

Letters to the Editor

Dear Dr. Ernest:

I would like to compliment the authors Low, Kitada, and Lee on their article "Interferon- γ Inhibits Collagen Synthesis by Human Tenon's Capsule Fibroblasts In Vitro," submitted September 5, 1990 and published in *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*.¹ However, the authors have failed to reference the ARVO abstract entitled "The Effects of Gamma-Interferon on Growth and Wound Closure of Tenon's Capsule Fibroblasts," by Latina, Schwartz, Belmonte, and Crean,² which was presented at the ARVO annual meeting in 1990. This work also was published in its complete form in *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*.³

While reference to an abstract can be a common oversight because of lack of knowledge of the presentation, in this case, it would be unusual for these authors to forget this particular ARVO abstract by Latina et al since one of the authors of the above mentioned manuscript was an author on the very next abstract presented at that ARVO session entitled "The effects of Cytosine Arabinoside Impregnated Bioerodible Polymers On Glaucoma Filtration Surgery in Rabbits" by Goodwin, Leong, Lee, Panek, and Christensen, which appears on the same page as the Latina abstract. Our abstract entitled "Effects of Gamma-Interferon on Growth and Wound Closure of Tenon's Capsule Fibroblasts," was the first to report the effects of gamma-interferon on Tenon's capsule fibroblasts and it clearly states that interferon may be a useful agent to modulate wound healing post-filtration surgery.

It is our strong opinion that our 1990 ARVO abstract should be cited and credited in the publication by the authors Low, Kitada, and Lee. There were several instances where our abstract should have been referenced. In their manuscript, they state that, "In our search for a less-toxic alternative, we considered gamma-interferon, which has been shown to inhibit collagen synthesis in-vitro in a variety of cell types . . . IFN-gamma may be able to inhibit collagen synthesis by ocular fibroblasts in vitro . . .," giving the impres-

sion that this agent had not been previously considered as an agent which may effect collagen synthesis in Tenon's capsule fibroblasts. The Latina abstract states "the effects on collagen synthesis will be discussed," and the inhibition of collagen synthesis was presented at that session. Furthermore, the proliferation experiment performed by Low et al was presented in detail in the Latina ARVO abstract.

In my opinion, the authors Low, Kitada, and Lee have inappropriately tried to take credit as innovators for work which originated in our lab and was subsequently presented at ARVO. Lucky for us, the complete manuscript of "Effects of Gamma-Interferon on Tenon's Capsule Fibroblasts" was recently published in the September 1991 issue of *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences*. Also, since the senior author of the manuscript cited above was aware of our work, it would be very appropriate and collegial to have referenced our abstract.

Finally, I am also bringing this case to the attention of the editor because I think it further emphasizes and supports a common feeling among ARVO participants that innovative work should not be presented at ARVO unless it has already been accepted for publication. This may result in loss of manuscripts to other journals which otherwise may have been submitted to *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*.

Mark A. Latina
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References

1. Low SQ, Kitada S, and Lee DA: Interferon- γ inhibits collagen synthesis by human Tenon's capsule fibroblasts in vitro. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci* 32:2964, 1991.
2. Latina MA, Schwartz GS, Belmonte SJ, and Crean E: The Effects of Gamma-Interferon on Growth and Wound Closure of Tenon's Capsule Fibroblasts. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci* 31(suppl):86, 1990.
3. Latina MA, Belmonte SJ, Park C, and Crean E: Gamma-Interferon Effects on Human Fibroblasts From Tenon's Capsule. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci* 32:2806, 1991.

Reply

Dear Dr. Ernest:

Thank you very much for sending us a copy of Dr. Latina's letter to you regarding our failure to cite his ARVO abstract in our paper. We are very familiar with Dr. Latina's work and congratulate him on an

excellent article published in *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science* in September of 1991. We did not reference his 1990 ARVO abstract because it did not contain sufficient information or conclusions about the effects of gamma-interferon on collagen syn-

thesis. The abstract only stated that this topic "will be discussed." Latina used the Coulter counter for his cell proliferation studies, whereas we used a colorimetric assay for hexosaminidase activity. Therefore, we did not feel that it would be accurate to reference Dr. Latina's ARVO abstract in our methods section for cell proliferation. The original finding of gamma-interferon inhibiting collagen synthesis was published several years ago and is extensively referenced in our article in *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*. Several investigators have studied these effects in other cell lines and have published their results. The original idea and results were not from either Dr. Latina's group or our group. We have not intentionally "inappropriately tried to take credit as innovators for work which originated in [Dr. Latina's] lab."

In general, we reference sources which contain complete and reliable information related to our work. We will reference Dr. Latina's article published in *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science* in September of 1991 in our future work when appropriate. However, some ARVO abstracts may not con-

tain sufficient information for reference. Our laboratory tries to follow the ARVO abstract preparation guidelines as closely as possible. These guidelines state: "Experiments and data must be complete at the time of abstract submission." And: "Abstracts lacking a description of study methodology and data will not be accepted." In spite of this, even our abstract for the 1991 ARVO meeting "Gamma-Interferon as a Physiological Regulator for Collagen Synthesis of Human Tenon's Fibroblasts" had not been referenced. In order to receive proper recognition for our work we always try to publish the contents of our ARVO abstracts as a full manuscript in a scientific journal.

We apologize for unintentionally upsetting Dr. Latina and his colleagues by not referencing their 1990 ARVO abstract. We appreciate the high quality of scientific research published in *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science* and will continue to support the journal and its objectives in the future.

David A. Lee
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Dear Dr. Ernest:

The article by Ohdo et al.¹ in your September 1991 issue prompts me to report an interesting observation that may impact on Ohdo et al's data.

Because of my interest in the circadian rhythm in physiology and pharmacology, I was enticed by the idea to improve the therapeutic index of topically applied timolol by instilling the drug over a certain time. During studies in 1987 measuring indolamines in rabbit aqueous humor, I noted that the volume of the anterior chamber in rabbits changed during the day. I sampled my rabbits at noon and midnight at 14 day intervals. At noon, I found the anterior chamber to be very small, and although I successfully performed an atraumatic paracentesis in 11 rabbits under the operating microscope, I found that this was less easily done than in humans. However, two weeks later, at midnight, I was surprised to find a very deep anterior chamber in all 11 rabbits, so that it was very easy to perform the paracentesis. Since then, I and others have repeatedly made the same observation. Roughly

speaking, there is only 50% of the anterior chamber volume at noon as there is at midnight.

Thus, I wonder whether Ohdo et al found the highest concentration of timolol in the aqueous humor at noon compared to midnight because at noon the anterior chamber volume is about half as great as it is at midnight. This could also explain why the plasma concentration is lowest at noon and highest at midnight.

If, in fact, the concentration of timolol is higher because of the smaller volume of dilution, it would be interesting to know whether the intraocular pressure reduction is more important or whether all receptors are already saturated at the lowest concentration.

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Reference

1. Ohdo S, Grass GM, and Lee VHL: Improving the ocular to systemic ratio of topical timolol by varying the dosing time. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci* 32:2790, 1991.