Bruce,

Thank you very much for your willingness to occasionally continuing reviewing for FCT as an expert toxicologist, quite knowledgeable about biotech issues.

After working across the hall from you for a number of years and reading/listening to your analysis of many studies, I greatly respect your integrity and knowledge.

I will certainly keep you in mind if a manuscript comes to me that you would be qualified to review, keeping in mind that your time is valuable (ie, not to rely on your help more than necessary).

I hope that you will keep in contact and provide any new email address and possibly your telephone number.

Regards,

Rick

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I have been a peer reviewer of FCT manuscripts for the last several years. I have tried to carry out thorough reviews over that time as the scientific quality of submitted manuscripts varied greatly. I am retiring from Monsanto in a few weeks after a career spanning 34 years. I have been involved in biotech safety assessment since the mid 80’s starting with bST. After retirement, I would be willing to continue to be a peer reviewer on occasion when my schedule permits. As you know, peer review by qualified experts is essential to insure that the manuscripts published reflect good science in the design, conduct and interpretation of results for toxicology studies. Unfortunately, the peer review process does not always work well when the reviewers either do not have the appropriate technical background and/or the interest in carrying out a thorough peer review. I hope that you can succeed in improving the peer review process for your journal.

Dear Dr. Hammond,

Food and Chemical Toxicology receives over 2000 submissions annually. Some submissions are in highly controversial areas such as biotechnology, a rapidly changing field. It has been, at times, extremely difficult to get timely and appropriate reviews the first time reviewers are invited. We have recently added a new Associate Editor, Richard Goodman, Research Professor, University of Nebraska to handle future papers in this area.

Professor Goodman's presence is a big help; however, in order for the journal to handle the review of the increasing number of manuscript submissions, Food and Chemical Toxicology needs a battery of reviewers with expertise in biotechnology to help Professor Goodman. My request as the Editor-in-Chief of the journal and on behalf of Professor Goodman is that those of you who were highly critical of a recent paper dealing with GMO by Seralini et al (Food Chem. Toxicol. 2012) volunteer your service as potential reviewers for the journal by going to the journal website (http://www.journals.elsevier.com/food-and-chemical-toxicology/) and signing up to review papers. Please add your areas of expertise when you register as a reviewer. In addition, it would also be very helpful to let Professor Goodman and I know that you have volunteered your service so the journal can count on your help with reviewing in this important and critical area.
Thanks in advance for your help with this very important task.

Sincerely,

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