Three editorials address reproducibility, transparency, and other aspects of preclinical research.

New editorials published in the British Journal of Pharmacology provide guidance for authors of papers submitted to the journal, with guidance on how to design and conduct experiments as well as what key information should be provided in methodology and presentation of data.

New editorials published in the British Journal of Pharmacology provide guidance for authors of papers submitted to the journal, with guidance on how to design and conduct experiments as well as what key information should be provided in methodology and presentation of data. The aim is to improve replication and provide greater confidence for readers that the research is sound and of high quality. All of the editorials are freely accessible.

The Design & Analysis Update follows guidance published in 2015, with simplifications for ease of understanding to make it more straightforward for peer reviewers to check compliance and to facilitate the curation of the journal’s efforts to improve standards. The objective is to aid with manuscript preparation and help peer review become more consistent and transparent, generating research articles whose data are more likely to be reproducible. The authors will revisit the guidance in 2020 but will also conduct six-monthly audits to monitor its effects, and introduce new guidance as appropriate.

To further improve reproducibility of research findings, the British Journal of Pharmacology has examined two aspects of data reporting that are the subject of intense debate: (1) the extent to which raw data should be made accessible to readers and (2) the format for presenting the data in a way that reveals qualities of the datasets that underpin the validity of authors’ conclusions. The authors provide approaches to data presentation that support transparency recommending scatter plots for presentation where possible.

Finally, the reproducibility of preclinical investigations is inevitably hindered by inadequate transparency regarding methodologies employed. The British Journal of Pharmacology has long since recognised the need for full disclosure and this is reflected by no word count restrictions on methods enabling description in sufficient detail, specifically of tools, cells, animals, instruments, and conditions. The third editorial specifically provides a checklist for authors, reviewers, and editors regarding guidelines for immunoblotting and immunohistochemistry. These are used to assess changes in protein expression and serve as primary methodologies for the detection and quantification of molecular signalling pathways and the identification of therapeutic targets.

“The British Journal of Pharmacology aims to publish as much excellent pharmacology as possible but also recognises that best practice in discovery science is constantly evolving. Our aim with these editorials is to ensure that our readers and authors are provided with the most up to date but pragmatic guidance in delivering excellent pharmacology,” said Amrita Ahluwalia, PhD, of Queen Mary University of London, who is Editor-in-Chief of the British Journal of Pharmacology and who co-authored all 3 editorials.
Additional information

The information contained in this release is protected by copyright. Members of the media may sign up for embargoed news or to request a copy of any study please contact:

Full citations:

“Experimental design and analysis and their reporting II: updated and simplified guidance for authors and peer reviewers.” Michael J Curtis, Steve Alexander, Giuseppe Cirino, James R Docherty, Christopher H George, Mark A Giembycz, Daniel Hoyer, Paul A Insel, Angelo A Izzo, Yong Ji, David J MacEwan, Christopher G Sobey, S Clare Stanford, Mauro M Teixeira, Sue Wonnacott, and Amrita Ahluwalia. British Journal of Pharmacology; Published Online: March 9, 2018 (DOI: 10.1111/bph.14153)


“Updating the guidelines for data transparency in the British Journal of Pharmacology – data sharing and the use of scatter plots instead of bar charts.” Christopher H George, S Clare Stanford, Steve Alexander, Giuseppe Cirino, James R Docherty, Mark A Giembycz, Daniel Hoyer, Paul A Insel, Angelo A Izzo, Yong Ji, David J MacEwan, Christopher G Sobey, Sue Wonnacott, and Amrita Ahluwalia. British Journal of Pharmacology; Published Online: August 11, 2017 (DOI: 10.1111/bph.13925)


Author Contact: Amrita Ahluwalia E: a.ahluwalia@qmul.ac.uk

About the Journal

The British Journal of Pharmacology is a broad-based journal giving leading international coverage of all aspects of pharmacology research. Its scope includes all aspects of pharmacology from hypothesis generation and target validation through to model development, safety pharmacology and to early translational research. BJP’s 2016 Impact Factor is 5.491, and as such it is a leading general research pharmacology journal (Clarivate Analytics Citation Index).

About The British Pharmacological Society

The British Pharmacological Society is a charity with a mission to promote and advance the whole spectrum of pharmacology. Founded in 1931, it is now a global community at the heart of pharmacology, with over 3,500 members from more than 60 countries worldwide. The Society leads the way in the research and application of pharmacology around the world through its scientific meetings, educational resources and peer-reviewed journals: the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, Pharmacology Research & Perspectives, and the British Journal of Pharmacology, which includes the Concise Guide to PHARMACOLOGY, featuring open access overviews of the key properties of over 1,700 human therapeutic targets and their drugs, and links to www.guidetopharmacology.org.

Press Office: T. +44 (0) 207 239 0180 E. david.adams@bps.ac.uk

About Wiley

Wiley, a global research and learning company, helps people and organizations develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. Our online scientific, technical, medical, and scholarly journals, combined with our digital learning, assessment and certification solutions help universities, learned societies, businesses, governments and individuals increase the academic and professional impact of their work. For more than 210 years, we have delivered consistent performance to our stakeholders. The company’s website can be accessed at www.wiley.com.

Language: English

Source URL: https://newsroom.wiley.com/press-release/british-journal-pharmacology/articles-provide-updated-guidance-authors-submitting-brit