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Editorial



Editorial: 2024 - A promising start for regulatory toxicology and pharmacology

The dawn of 2024 has brought accolades and recognition to Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology, with two outstanding articles earning prestigious awards for the best publications of 2023. We are thrilled to announce that Jean-Pierre Valentin and Derek Leishman have been honored with the “2023 SPS Most Impactful Publication Award” by the Safety Pharmacology Society for their enlightening piece, “2000–2023 over two decades of ICH S7A: has the time come for a revamp?” published in our journal. Additionally, Lyle D. Burgoon and co-authors have secured the title of Best Paper of the Year from the Society of Toxicology’s Regulatory and Safety Evaluation Specialty Section (RSESS) for their work, “Range of the perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) safe dose for human health: An international collaboration.”

On behalf of the editorial board and all editors, we extend heartfelt congratulations to these distinguished authors. Their accomplishments not only reflect their individual excellence but also serve as a commendable recognition of the quality of manuscripts published in Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology over the past years. As editors in chief, we take great pride in steering our journal to its current status.

The article by Valentin and Leishman delves into the ICH S7A guideline on safety pharmacology studies, released over two decades ago. Despite the guideline’s initial objective of safeguarding clinical trial participants and patients from adverse effects, safety issues persist during late-stage clinical development and post-approval. The authors advocate for revisiting and evolving the guideline, taking into account the latest scientific and technological advancements. This paradigm shift in the drug discovery and development process aims to optimize drug selection, refine clinical monitoring, and enhance regulatory acceptance, while also minimizing the unnecessary use of animals in studies.

The piece by Burgoon et al. is an integral part of a recent workshop conducted by the Alliance for Risk Assessment (ARA) within the Beyond Science and Decisions series. The workshop focused on comparing water limits set by different regions, revealing significant variations in underlying safe doses of perfluorooctanoate (PFOA). The Washington DC workshop brought together experts in toxicology, epidemiology, and environmental science, shedding light on the scientific challenges surrounding PFOA/PFOS and various risk assessments. The findings from

Burgoon et al.’s publication served as a pivotal standpoint, offering an intermediary position amongst diverse assessments and contributing to the ongoing conversations between scientists globally.

The impact of these publications goes beyond scientific discourse. They prompt discussions among agencies worldwide and provide insights for the legal community grappling with personal injury claims and demands for cleaning groundwater. The workshop not only facilitated dialogue but also demonstrated the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing complex challenges, where diverging views can find resolution.

As we commend these authors, we also acknowledge the broader implications of their work. Revisiting and adapting guidelines, as suggested by Valentin and Leishman, can revolutionize drug development, refine clinical practices, and contribute to the well-being of patients. Burgoon et al.’s work, in turn, exemplifies the power of scientific collaboration in addressing real-world problems, with far-reaching consequences for public health and regulatory frameworks.

In conclusion, Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology is privileged to host such groundbreaking research, and we look forward to continuing our journey as a platform for excellence in the years to come. The collective efforts of the scientific community, as demonstrated by Valentin, Leishman, Burgoon, and their collaborators, inspire us to elevate the standards of our journal and contribute meaningfully to advancements in regulatory science.

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