

PHARMACOLOGICAL REVIEWS

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PHARMACOLOGICAL REVIEWS

SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

Pharmacological review articles are intended to deal mainly with the current status of the assigned subject. Conciseness is desired and massive coverage of the literature is to be avoided. The reviewer should be critical of methods, results, and conclusions; he should challenge accepted concepts if the facts warrant. Conflicting points of view should be presented objectively in proper perspective. Deficiencies in the field should be pointed out and avenues for further constructive work indicated. Previous reviews of the subject or of related fields should be cited.

The review should be written in a clear and simple style so as to be intelligible to nonspecialists. Unfamiliar technical terms should be carefully defined, and difficult or controversial points should be lucidly explained. At the same time, the review should be sufficiently precise and detailed to command the attention and respect of experts in the field.

As soon as possible after undertaking to write a review, the contributor should let the editor know the approximate date (month and year) on which the manuscript will be completed. *This date for receipt of the manuscript must be adhered to if our publication schedule is to be met.* If the original deadline has to be revised, the editor should be informed immediately and a new deadline set. However, revision of the deadline may result in some delay in publication, since, if space is limited, preference will be given to manuscripts whose authors have met their original deadlines.

The editor should receive from the author as soon as possible an estimate of the anticipated length of the review article. The articles range from about 10 to 40 printed pages, depending on the subject. The average length is 25 pages, or about 75 manuscript pages. If the author finds that his manuscript is exceeding his original estimate of length, he should immediately consult the editor concerning allocation of additional space or modification of the scope of the article.

Diagrams, tables, and occasionally illustrations are permitted but should be held to a bare minimum; they should be used only when they bring out new concepts or relationships, or when access by the reader to original sources is unusually difficult.

The manuscript must be typewritten, double-spaced on 8½- by 11-inch paper. Each table should be typed on a separate sheet of paper. Figure

legends, text footnotes, and references should begin on separate sheets, all lines double-spaced.

The following system should be employed for the names of drugs. When a drug is *first mentioned* it should be given the official or generic (non-proprietary) name by which it is known in the country of origin of the manuscript. This should be followed by parentheses in which should appear: 1) widely used official or generic names of the drug in other countries; 2) widely used trade names or other names; and 3) the chemical name of the drug except when the structure is well-known. The status of each name should be indicated, *e.g.*, in a British manuscript: "Thiopentone sodium, B.P. [Thiopental sodium, U.S.P.; Pentothal sodium, sodium 5 - ethyl - 5 - (1 - methylbutyl) - 2 - thiobarbiturate]." Thereafter, the author may use whichever name he thinks most suitable without giving synonyms.

Arabic numerals are used for all definite weights, measurements, percentages, and degrees of temperature. All indefinite or approximate periods of time and other numerals which are used in a general manner should be spelled out (*e.g.*, three years ago; about one and one-half hours; five times). All weights, volumes, doses, etc., should be given in metric units. Whenever possible doses should be related to unit weight, surface area, or other standard. The concentration of solutions may be indicated as normal, molar, or per cent. If percentages are used, a notation should be included to indicate whether strict percentage (w/w), per cent by volume (v/v), or a given weight of solute in 100 ml of solution (w/v) is intended. It is also important to indicate whether molar, w/v, or v/v units are involved in the exponential designation of concentrations (*e.g.*, 10⁻⁴ M). It is generally desirable to express quantities in units which give the closest approximation to unity, *e.g.*, 0.5 mg and 1.5 g rather than 0.0005 g and 1500 mg. Abbreviations should conform to the internationally accepted usage, *viz.*, kg, g, mg, µg, l, ml, µl, m, cm, mm, µ, mµ, Å, cm², cm³, etc. For per cent the symbol % should be used.

References to the literature cited should be grouped at the end of the manuscript under the heading REFERENCES. They must be arranged in alphabetical order and numbered consecutively. The proper order should be determined by the following rules which are to be applied in the sequence listed:

1. Arrange the references alphabetically according to the last name of the first author.
2. If there are two or more first authors with identical last names, arrange alphabetically according to the first authors' initials.
3. Papers with co-authors should follow papers by the first author alone and should be arranged alphabetically according to the first co-authors' names. If there are two or more papers with the same first two authors, arrange alphabetically according to the second co-authors' names, etc.
4. If there are two or more papers by the same author, or by the same sequence of authors, arrange according to date of publication, the earliest paper first; if the date of publication is the same, an arbitrary order should be chosen. References to "Unpublished observations" or to a "Personal communication" should follow other references by the same author or authors.

If it becomes necessary to add references after reference numbers have already been entered throughout the text, it is permissible to place the

added references in the proper alphabetical position by assigning to each the reference number of the preceding reference, followed by "a", "b", etc. *The use of such interpolated references should be kept to a minimum.* It is therefore advisable not to assign reference numbers before the manuscript is in final form.

The reference numbers should appear in the text as full-sized figures in parentheses. The bibliographic citations should include names and initials of all authors, full title of the article in the original language, name of the journal, volume number, full pagination, and year. Abbreviations for journals should conform to the style of the *Biosis List of Serials* (From *Biosciences Information Service of Biological Abstracts*).

When submitted, the manuscript should be in final and acceptable form. The original manuscript and a legible copy must be supplied as a safeguard against loss and in order to facilitate editorial work.

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