

Get Good Numbers

The cover of this issue is about numbers, good numbers on which reliable decisions can be based. This is an excellent practical definition of what we do at BAS, both with our contract research services and our products. Numbers are easy to come up with, like the numbers on a lottery ticket or in a telephone book. Our numbers describe very complex subjects that cannot be known with perfect certainty, like the QT interval prolongation in the electrocardiogram of a Beagle dog, or the concentration of a psychiatric drug in the blood or spinal fluid of a patient. We frequently ask ourselves such questions as, "Is this a representative number?" or, "Is this an accurate number?" or, "Is the precision of the number expressed properly?" or, "Have we done the experiment enough times to be satisfied?" or, "Could there be an interference?" or, "Is there anything we might not have thought of in getting this number?" We are "fanatical fundamentalists" in this regard. Numbers for us are not casual friends, but rather are long-term relationships. We want them to be right. We want to be able to use them to fight for a cause. We want to equip our clients with good numbers to aid them in making the right decisions.

We make mistakes, but we try not to. When we do, we learn and relay what we've learned to our clients. Developing drugs that are both safe and effective is simply too important a task to base on casual numbers sloppily obtained. Good numbers are expensive, but bad numbers are far more expensive.

Now that we are in 2002, let's make it a year when all the numbers are good!



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Reference: *A Primer on BLPs (Bad Laboratory Practices). How to do bioanalytical chemistry the wrong way...*
P. T. Kissinger, *Contract Pharma*, January/February 2002, p. 54-58. www.contractpharma.com