

# Brief Interview with Dr. Ruben K Dagda (Editor)

## Journal of Clinical Toxicology

1. How many years have you been practicing and/or performing research?

I have been practicing science for 14 years since I picked up a pipettor as an undergraduate research at the University of Texas at El Paso in 2000.

2. What is the research topic you are working on now?

I am a pharmacologist by training but a neuroscientist by trade. I am currently investigating the signaling pathways at the mitochondria that are dysregulated in neurons in different models of Parkinson's disease and during oxidative stress produced by toxins and environmental toxicants.

3. What makes an article top quality?

An article should describe a compelling story that is organized, clear, concise, and offers novel insights on the mechanisms of biological phenomena and/or provides a game-changer solution to a specific problem in the field. In my field, top quality articles are characterized by making a significant contribution to the scientific community and has translational potential for improving human health.

4. What are the qualities you look for in an article?

A well written non-convoluted article that is well structured, targeted for the appropriate audience based on the journal's scope, highlights one major message, avoids over-interpretations of the results and shows very compelling data. Quantitative data should be analyzed with proper statistics, contains proper controls, and has been repeated at least three times.

5. Do you have any research funding (NIH or other national funding) now?

Yes, I am currently supported by a NIH grant from NIGMS and by institutional funds.

6. When did you become an editor of OMICS Journal?

I became an editor on April of 2014.

7. What is your greatest career accomplishment?

At this stage of my career, I am very happy to have been able to operate my own research lab to pursue my passion in toxicology and neuroscience research. My greatest accomplishment so far is being able to secure extramural NIH funding and other funding sources for several years right now to allow me to develop a competitive research program that develops and uses specialized niches in mitochondrial biology, toxicology, and neuroscience to understand how reversible phosphorylation and other posttranslational modifications at the mitochondria affects neuronal survival and development.

8. How does the research published percolate through to practitioners?

The research findings have to be repeatable, clear and well described to the point that other basic science investigators can develop follow up studies. With regards to the Journal of Clinical Toxicology, the research findings have to be significant and robust to the extent that physicians and clinicians can design new protocols and update standards in toxicology that can percolate to common clinical practice.

9. What is the purpose of serving as an editor?

The purpose of serving as an editor is to mainly help the journal achieve their mission of publishing high quality research papers in toxicology and elevating

the impact of the journal. Personally, serving as an editor allows me to expand my network base, learn how the editorial system operates and allows me to serve as guest editor for a special topic of my choice.

10. Do you have any patents?

Not at the moment but I will be working on patenting a new compound within two years if all works out.

11. Have you contributed any editorials or papers (any types) to OMICS Journals in the past two years?

I have contributed one research manuscript published at the Journal of Proteomics and Bioinformatics and a review paper at the Journal of Clinical Toxicology.

12. Do you plan to contribute any editorials or papers to OMICS Journals in the next year?

Yes.

13. Do you have any trouble with OMICS Journals in the past?

I have published two articles at two OMICS journals thus far. I have been very happy with the review process, the high level of attention by the editorial team, easy to navigate tools for uploading manuscripts for review, and admire their excellent extracurricular efforts to organize OMICS-supported conferences.

14. Would you recommend OMICS to your friends or colleagues?

Yes, definitely. I will recommend this journal to my colleagues.

15. How do you differentiate journal of Clinical toxicology with other journals in the field?

The Journal of Clinical Toxicology stands out among other journals in the sense that it is an open-access journal that publishes high quality clinical and hypothesis-driven research manuscripts. As an OMICS journal, the journal is actively involved in helping to organize OMICS-supported toxicology conferences, has a good marketing campaign that reaches their target audience through various social platforms and has a very responsive editorial staff.