A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Peer Review: Insights From Editors and Reviewers

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The peer-review process

Anthony R. Artino Jr., PhD

Peer-Review Publishing



Image from Digital Science @digitalsci 30 Sep 2016 Is #peerreview a blackbox? Peer review themed cartoon to get into that #FridayFeeling #PerRevWk16 #sciart #funfriday @Publons @arhpreston

Journey of a Submitted Manuscript



Home

Main Menu

Submit a Manuscript

About V

Help V

Author Main Menu

Alternate Contact Information
Unavailable Dates

Author Checklist

New Copyright Form Process For Revisions!

Disclosure and Copyright forms are now collected electronically. The Additional Information submission step will lead you through the process.

In addition, the electronic Copyright Form will be emailed to all entered co-authors automatically at the revision stage.

IMPORTANT: Under 'Author Status,' please do not send the electronic Copyright Form manually at the initial submission stage.

At the revision stage, you may track co-author responses via the 'Author Status' action item in your 'Revisions Being Processed' folders. You may edit a co-author's email address if you receive an undeliverable Email, view their Form responses, or Resend the verification form to your co-authors.

Production

Submissions in Production (2)

Current Task Assignments (0)

New Submissions

Submit New Manuscript

Submissions Sent Back to Author (0)

Incomplete Submissions (0)

Submissions Waiting for Author's Approval (0)

Submissions Being Processed (0)

Revisions

Submissions Needing Revision (0)

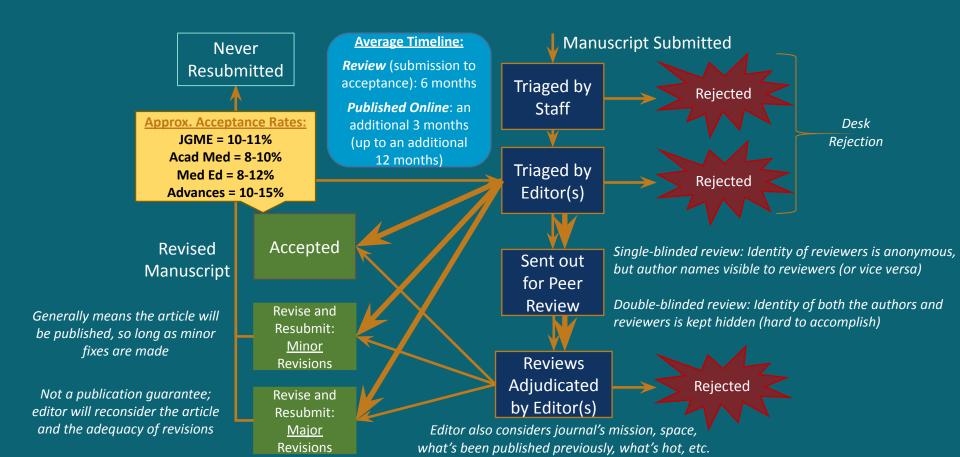
Revisions Sent Back to Author (0)

Incomplete Submissions Being Revised (0)

Revisions Waiting for Author's Approval (0)

Revisions Being Processed (0)

A "Generic" Manuscript Review Process



Go to: -- Search Page -Role: Associate Editor Username: LYarris-376

Search Reviewer All Reviewers - Manuscript Number JGME-D-19-

by Classification

Manuscript Details Register and Select New Reviewer

Change Search Type

Search My Publication
 Search by Classification Matches

from All Reviewers +

Go

The number next to each Classification term below indicates the number of Reviewers with a Classification match.

By selecting the Classification term(s) you will be able to view a list of those Reviewers.

Page: 1 of 1 (3 total Classification matches)

Display 100 - results per page.

Clas	sification		Number of Reviewers	
	36.500	Internal Medicine	76	
	8.100	Curricula	45	
	22.200	Health Disparities	15	

Page: 1 of 1 (3 total Classification matches)

Display 100 - results per page.

Cancel

Submit

Reviewer Candidates

Select a checkbox by each person you wish to select as a Reviewer (more...).

22 200	Health D	icnarities						
22.200	nealth D	ispariues						
Select	As Alt.	Reviewer Name	Board Member	Classifications	Reviewer Statistics (Agreed Invitations)		Invitation Statistics	
		, MD (Reviewer)	No	1 Class match with MS	Reviews in Progress:	1	Date Last Invited:	01/24/20
3-80	35-50	College of Medicine Residency		* 22.200: Health Disparities	Completed Reviews:	8	Outstanding Invitations:	0
					Un-assigned After	0	Agreed:	9
					Agreeing:		Declined:	0
					Terminated After Agreeing:	0	Un-invited Before Agreeing:	4
					Last Review Agreed:	01/28/2019	Terminated:	0
					Last Review Completed:	02/05/2019	Total Invitations:	13
					Last Review Declined:	-		
					Avg Days Outstanding:			
					Manuscript Rating:	78		
	2000				Avg Review Rating:	72.6		
nv.	Alt.	PhD PhD	No	2 Class match with MS	Reviews in Progress:	0	Date Last Invited:	01/27/20
		(Reviewer)		* 8.100: Curricula * 22.200: Health Disparities	Completed Reviews:	0	Outstanding Invitations:	0
					On assigned Arter	0	Agreed:	0
					Agreeing:	_	Declined:	2
					Terminated After Agreeing:	0	Un-invited Before Agreeing:	0
		This publication:			Last Review Agreed:	-	Terminated:	0
		Alternate Reviewer for 1 other submission			Last Review Completed:	-	Total Invitations:	2
					Last Review Declined:	01/28/2019		
					Avg Days Outstanding:			
					Manuscript Rating:	0		
					Avg Review Rating:	0.0		
nv.	Alt.	, MPH,	No	2 Class match with MS	Reviews in Progress:	0	Date Last Invited:	01/31/20
		CCRP (Reviewer)		* 8.100: Curricula * 22.200: Health Disparities	Completed Reviews:	15	Outstanding Invitations:	0
					Un-assigned After	0	Agreed:	15
					Agreeing:	_	Declined:	0
					Terminated After Agreeing:	0	Un-invited Before Agreeing:	3
					Last Review Agreed:	01/31/2019	Terminated:	0
		This publications			Last Review Completed:		Total Invitations:	18
		This publication: Alternate Reviewer for 1 other submission			Last Review Declined:	-		
					Avg Days Outstanding:			
					Manuscript Rating:	63		
					Avg Review Rating:	85.0		

Do Reviewers Always Agree?

Reviewers Agree:

33%

Reviewers Disagree:

67%

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Click the recomm	nendation term to view the comments for the submission.		
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Click the recomm	View Manuscript R	Original Submission Major Revision	
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The benefits of being a reviewer, what editors want, and tips for reviewing manuscripts

Laura Weingartner, PhD

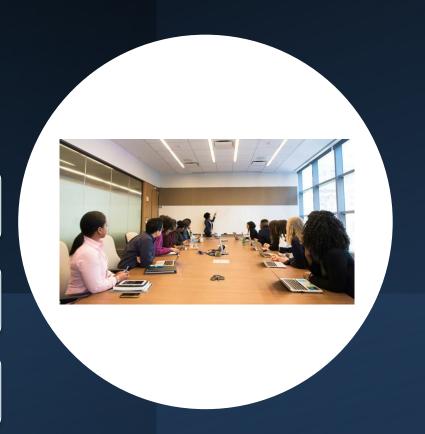


Critical Service to Medical Education

Support quality literature

Develop professional identity

Establish national recognition



Improve Your Own Scholarship

See what's new in your field & gain familiarity with research design

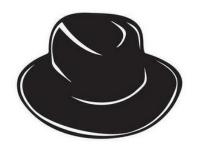
Become a better researcher

Engage with written scholarship as an evaluator rather than a consumer

Become a better writer



Perspective from Your Area(s) of Expertise



As an expert, what are detailed strengths and weaknesses?



As a non-expert, what might confuse other readers?

Clear Feedback about the Work

Methodology

Study Design, Rigor, Limitations

Presentation

Organization, Clarity, Consistency

Contribution

Generalizability, Novelty, Timeliness

Timely Reviews

Have you ever been an author on the other end waiting?



Provide actionable recommendations

Comments that are not clear or actionable may not be addressed appropriately



The results presented here are not novel.

Add context to the second paragraph of the discussion to justify how these findings make a novel contribution to the literature.

Recommend rather than ask

Authors frequently answer a question in the response to reviewers but do not revise the actual manuscript



Did you perform any inter-rater reliability training?

Please describe any inter-rater reliability training that you completed or justify why this was not needed.

Tailor a consistent message in your review

Comments to the Authors

Brief Summary
Review Strengths
Major Improvement Areas
Specific Feedback by Section



Specific Ed. Recommendation
Copy Editing
Snark or Harsh Feedback

Tailor a consistent message in your review

Confidential
Comments to
the Editor

Direct Language
Fatal Flaws
Recommendation Rationale
Sensitive Concerns



Inconsistent Feedback
New Info to Improve Work

Limitations are OK if appropriately addressed

A lot of MedEd research is quasi-experimental

All research will have limitations

Ensure *project-specific* limitations are appropriately discussed

Resist urge to reject based on limitations unless it's a *fatal flaw*

Choose a decision recommendation:

Accept

Minor Revisions Major Revisions

Reject

Use sparingly on first round: copy-editing only

Brief changes or clarifications beyond copy-editing

Large re-writes or additional analyses that are feasible

Methodological flaws, audience mismatch, lacking novelty

Editors will consider the reviewer recommendations to make a final determination about the work!

Reviewing from the perspectives of conference and grant editors/chairs and reviewers

Heeyoung Han, Ph.D.

Heeyoung Han, Ph.D.



Professor, Medical Education
Southern Illinois University School of Medicine



CGEA MESRE Chair (2018-2021)



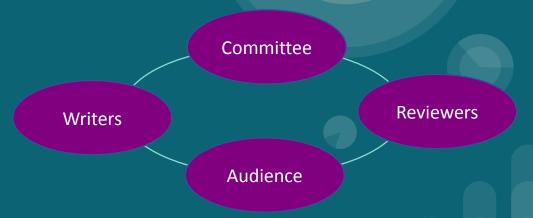
GEA National Grant Committee (2021-)
GEA MESRE Chair-Elect (2024-)



TLM Journal Deputy Editor (2012 -)

Why Is Reviewing Important?

- Community of practice for scholarship
- Professional network
- Reviewing as learning



Process for Reviewing Conference Abstracts

- Call for reviewers
 - GEA email listserv, regional GEA email listserv, DR-ED listserv
- Sign up for volunteering
 - Your professional experience and interest
- Rating and feedback
 - Evaluation criteria
- AAMC staff
 - Collect all reviews



Process for Reviewing Conference Abstracts (cont.)

- Conference Committee
 - Selection process reviewer ratings, comments, and committee discussions
- Committee discussion points
 - Review quality
 - Topics Audience interest, timeliness of the topic, significance
 - Considerations
 - Salami-slicing redundant multiple abstracts from one project
 - Commercial promotion

Process for Reviewing Grants

- Review committee Recruiting reviewers
 - Generally invitation-based
 - Call for reviewers
- Reviewer assignment
 - Topic expert
 - Methodology expert
 - Practice expert
- Rating and feedback
 - Evaluation criteria
 - Decision suggestion
 - Confidential feedback
- Review committee chair
 - Collect all reviews



Process for Reviewing Grants (cont.)

- Review Committee
 - Selection process reviewer ratings, comments for the author/the committee, and committee discussions
- Committee discussion points
 - Review quality
 - Topics Audience interest, timeliness of the topic, significance, potential impact in the field
 - Team expertise
 - Institutional support
 - Appropriate use of the budget
 - Considerations
 - Feasibility
 - Commercial promotion

Compare the processes of reviewing for conferences, grants, and journals

- Similarities
 - Audience specific, program goals specific
 - Evaluation criteria Rigor standards
- Differences
 - Level of the impact of committee discussions on a decision
 - Abstract vs. complete manuscripts vs. proposals
 - Output quality vs. feasibility/team capacity
 - Review for a decision vs. improvement/revisions

Sign up to be a reviewer!

- Medical Education Conference Submissions
- Academic Medicine
- MedEdPORTAL

www.aamc.org/about-us/mission-areas/medical-education/scholarship-submissions#reviewer

Reviewer Resources

Academic Medicine Reviewer Hub: journals.lww.com/academicmedicine/Pages/forreviewers.aspx

MedEdPORTAL Reviewer Hub: www.mededportal.org/reviewers

Medical Education Reviewing Resources: www.aamc.org/what-we-do/mission-areas/medical-education/fostering-scholarship#reviewing

Sign Up for Journal Newsletters

academicmedicine@aamc.org

mededportal@aamc.org

Scholarly Publishing Series

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- View the recording, slides, and key takeaways from each session

aamc.org/publishingwebinar

Hosted by Academic Medicine and MedEdPORTAL