Transparency in Animal Research – an Editor’s view

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Transparency

• Open Access
• Data Sharing
• Ensure Transparency
Open Access

- British Journal of Pharmacology
  - accepted Ms – instant OA for a fee
  - all are open after 12 months

- British and American Pharmacology Societies jointly operate an OA journal with a lower quality threshold
  - Pharmacology Research & Perspectives
    - Specifically invites negative studies
  - Peer Review is an important issue
Data Sharing – a Journal’s perspective

- How to facilitate Data Sharing including negative results?
  - Journals
    - can require full data rather than summary data
    - can invite publication of negative findings
    - can provide platforms for data
  - Funders
    - probably need to mandate this
  - Institutions/Companies
    - need to see some advantage in peer-reviewed international publishing rather than their own data store
Data Sharing – a Journal’s perspective

- Funders can require that all data be published *somewhere*
  - Journals have little control here
  - Common approach needed
  - Needs a mandate from the funders or institutions/companies.
  - Two suggestions for Negative/null data
    - can be attached to a “positive” Ms. as a supplement – BJP encourages this
    - can have its own life as a separate report – journals such as PR&P
Ensuring Transparency

• Cultural shift
  o Scientist buy-in to transparency as useful rather than a nuisance

• Journals police transparency
  o Funders and journals must work to a common agenda
    • recent NIH initiative on Reporting Research

• How much information is needed?
  o Asking for every detail covered in ARRIVE may be counter-productive
    • Subject specific requirements help
International context

- 6% of BJP Ms submitted *from* UK (22% China)
- Small % of UK-*funded* work published *in* UK
- We insist on UK standards as minimum
  - If two legislations differ we go with *the more rigorous*.
- So expert peer review is required
  - referees are international!
Transparency requires information to be in manuscript

- providing assurance to reviewers is not enough
  - the reader of the published paper needs to see what was done
- instruction by trainers, funders and regulators is essential
  - but policing lies ultimately with journals
  - trainers, funders and journals must operate same guidelines
- journals must work together (internationally)

- In the end everyone needs to cooperate
End of Presentation