

I may be running out of things to say, but I thought this time around I would simply amuse you by presenting a list of things which annoy me greatly.

1. The term *HPLC*.
2. The term *level* when what is really meant is *concentration*.
3. Presentation of data such as 198.376 +/- 7.436 ng when the standards used were 95% pure, the injection valve was no better than 2% accurate, the temperature of the chromatographic column was not controlled, and the resistors in the detector gain circuits were 0.1% accurate. What's the point? Is 0.20 +/- 0.01 µg somehow embarrassing?
4. Publications that ask me to renew my subscription weekly when my current subscription has two years remaining.
5. Emails that purport to give me a means to sexual nirvana. Sex is great fun, but not while I'm answering emails on solid phase extraction.
6. Papers on determining a drug in blood samples, when no blood was sampled for the paper.
7. The use of *sensitivity* when *detection limit* or *lower limit of quantitation* is meant.
8. The British word *learnt*.
9. People who contact us with a chromatography problem, and then are unwilling to make the changes we suggest to remedy the problem.
10. Customers who believe that because they bought an instrument, it should provide meaningful scientific results for an experiment which has never been tried before, by anyone, at any time.
11. Scientists who believe that if data does not fit their hypothesis, the data must be wrong since it is inconceivable their hypothesis is wrong.
12. A student who says, "I don't need to understand the xyz equation; just tell me which number goes on the top and which number goes on the bottom."
13. The notion that having LC/MSMS makes chromatography unimportant.
14. Emails that offer me a free Nokia telephone. Actually, the very concept of a telephone annoys me. I'm a shy person.
15. Envelopes marked "Personal and Confidential" that contain nothing either personal or confidential.
16. The notion of an Islamic state, a Christian state or a Jewish state. I believe many people's lives would be saved if all states were secular and welcomed the practice of any religion without prejudice. A state like Israelchristianstine might have a chance of survival if people were more accepting of others' beliefs.
17. People who say there is no place for humor or politics in science (see p. 45).

Alert readers pointed out to us that we misspelled Alzheimer's on the cover of the last issue. That might lead you to a diagnosis. There's no humor in that. Suppose there were only 25 letters in the alphabet?



Pete Kissinger, Ph.D.
pete@bioanalytical.com