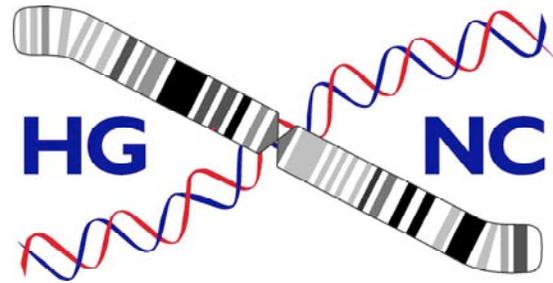




*Better Medicines through
Global Education and Research*



Dear Editor

We write on behalf of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR) and The Human Genome Organisation (HUGO) Gene Nomenclature Committee (HGNC) to alert you to the benefits of ensuring standardised terminology is used throughout your journal.

HGNC is the recognised authority for naming all human genes, and provides a searchable list of human gene symbols and associated gene data, including many published synonyms or aliases, at <http://www.genenames.org/>, along with regularly updated guidelines on human gene nomenclature (<http://www.genenames.org/guidelines.html>). The IUPHAR Committee on Receptor Nomenclature and Drug Classification (NC-IUPHAR) is the only international body responsible for the nomenclature of receptors and ion channels, and works closely with the HGNC; its guidelines are accessible at <http://www.iuphar-db.org/nomenclature.html>.

Enforcing nomenclature standards results in considerable reduction in confusion in the published literature. Many journals already acknowledge this and include guidance in their "Instructions for Authors" on how this should be achieved. We appreciate that it can be difficult for journals to keep this information up to date and so HGNC and IUPHAR provide the regularly updated web pages with guidelines on human gene and receptor nomenclature listed above.

We strongly urge you to encourage or even require of your submitters to use standardised nomenclature. By including links to HGNC and IUPHAR in your instructions to authors you can readily provide them with the most current official nomenclature. Also, ensuring that your editors and reviewers are aware of this requirement, will facilitate the goal of standardised usage.

We hope that these resources will prove useful to publishers and authors alike and would be happy to respond to any queries you have.

Yours sincerely

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