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Comment on: Rich and Myszka, Grading the commercial optical biosensor literature—Class of 2008: 'The Mighty Binders'. *J. Mol. Recognit*. 2010, *23*, 1–64.

I am writing in connection with the excellent review article by Rebecca Rich and David Myszka (2010) that was recently published in this journal. As described in a recent publication (Perspicace *et al*., 2009), Surface Plasmon Resonance (SPR) is a particularly appropriate technology for detection and quantification of ligand binding in fragment based drug discovery (FBDD) (Erlanson *et al*., 2004; Practical Fragments: http://practicalfragments.blogspot.com; Fragment Based Drug Discovery Literature: http://fbdd-lit.blogspot.com). Furthermore, SPR can be used to characterize (Giannetti *et al*., 2008) promiscuous inhibition and other classes of 'pathological' (non-ideal) binding behaviour. The review represents a particularly useful resource for anyone intending to design (Blomberg *et al*., 2009) a screening library for FBDD and use SPR to detect and quantify binding.

One particularly helpful aspect of the review is that the authors grade the articles that they cite. While this is unusual, the authors do describe how the grading is done and make it clear what is necessary to get high grades. According to the authors, 'Most F papers show no data whatsoever but still report binding constants' (Rich and Myszka, 2010). I believe that there are other research areas that would benefit from a similar grading exercise. For example, in derivation of quantitative structure activity relationships (QSARs), it is possible to find examples in the literature where neither the models nor the data used to train them are actually made available to the reader.

A review like this by acknowledged experts in a field can also provide journal editors with independent feedback on the quality of reviews with which they have been provided for manuscripts. Furthermore the readers (i.e. customers) of a journal can use a review like this to help form a view of the general quality of that journal's articles in the subject area covered by the review. In specific subject areas this could ultimately be more useful to those readers than journal impact factors.

I believe that this review article represents a novel and welcome approach to reviewing scientific literature which I hope will be adopted more widely.

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Peter W. Kenny
Parkville, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
pwk.pub.2008@gmail.com