

An invitation for comprehensive single-compound reviews on the pharmacological properties
of newly launched drugs

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The publication of data on the preclinical and clinical pharmacology of compounds for the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of human or animal disease is a core business of Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Archives of Pharmacology and of most other pharmacology journals. This includes studies characterizing emerging drugs (Billman et al. 2012; Igawa et al. 2012) or describing newly discovered properties of established drugs (Bertera et al. 2012b; Chauhan et al. 2012). This not only applies to pharmacodynamics but also to pharmacokinetics (Bertera et al. 2012a; Lameh et al. 2012), drug metabolism (Ehrlichova et al. 2012; Wustrow et al. 2012) and effects of drug metabolites (Deng and Fang 2012), as well as toxicology (Betto et al. 2012; Kushwaha and Jena 2012). Notably, besides studies on small molecules, those on biologics (Murakami et al. 2012) and vaccines (Lorin et al. 2012) are also within the scope of pharmacology journals. As such data similarly come from investigators in academia and in the pharmaceutical industry, many of the editors and editorial board members of Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Archives of Pharmacology presently do or previously have worked in the pharmaceutical industry, including the authors of this manuscript.

Pharmacological data not only deepen our understanding of drug action but also can contribute to guiding treatment paradigms. Hence, they are important to a much wider audience than only scientists in drug discovery and academic pharmacology. Particularly at the time surrounding the launch of new drugs it is important to comprehensively inform scientists and physicians on the pharmacological properties of new medications. However, even specialized academic physicians often find it hard to systematically access pharmacological information on new drugs. While reviews on new drugs are frequently published, they typically focus on clinical data and contain only limited information on their pharmacological properties. Therefore, we see a need to make the available pharmacological evidence on new drugs more accessible to the general public. In this vein, Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Archives of Pharmacology explicitly welcomes review articles which

comprehensively summarize the available pharmacological data for individual compounds. In the following section we provide guidance on the scope and format of such manuscripts and will also outline the journal's editorial policy on such review manuscripts.

We anticipate that such single compound reviews will largely be devoted to drugs which will imminently become available for clinical use or have recently been introduced into the market. However, review articles on the pharmacology of more established drugs will also be welcome if they provide new clinically meaningful insight. Such reviews should be comprehensive, i.e. contain all publicly available data including those generated by investigators with no affiliation to the drug sponsor. Authors can either limit the scope of their manuscript to non-clinical findings or can expand it to also cover the pharmacokinetic data if the latter is also covered comprehensively. The manuscripts should largely be based on published or in press full papers which have undergone peer review. Abstracts of data not yet published in full original articles should also comprehensively be included, but should not form the bulk of the evidence. Unpublished data should be included sparingly; if they have been included in the submission dossier, the corresponding website of the regulatory agency can be quoted. Obviously, manuscripts should not be of promotional character but be written in a neutral and scientific way. Manuscripts from authors affiliated with the company introducing the new drug, authors from academia or combinations thereof are equally welcome. As in any other manuscript, full disclosure of all potential conflict of interests for each author is required and will be published alongside the manuscript. Similar reviews on drugs which already have been on the market for a while and/or manuscripts covering multiple drugs from a single class will also be considered based on the above criteria, but in such cases authors should contact the editorial office prior to submission to avoid possible duplication of already ongoing efforts.

In the editorial handling of such manuscripts the following policies will be applied. All submissions will be handled by an editor and reviewers who are not affiliated with the drug sponsor or its competitors. Authors should feel free to specifically identify companies with conflict of interest in the cover letter of their submission. Manuscripts will be reviewed for comprehensiveness and scientific correctness. A priority rating will not be applied as criterion for the decision to publish, unless previous reviews covering most of the data have appeared elsewhere recently. Nevertheless, potential authors are encouraged to contact the journal prior to submission to avoid overlap with similar manuscripts currently under way. We trust that such comprehensive single compound reviews on the pharmacology of new or emerging drugs will be useful for the broader community.

Conflict of interest

SH and MCM are employees of Theravance Inc. and Boehringer Ingelheim, respectively. DH and AT are former employees of Novartis.

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