Research Concepts, Collaboration, and JMT

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... let co-operation be more distinctly recognized and accepted, for such is far from being the case at the present time, particularly in the United States, where of all places it might be expected to thrive.

Editorial in *Science* July 17, 1880

I find it fascinating that nearly 130 years after the above was written in the founding year of *Science*, the above quote is equally applicable today. Far from working in isolation with little or no collaboration, basic and clinical research today should be, more than ever, collective efforts of people, institutions, and disciplines. Toxicology research—particularly clinical toxicology studies—has too long suffered from a lack of multicenter collaboration.

With this issue of the *Journal of Medical Toxicology*, we are introducing a new section devoted to research methodology, preliminary studies, and concept papers, which should provide our members and readers opportunities to increase collaboration. This section, entitled “Research Concepts,” will be edited by Edward W. Boyer, MD, PhD. Like all manuscripts published in the journal, submissions to “Research Concepts” will be subject to peer review. However, due to the unique aspect of the anticipated submissions, the peer reviewers will be drawn from a cadre of reviewers with extramural funding and extramural grant review experience.

Importantly, I think, for our colleagues involved in research, articles for consideration in the Research Concepts section are not arbitrarily limited to one discipline. Manuscripts describing novel methodology that has not been previously described (which is oftentimes difficult to publish elsewhere) would benefit from this section. Similarly, preliminary data or proof-of-concept studies, which have long had difficulty reaching a wide audience, fit within the intended scope; and lastly, concept papers, which are intentionally a broad and inclusive category, and that have virtually no current forum for publication in our subspecialty, are particularly well suited.

This new section will serve our members and readers in several important ways. First, data and methodology that are critical to submission for extramural funding applications will have a forum for rapid peer review and publication. Such forums are already readily available to most other subspecialties, thus traditionally placing our members at a competitive disadvantage. Second, with the journal's change in publisher and early online publication, these time-sensitive publications will become rapidly available to all readers, including National Institutes of Health (NIH) study sections. Demonstration that a researcher can successfully perform and publish interdisciplinary work is fundamental to the NIH roadmap. Thus, it is possible (and probable) that collaboration amongst medical toxicologist and other researchers will increase due to the benefits that this journal section provides.

Submissions will be limited to 5,000 words or less. Authors must recommend two reviewers with experience as principal investigators in extramurally funded research or NIH scientific review group experience. Obviously, each reviewer must be from a different institution and not affiliated with the author's institution. In order to facilitate

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rapid turnaround and timely publication, reviewers will have 48 h to accept or decline the invitation to review, and reviews must be completed within 10 days of acceptance. As with other submissions, a rejected manuscript can be re-submitted through the Editorial Manager, undergoing the standard review process. Each manuscript accepted for publication in this section will include a paragraph describing the NIH or other extramural Program Announce-

ment or Request for Applications to which the manuscript responds. Furthermore, the summary statement (also known as the “pink sheet”) will be provided if a manuscript is submitted in support of a grant application revision.

I’m excited to introduce to you this important new section. I feel that the novel concepts, data, and ideas published as part of this initiative will serve to stimulate collaboration and further our subspecialty’s research enterprise.