

Jargon-Talk

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(Note: Although Lewis Carroll's Jabberwocky used non-sensical words, all "words" in the following piece are real scientific jargon.)

'Twas brilliant but the slimy toads who call themselves 'reviewer.'
Did pick apart my proposal and send it down the sewer.
All flimsy was their poor excuse, they said they couldn't read it.
"Because of 'jargon-talk,'" they said, "This all should be deleted."

I took my pen and gathered up my triaged application.
I vowed that I would edit out each odd abbreviation.
But certainly all scientists should know such well-known phrases.
Like D-N-A and P-C-R; they're standard in all places.

The enzymes Bam H-1, Sma, Sac, Pac-1, Hin-D-3, Eco,
Not-1 are very famous now; why all of these they should know.
Fos, CREB, Sos, Ras, Raf, Rac, and Rho; Smad, N-FAT, also JAK/STAT
Each one so very broadly known, there is no need to cut that.

The peptides CART, CLIP, and POM-C; some made with F-moc groups
on, And everyone has heard of BARK, this shouldn't cause confusion.
The cell lines COS, HEK, HeLa, CHO; INS-1, HepG-2, NIT-threes;
These are the cells that I will use, I really can't omit these.

I rested in my valiant quest and quickly entered deep REM.
And when I woke I realized, no doubt I should keep D-MEM.
And MALDI-TOF is so well known, CRE-LOX is universal.
All chaps have surely heard that CHAPS is great for fat dispersal.

I pondered whether jargon lurked inside of SNAP-twenty five
But then I figured this is known by everyone that's a-live.
Likewise the SNAREs, both v- and t-, and ARF, GEF, GAP, and COP-two.
Should I cut the buffer Tris? Or HEPES, MES, or MOPS too?

I skipped ahead to find the page containing the citations.
I figured that's where jargon was, within the publications.
But all I found were common ones, won't JAMA impress many?
And all the rest are quite well known, there's even P-NAS envy!

PAGE after PAGE I scanned until I saw the enzyme NARC-1
"At last," I cried, "for this is it! I finally found the jargon!"
Out came my pen, with trembling hand, the jargon was omitted.
"Now that it's gone it will be fine, to simply resubmit it."

'Twas brilliant but the slimy toads who call themselves 'reviewer.'
Did criticize it yet again and send it down the sewer.
All flimsy was their poor excuse, they said they couldn't read it.
"Because of 'jargon-talk,'" they said. "Advice I should have heeded."

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