encouraged to initially submit a letter of interest accompanied by a brief outline (500 words or less) of the intended scope of the mini-

review to the attention of Dr. Schulteis, Editor for Mini-Reviews. The outline will receive an initial review by the Dr. Schulteis and select members of the Editorial Board. If selected for further development, the mini-review will then be due within 3 months of acceptance of the outline. The submitted mini-review itself will be peer-reviewed through the normal review process for the journal.

Mini-reviews shall consist of timely coverage of the current status of any emerging or rapidly developing field of research in all areas that fall within the scope of *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior*. The intent is not to review the entire history of a broad field of inquiry, but to provide focused and highly timely insights into emerging topics. To provide a sense for the intended breadth of a mini-review article, the Editors believe that many background sections of new research programs or grants provide an excellent starting point. In addition to current status of the field, the article may highlight significant future directions for the field and areas in need of critical attention. The review must nonetheless be grounded in an established literature, and is not intended as a format for principal publication of pilot data or previously unpublished observations from the author's laboratory. Unpublished data should not be used to substantiate any significant points.

Articles should generally be no more than 5000 words (excluding references) and 60 references. Figures and Tables (2-3 per article) may be included if authors obtain permission for reproducing data from prior publications; as a general rule of thumb, authors should reduce their word length by about 300 words for each Figure/Table included.

Effective April 21, 2008, Elsevier Offers a Technical Screening Process for Manuscripts. *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* has instituted a new policy in which new and revised manuscript submissions will pass through a technical screening by Elsevier before being forwarded to the Editors-in-Chief. Manuscripts will be evaluated for adherence to the formatting guidelines specified in our Instructions to Authors available online at http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/journaldescription.cws_home/525485/authorinstructions. When authors enter EES to submit a new or revised manuscript, they will be alerted to the criteria that their manuscript must meet (e.g., double-spaced, page numbered, affiliations listed, contact information provided, figures not imbedded in the text, etc.). Papers that do not pass the initial screening will be returned to the authors immediately with a detailed list of corrections that must be made before the paper will be considered further. Having our manuscripts conform to these guidelines from the outset will decrease both review times and production times after acceptance.

Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior has experienced a surge in manuscript submissions worldwide, a development we welcome

wholeheartedly. However, a frequent delay in review of manuscripts occurs when reviewers have difficulty understanding a manuscript that suffers from language issues. To help speed up the review process, Elsevier's technical screening step also will now verify prior to review that manuscripts adhere to minimum standards of English usage that will ensure their timely review and processing. Manuscripts that are found to have significant language deficiencies will be sent back to the authors immediately, with a request that the authors enlist the aid of a native English-speaking colleague or professional proofreading service. Elsevier provides a list of trusted professional copy-editing services online at <http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/authorsview.authors/languagepolishing>. Authors whose native language is not English are encouraged to engage a copy-editor whose native language IS English prior to initial submission, as this will minimize the time to initiate the review process. We expect ultimately that this measure will increase the efficiency with which manuscripts are reviewed and decisions are processed, thus decreasing overall turnaround times, a significant benefit for authors.

Our Publisher Elsevier Announces Automatic Deposit of Articles Published in *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* to PubMed Central in Accordance with the NIH Public Access Policy. As a service to our authors, Elsevier will deposit to PubMed Central (PMC) on behalf of Elsevier authors their manuscripts reporting NIH funded research. This service is a continuation of Elsevier's 2005 agreement with the NIH when the NIH introduced their voluntary 'Public Access Policy.' The service will help authors comply with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) revised "Public Access Policy," effective April 7, 2008, which now requires that NIH-funded authors submit to PubMed Central (PMC), or have submitted on their behalf, their peer-reviewed author manuscripts, to appear on PMC no later than 12 months after final publication.

Elsevier will send to PMC the final peer-reviewed manuscript, which was accepted for publication and sent to Elsevier's production department, and that reflects any author-agreed changes made in response to peer-review comments. Elsevier will authorize the manuscript's public access posting 12 months after final publication. For full details of this policy, as well as similar agreements established with other international funding agencies, please visit: <http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/authorsview.authors/fundingbodyagreements>.

In closing, we hope that authors are as excited about these recent developments as the Editorial and Publishing staff is, and we look forward to continuing to work with our authors to take *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* to ever greater heights of excellence as a rapid publication journal in the field of behavioral pharmacology and neuroscience.

Sincerely,

George Koob
Editor-in-Chief, USA

Dai Stephens
Editor-in-Chief, Europe

Gery Schulteis
Associate Editor, USA
Editor for Mini-Reviews