



Editorial

Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior: The 2015 Transition



I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Editor-in-Chief of *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* and thoroughly enjoyed the company of all of my colleagues who have contributed to the journal. My tenure as Editor-in-Chief witnessed remarkable changes in the journal that I believe has put it on a solid footing for the future. *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* has improved on many metrics, but one steady outcome of our continued efforts is that the journal has shown a linear increase in submissions over the past 10 years, attesting to its popularity as a place to publish high-quality innovative research. Indeed, I would argue that *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* is a frequently cited journal in my field of the neurobiology of addiction, but often the papers are older than the ones that are used to calculate an Impact Factor. Another aspect of the journal of which I am particularly proud is that we have promoted it as a “gateway” journal for young scientists to showcase their work and participate in the review process. I want to thank the Elsevier team, particularly Toby Charkin, for all of their support over the years and the current team of editors, with Guy Griebel at the helm as the new Editor-in-Chief, Section Editors Gery Schulteis, Ed Levin, Rick Bevins, and Berend Olivier, Special Issues/Mini-Reviews Editor Kathleen Kantak, and Managing Editor Michael Arends for all of their hard work. I look forward to seeing the journal continue to flourish under the innovative leadership of Guy Griebel.

George F. Koob, Ph.D.

George Koob handed me the reins of *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior*, which is clearly on the rise as evidenced by an increase in its Impact Factor over the past several years and improvements in several key metrics under his leadership. The number of submissions has increased, with a record high in 2014, indicating continued and increasing interest among scientists to publish their work in our journal, despite fierce competition between journals. Moreover, thanks to the editorial team George assembled, turnaround times have improved, with a time to first decision of less than 6 weeks following submission, and a time to final disposition of approximately 14 weeks. While the United States remains the leading country that publishes in the journal, a dramatic increase has been seen in the number of accepted papers from Asia and the Middle East, with China as particularly notable as providing some excellent research articles lately.

What about the future of *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior*? Where is our journal headed? We will continue to publish a wide array of content in the neuropsychopharmacology field, including research articles and reviews. The journal includes studies that report negative results or fail to reproduce past findings because the editorial team believes that both positive and negative results are equally important to enhance our knowledge in the field. However, we have decided

to refocus the topics of the journal, in which we will consider only submissions that involve the study of central mechanisms of drug effects. As a result, we no longer accept manuscripts that describe behavioral effects of peripheral drug actions or diseases (e.g., inflammatory pain). Moreover, we will not consider purely toxicological studies, which often use supratherapeutic drug doses, in an attempt to maintain the scope of the journal within the realm of the therapeutic aspects of drug effects. Finally, considering that reproducibility and the translation of drug effects to the clinical setting are of paramount concern in the neuroscience drug discovery field, we have decided that a positive control is mandatory in studies that describe the effects of an experimental drug. These changes are intended to attract manuscripts that are most appropriate for *Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior* and the best work from innovative scientists in the field.

As George mentions above, our editorial team consists of the Editor-in-Chief, a Managing Editor (Michael Arends), a Special Issues/Mini-Reviews Editor (Kathleen Kantak), and four Section Editors (Rick Bevins, Ed Levin, Berend Olivier, and Gery Schulteis) who handle manuscripts on (i) motivated behavior, (ii) learning/memory/cognition and neurological/neurodegenerative disorders, (iii) psychiatric disorders, and (iv) drug abuse and addiction, respectively. My highly experienced colleagues on the editorial team have been doing an excellent job and have contributed immeasurably to raising the journal to its current high standard.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our outgoing Editor-in-Chief, George Koob, who has been an excellent mentor and shared with me all of the intricate details on how to run a successful journal.

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