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British Pharmacological Society signs Declaration on Research Assessment

The British Pharmacological Society has signed up to the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). This Declaration is an international initiative that calls for better evaluation of the outputs of scientific research (focusing on research articles in peer reviewed journals but recognizing the value of other outputs such as datasets). The three core themes are:

- the need to eliminate the use of journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, in funding, appointment, and promotion considerations
- the need to assess research on its own merits rather than on the basis of the journal in which the research is published
- the need to capitalize on the opportunities provided by online publication (such as relaxing unnecessary limits on the number of words, figures, and references in articles, and exploring new indicators of significance and impact)

Impact Factor, when used appropriately i.e. to aid librarians in choosing journals to purchase, is a useful tool. The Society strongly agrees with the core message of DORA that the Impact Factor is not an appropriate measure of the quality of research and should not be considered in promotion criteria, funding or appointments. As part of our 5-year strategy we have committed to developing an integrated publications programme and will be working with our publishers to consider offering a variety of metrics regarding our journals, afforded by their online-only format.