Editorial

What Can CCR Do for You?

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Standards in the world of scientific publishing, and here at Clinical Cancer Research (CCR), are constantly evolving. In recent editorials, we have discussed new expectations for research involving cell lines (1) and described updated guidelines for manuscripts in the areas of biomarkers, preclinical therapeutic, and clinical trials (2). We fully appreciate that the manuscript review process can at times be a source of frustration for authors, especially as we are not able to offer favorable decisions on all submissions to the journal. At the same time, we remain deeply committed to author service and feel it would be appropriate here to discuss some of the benefits available to authors who submit to CCR.

At CCR, we have an outstanding team of 25 deputy and senior editors who carefully evaluate each manuscript submitted to the journal. This team comprises active researchers and scientists who have a wide breadth of expertise across clinical and translational cancer research, including both solid and blood tumors, and a variety of experimental techniques and treatment modalities. Editors are tasked to ensure that the work published in CCR meets our high standards of scientific quality and novelty. However, because we do not have strict page limit requirements for the journal, our editorial team is able to consider all high-quality submissions for publication, and manuscripts are not rejected simply due to lack of space.

Editors at CCR understand that in the current research environment, it is very important that authors receive a decision as quickly as possible after making a submission. Although we are not able to guarantee a specific time frame of review for each individual manuscript submitted to the journal, the staff and editors at CCR are committed to a rapid review process. In 2009, the average time from manuscript submission to the first decision for all manuscripts submitted to the journal was only 24 days. For manuscripts that were not sent out to peer review, we were able to provide a decision in just 7 days on average. Our superb editorial board, close to 200 members in size, provides invaluable feedback and critique during the peer review process.

We have also recently revamped our production workflow so that manuscripts can be published electronically very shortly after acceptance. We now have the capability to publish unedited manuscripts online in as little as two days after acceptance, allowing for rapid dissemination of research to the broader community. Also, in order to facilitate the manuscript publication process from an administrative standpoint, we are transitioning to fully electronic copyright and conflict of interest forms that no longer require a handwritten signature, and we directly deposit manuscripts to PubMed Central on behalf of many of our authors to assist them in meeting their funders’ archiving mandates. For authors of invited features or reviews, a professional art team is available to assist in the production of high-quality original art work. A recently launched Author Services Center (available online at http://www.aacr.org/home/scientists/publications-of-the-aacr/author-services-center.aspx) contains a wealth of information and resources to assist authors throughout the entire publication process.

Finally, in every issue of CCR, a few select manuscripts are chosen to receive additional recognition, either in the form of a CCR Translations commentary piece or a CCR Highlights. CCR Translations are typically written by outside authors (such as a reviewer) or by a CCR editor and discuss the broader clinical implications of a manuscript published in the journal. CCR Highlights are short summaries touching on the major findings of a study and are usually written by the authors of a manuscript after acceptance into the journal. Our editorial team selects a mix of manuscripts from each issue to spotlight either with a CCR Translations feature or a CCR Highlights to draw additional reader attention to these studies.

At CCR, we seek to attract and publish the best translational and clinical research in the field of oncology. The 2009 impact factor for CCR was 6.747, positioning us as one of the top-ranked cancer journals. In addition to the original research we publish, our features, including CCR Focus (a series of reviews on selected topics), CCR Molecular Pathways (advances in understanding pertaining to a particular pathway), CCR Biostatistics (highlighting the intersection of statistics and cancer research), CCR Drug Updates (descriptions of recently approved drugs), and CCR New Strategies (the latest in diagnosis and therapy for specific organ sites), provide readers with cutting-edge information and analysis.

Regrettably, the relationship between authors and editors in the world of scientific publishing is too often characterized as being adversarial in nature. We hope that authors will consider our commitment both to a rigorous review process and to providing a high level of service throughout this process when choosing where to submit their work. On that note, we welcome any
feedback or suggestions (ccr@aacr.org) regarding how we here at CCR can continue to improve and serve you better.

Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed.

References

