



BIOL

## Editorial: A closer look

David Alcántara

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## Editorial: A closer look

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As Editor-in-Chief of *The All Res. J. Biol.* I would like first to thank all the authors who have submitted their manuscripts to our journal. This has been a positive and encouraging sign for us to continue working and publishing good quality work focused on negative results.

During the first semester of 2012 we have received almost twice as many submissions as during the same period of 2011, while at the same time, increased the number of rejections. Our policy of only publishing peer-reviewed work ensures a good quality control standard for the journal. For publication, experiments have to be rigorously conducted and repeatable. Works that showed significant flaws in scientific methodology or inconsistent presentation of results were not even submitted for peer-review. Manuscripts that carefully review the possible reasons for negative results in the discussion section have generally been positively evaluated and submitted to external peer-review. Here, the work of our expert reviewers (volunteers) has been essential and, for that, I would also like to thank them for their dedication and valuable insights they have brought to this journal and for the improvements to the articles that we publish.

This issue contains two articles which take a closer look at the important areas of 1) medical device testing and 2) Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). The first article focuses on biocompatibility testing for lipophilic leachates. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires medical devices and materials be tested for safety. Biocompatibility testing is necessary for all devices requesting FDA clearance<sup>1,2</sup>. In their work, Dr. Lucas *et al.* developed a system of indirect exposure of cells to oil, a system that may be useful in looking at surface contamination of devices. By placing cells in dialysis tubing and then putting these cells directly in oil, it was expected that exposure to lipophilic compounds would be increased; however, they found this was not the case.

Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) has secured its place in biochemical history as a revolutionary method. In the second article, Dr. Nema reports on experiments where the initial amplification of the 16S rRNA gene from purified DNA isolated from a stool sample generated spurious sequences

when amplified utilizing a routine Taq polymerase enzyme. As the author stated “care must be taken at every step to ensure the quality of data being generated and made available as standards for future analysis in the databases”.

Our immediate goal at *The All Res. J. Biol.* is to provide scientists with responsible and balanced information in order to advance faster, improve experimental designs and clinical decisions. Publishing negative results ensures that finite research resources are better used, avoiding replication of previous experiments and leading to a more efficient use of resources. We encourage new submissions from researchers from all Biology disciplines and look forward to publishing good quality work within the scope of our journal.

### References

1. FDA Guidance document. Use of International Standard ISO-10993, 'Biological Evaluation of Medical Devices Part 1: Evaluation and Testing'. <http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/DeviceRegulationandGuidance/GuidanceDocuments/ucm080735.htm>.
2. ASTM F 748 – 98, 1998. Standard Practice for Selecting Generic Biological Test Methods for Materials and Devices. In: the Annual Book of ASTM Standards, ASTM West Conshohocken, PA, USA. 1998