European Association of Science Editors
EASE

The Dudley Group NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

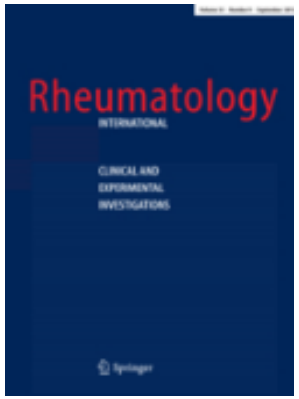
UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

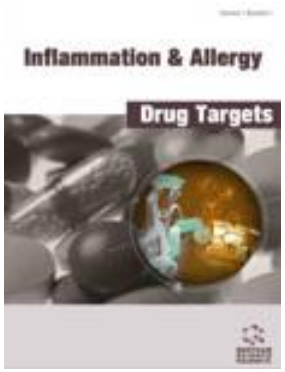
Peer Review

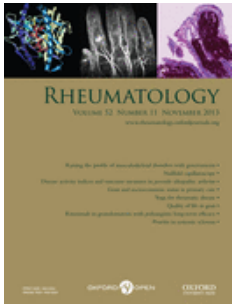
Different Approaches in Health Care Journals, Best Peer Reviewers, Conflict of Interest in Review, Cascading Peer Review

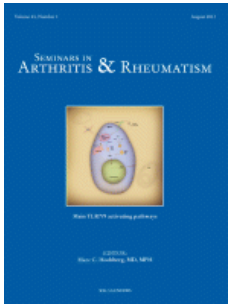
Armen Yuri Gasparyan, MD, PhD, FESC

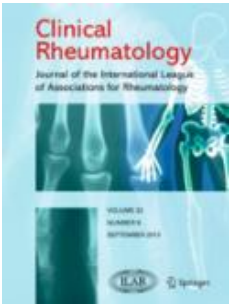
Associate Professor of Medicine











European Association of Science Editors

EASE

WAME

world association of medical editors

Tehran University of Medical Sciences

ACADEMY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Associations concerned with the integrity of peer review

Peer review is a process of self-regulation by a profession or a process of evaluation involving qualified individuals within the relevant field...

Wikipedia

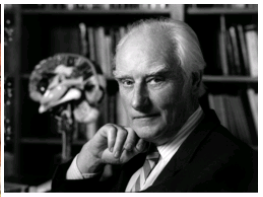
A peer-reviewed journal is one that has submitted most of its published articles for review by experts who are not part of the editorial staff.

ICMJE, 2001

Peer reviewers are experts chosen by editors to provide written assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of written research, with the aim of improving the reporting of research and identifying the most appropriate and highest quality material for the journal. Regular reviewers selected for the journal should be required to meet minimum standards (as determined and promulgated by each journal) regarding their background in original research, publication of articles, formal training, and previous critical appraisal of manuscripts.

- **Discovery of the double helix structure of DNA, James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick**
- **A two-page report in Nature, 25 April, 1953 (not peer reviewed)**
- **Nobel prize in physiology or medicine, 1962**


James Watson (February 2003)


Francis Crick

Born	June 8, 1916 Weston Favell, Northamptonshire, England
Died	28 July 2004 (aged 88)

equipment, and to Dr. G. E. R. Deacon and the captain and officers of R.R.S. *Discovery II* for their part in making the observations.

[1] Young, F. B., Gerrard, H., and Jevons, W., *Phil. Mag.*, **40**, 149 (1920).
[2] Longuet-Higgins, M. S., *Mon. Not. Roy. Astro. Soc., Geophys. Supp.*, **5**, 285 (1949).
[3] Von Arx, W. S., Woods Hole Papers in Phys. Oceanog. Meteor., **11** (3) (1950).
[4] Ekman, V. W., *Arkiv. Mat. Astron. Fysik.* (*Stockholm*), **2** (11) (1905).

MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF NUCLEIC ACIDS

A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid

WE wish to suggest a structure for the salt of deoxyribose nucleic acid (D.N.A.). This structure has novel features which are of considerable biological interest.

A structure for nucleic acid has already been proposed by Pauling and Corey[1]. They kindly made

is a residue on each chain every 3·4 A. in the *z*-direction. We have assumed an angle of 36° between adjacent residues in the same chain, so that the structure repeats after 10 residues on each chain, that is, after 34 A. The distance of a phosphorus atom from the fibre axis is 10 A. As the phosphates are on the outside, cations have easy access to them.

The structure is rather high. expect the bas become more c

The novel fe in which the t purine and pyri are perpendicul together in pai hydrogen-bond chain, so that z-co-ordinates. the other a py hydrogen bond 1 to pyrimidir pyrimidine pos

This figure is purely diagrammatic. The two ribbons symbolize the two phosphate—sugar chains, and the horizontal rods the pairs of bases holding the chains together. The vertical line marks the fibre axis

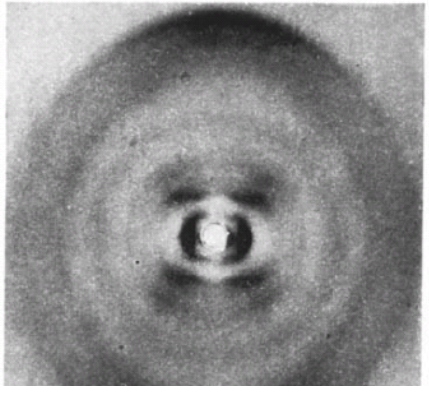
on it. We radical the sa acid. helical the sar have assumj chain ester ribofu linkag not th dyad axis. handed the dy atoms in op chain berg's[3] the ba the he the ou of the near 'stanc sugar ular t

King's College, London. One of us (J. D. W.) has been aided by a fellowship from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

J. D. Watson
F. H. C. Crick

Medical Research Council Unit for the Study of the Molecular Structure of Biological Systems,
Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge.
April 2.

[1] Pauling, L., and Corey, R. B., *Nature*, **171**, 346 (1953); *Proc. U.S. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, **39**, 84 (1953).
[2] Furberg, S., *Acta Chem. Scand.*, **6**, 634 (1952).
[3] Chargaff, E., for references see Zamenhof, S., Brawerman, G., and Chargaff, E., *Biochim. et Biophys. Acta*, **9**, 402 (1952).
[4] Wyatt, G. R., *J. Gen. Physiol.*, **36**, 201 (1952).
[5] Astbury, W. T., Symp. Soc. Exp. Biol. 1, Nucleic Acid, 66 (Camb. Univ. Press, 1947).
[6] Wilkins, M. H. F., and Randall, J. T., *Biochim. et Biophys. Acta*, **10**, 192 (1953).



- Discovery of “The Krebs cycle” by Hans A. Krebs and William A. Johnson
- A paper on the role of citric acid **rejected** by Nature in 1937 – “insufficient importance”
- Later published in [*Krebs HA, Johnson WA. The role of citric acid in intermediate metabolism in animal tissues. Enzymologia 1937;4:148-156*], a Dutch journal
- Reprinted in FEBS letters in 1980
- Nobel prize in physiology or medicine 1953

25 August 1900
Hildesheim, Germany

22 November 1981 (aged 81)
Oxford, England

The role of citric acid in intermediate metabolism in animal tissues

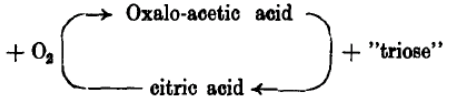
BY

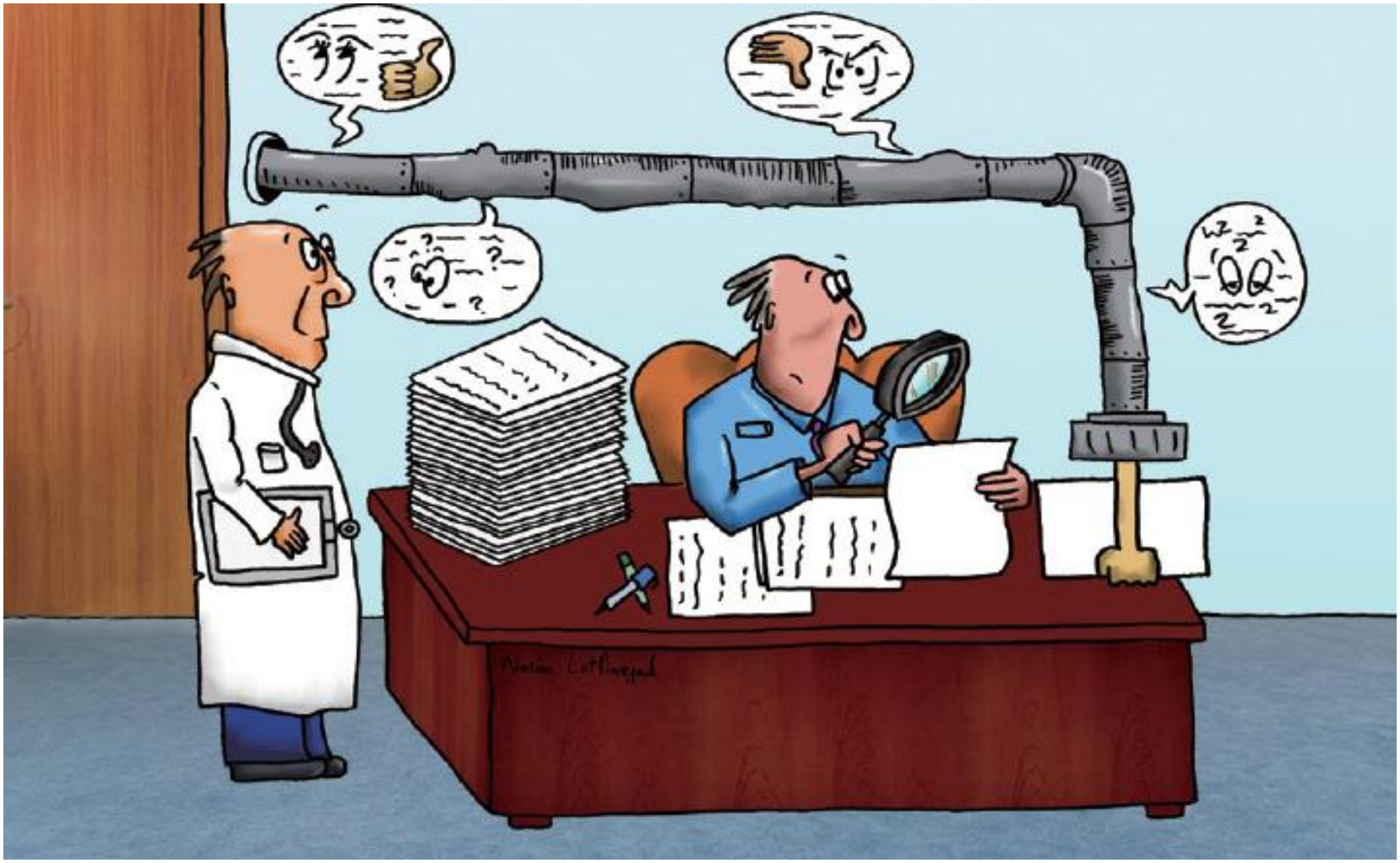
H. A. KREBS AND W. A. JOHNSON
(*From the Departm. of Pharmacol., Univ. of Sheffield*)

(29.VI.37)

During the last decade much progress has been made in the analysis of the anaerobic fermentation of carbohydrate, but very little is so far known about the intermediate

These facts suggest that citric acid acts as a catalyst in the oxidation of carbohydrate in the following manner:





EDITORIAL
Medicine General & Social Medicine

JKMS

http://dx.doi.org/10.3346/jkms.2013.28.7.970 • *J Korean Med Sci 2013; 28: 970-971*

Peer Review in Scholarly Biomedical Journals: a Few Things that Make a Big Difference

Armen Yuri Gasparyan

Departments of Rheumatology and Research and Development, Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust (A Teaching Trust of the University of Birmingham, UK), Russells Hall Hospital, West Midlands, UK

Peer review as part of professional service

- ✓ **Peer review is a part of culture of service to profession; those who want to publish should be skilled to act as peer reviewers**
- ✓ **Peer review keeps specialists updated of current developments. It is intellectually enriching**
- ✓ **It gives more credits/scientific prestige**

Best reviewers

Primus Inter Pares

- ✓ Training in epidemiology or statistics, age <60, residency in North America and current involvement in research
- ✓ Aged under 40 yo (BMJ)
- ✓ Those acted as reviewers before
- ✓ The author who published recently (within 2-3 years) relevant articles in PubMed, ISI, Scopus, Google Scholar
- ✓ Authors' suggestions (???)
- ✓ Editorial board members
- ✓ Editors personal contacts
- ✓ Those from reference lists

Croat Med J. 2012;53:386-9
doi: 10.3325/cmj.2012.53.386

Best peer reviewers and the quality of peer review in biomedical journals

Adding a statistical reviewer

- ✓ A prospective study of original papers reviewed in a weekly journal *Medicina Clinica* (Barcelona)
- Modified Manuscript Quality Assessment Instrument (MQAI) by Goodman et al. (5 points scale)
- Two blinded evaluators rated the quality of manuscripts at initial submission and final post peer review version
- 129 articles were evaluated

- ✓ **Adding a statistical reviewer to the field expert peers increased the quality of accepted papers (5.5 [95% CI: 4.3–6.7]**

Cobo E, et al. PLoS One 2007;2(3):e332

Author- vs. editor-suggested reviewers

- ✓ 10 biomedical journals (BMJ, Heart, etc)
- ✓ No difference in the quality of comments
- ✓ Author-suggested reviewers made favourable recommendations

Schroter S, et al. JAMA 2006;295(3):314–317

Table 2. Impact of Reviewer Status on Review Quality and Recommendation to Publish

	Editor-Suggested Reviewers	Author-Suggested Reviewers
Review Quality Instrument		
Reviews, mean score	2.64	2.58
Papers, mean paired difference (95% CI)	Reference	–0.05 (–0.15 to 0.04)
Reviewer recommendation, No. (%)		
Accept	115 (46.0)	119 (56.9)
Revise	76 (30.4)	63 (30.1)
Reject	59 (23.6)	27 (12.9)
Odds ratio (95% CI)		
Accept (vs revise or reject)		
Papers with blinded reviews*	Reference	1.64 (1.02 to 2.66)
Papers with open reviews (*BMJ*)	Reference	12.4 (1.60 to 95.8)
Accept or revise (vs reject)		
Papers with blinded reviews*	Reference	2.66 (1.43 to 4.97)
Papers with open reviews (*BMJ*)		†

A checklist for reviewer evaluation will help in choosing more effective and helpful reviewers in the future. Some items that can be included in reviewers' evaluation are:

- timeliness;
- ease of communication;
- depth of the review;
- clear and instructive comments;
- positive attitude;
- lack of bias;
- willingness to cooperate

European Association of Science Editors

EASE

Workshop

How to get peer reviewed

Remedios Melero

Facultat de Biblioteconomia i Documentació, Universitat de Barcelona

Barcelona, 20 June 2011

Initial invitations

- **Get at least two reviews** - whose interests reflect the scope of the manuscript. Try to avoid bias and conflicts of interest (e.g. reviewers from the same institute, close collaborators)
- **Over-invite reviewers.** Invite three or four; as soon as two have agreed, you can let the others know that they will not be needed this time

Singapore Statement on Research Integrity

2ND WORLD CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY

PRINCIPLES

Honesty in all aspects of research

Accountability in the conduct of research

Professional courtesy and fairness in working with others

Good stewardship of research on behalf of others

RESPONSIBILITIES

8. Peer Review: Researchers should provide fair, prompt and rigorous evaluations and respect confidentiality when reviewing others' work.

9. Conflict of Interest: Researchers should disclose financial and other conflicts of interest that could compromise the trustworthiness of their work in research proposals, publications and public communications as well as in all review activities.

http://www.singaporestatement.org/

Table 5. Ten qualities of a good reviewer
1. Competence (and/or expertise) in the field
2. Consistency (within and between reviews)
3. Confidentiality
4. Responsibility in feedback (constructive, educational, unbiased)
5. Knowledge of the scientific process (research and writing)
6. Integrity
7. Impartiality
8. Timeliness (punctuality)
9. Detail orientation
10. Outstanding language skills

Gus M Garmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, is a Senior Emergency Medicine Physician at the Santa Clara Medical Center. He is also the Co-Program Director of the Stanford/Kaiser Emergency Medicine Residency Program, and an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine (Surgery) at Stanford University. He is a Senior Editor for *The Permanente Journal*. E-mail: gus.garmel@kp.org.

Does peer review really work?

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE Volume 99 April 2006

SERIES

Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals

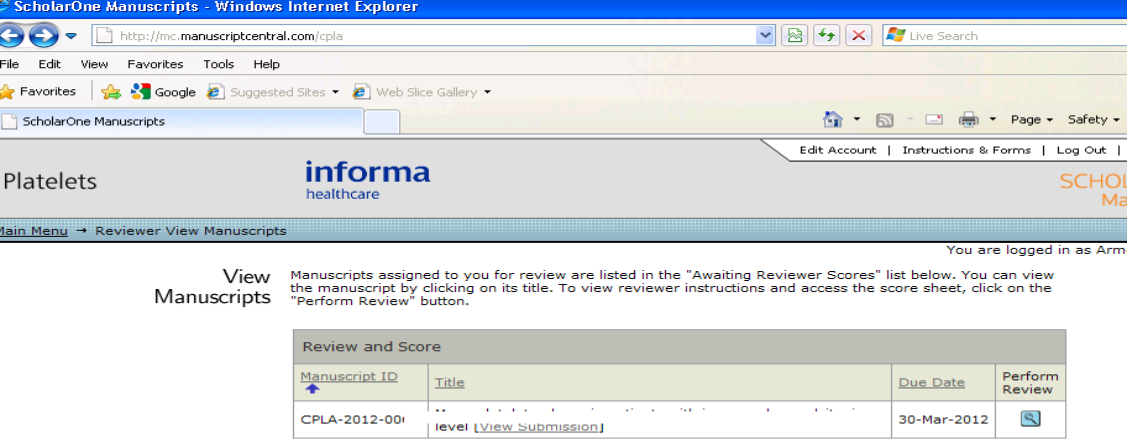
Richard Smith

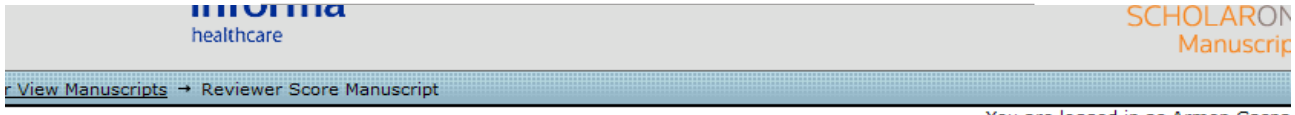
J R Soc Med 2006;**99**:178–182

- **Slow and expensive – 100 GBP for rejected and 1000 GBP for accepted paper in BMJ**
- **Inconsistent**
- **Biased**
- **Abused**
- **Conclusion…peer review is a flawed process, full of easily identified defects with little evidence that it works. Nevertheless, it is likely to remain central to science and journals because there is no obvious alternative…**

Support for reviewers

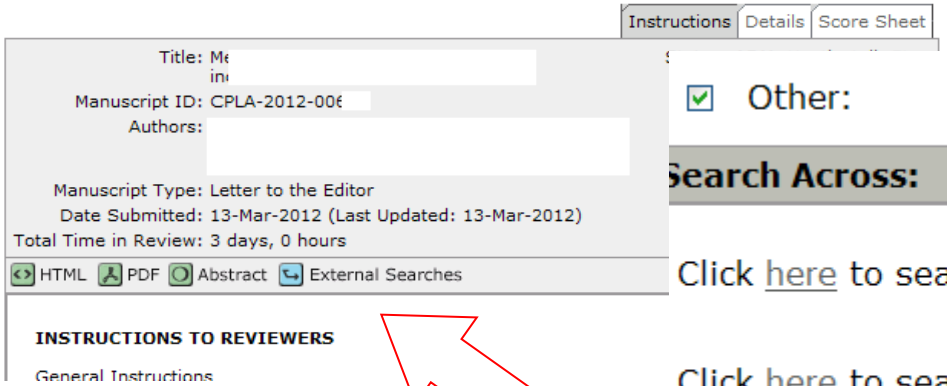
- **Access to ISI, Scopus while reviewing**
- **Reviewer form**
- **Instructions how to review**

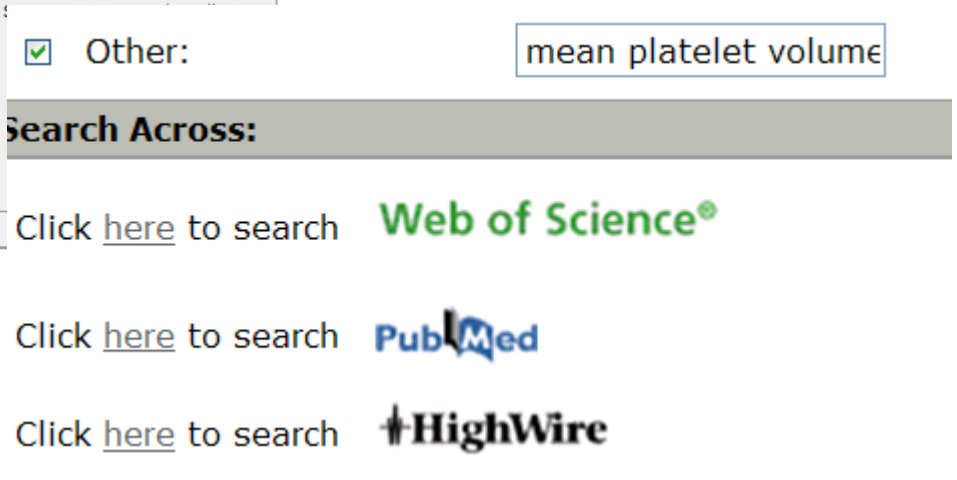




Review Manuscript

- Click the "HTML" button to view the online version of the manuscript; click the "PDF" button to view a printer-friendly version of the manuscript.
- Be sure to read the reviewer instructions on the "Instructions" tab.
- Navigate to the "Score Sheet" tab to access the reviewer form. Be sure to click "Save" at the bottom of the scoresheet to retain your work in the system.
- To submit your review, click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the score sheet.





req **Recommendation**	
○	Accept
○	Minor Revision
○	Major Revision
○	Reject & Resubmit
○	Reject

Would you be willing to review a revision of this manuscript?	
○	Yes
○	No

Comments

Confidential Comments to the Editors

req Comments to the Author

Elements of successful review

- ✓ **On time acceptance or decline of invitation (24-48 h)**
- ✓ **Sending comments within 7-21 days (reading and commenting – 3 hours)**
- ✓ **Good service to authors, patients, journal and profession**
- ✓ **Confidentiality (do not unmask yourself, do not share the manuscript with others, delete after commenting)**
- ✓ **Objectivity, evidence-based, constructive criticism, and courteous tone**
- ✓ **Making comments being updated by new findings, relevant publications (including those in the journal) and statesments (e.g. CONSORT)**

Table 2. Reviewers' responsibilities to authors
• Provide written, honest, and unbiased feedback in a timely manner
• Express a critical opinion about the manuscript, as experts in the field, in a collegial and constructive manner
• Comment on the style of writing, especially its clarity
• Rate the work's detail, methodology, relevance, accuracy, and originality
• Avoid comments or criticism of a personal nature
• Maintain professionalism and confidentiality, especially given the competitive nature of research, funding availability, and publication
• Refrain from directly contacting authors without permission from the editor, unless the journal stipulates otherwise

Adapted with permission from Jordan K, Pederick R. Guidelines for reviewers [cited 2009 Jul 18]. Available from: http://people.bath.ac.uk/liskmj/living-spring/journal/reviewgd.htm.[30]

Gus M Garmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, is a Senior Emergency Medicine Physician at the Santa Clara Medical Center. He is also the Co-Program Director of the Stanford/Kaiser Emergency Medicine Residency Program, and an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine (Surgery) at Stanford University. He is a Senior Editor for *The Permanente Journal*. E-mail: gus.garmel@kp.org.

Table 3. Reviewers' responsibilities to editors
• Respond to the editors promptly if unable or unavailable to review a manuscript
• Recommend names of other experts as potential reviewers if unavailable
• Determine the scientific merit of the submission, with recommendations for acceptance or rejection
• Identify possibilities to improve the manuscript to the authors
• Point out potential ethical concerns about research methodologies or similarities with other papers or ongoing research
• Acknowledge personal or author conflicts of interest and inform the editor of these

Adapted with permission from Jordan K, Pederick R. Guidelines for reviewers [cited 2009 Jul 18]. Available from: http://people.bath.ac.uk/liskmj/living-spring/journal/reviewgd.htm.[30]

Gus M Garmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, is a Senior Emergency Medicine Physician at the Santa Clara Medical Center. He is also the Co-Program Director of the Stanford/Kaiser Emergency Medicine Residency Program, and an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine (Surgery) at Stanford University. He is a Senior Editor for *The Permanente Journal*. E-mail: gus.garmel@kp.org.

Table 4. Reviewers' responsibilities to the readers
• Ensure that published articles adhere to journal standards, as well as to standards of scientific practice
• Protect readers from incorrect or flawed research
• Identify missed references or erroneous citations (including misquoting or misinterpreting an author's findings)

Gus M Garmel, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, is a Senior Emergency Medicine Physician at the Santa Clara Medical Center. He is also the Co-Program Director of the Stanford/Kaiser Emergency Medicine Residency Program, and an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine (Surgery) at Stanford University. He is a Senior Editor for *The Permanente Journal*. E-mail: gus.garmel@kp.org.

Priority for publication in a general med journal

✓Original research articles with conclusive data (including syst. reviews)	✓**High**
✓Narrative reviews	✓**High**
✓Editorials	✓**Moderate**
✓Letters	✓**High**
✓Case reports	✓**Low**
✓Short communications	✓**Low**
✓Reports of meetings	✓**?**
✓News notes	✓**Low**

Types of peer review

- ✓ Internal (in-house) – by staff
- ✓ External – by external peers
- ✓ Internal and external

- ✓ Open
- ✓ Single-blind
- ✓ Double-blind

- ✓ Paid
- ✓ Unpaid

- ✓ Rejecting or accepting outright
- ✓ Making decision based on 2 or more comments
- ✓ Rejecting based on at least one negative comment

Open

The reviewer and author are known to each other

Advantages:

- Prevent malicious comments?
- Stop plagiarism?
- Increase objectivity?

Disadvantages:

- Overly polite?
- Restrict criticisms?
- Discouraging for junior reviewers?
- Prejudice against country, institution, and author?

Blind

The reviewer's identity is not known to the author

Advantages:

- Allows impartial decisions free of author influence?

Disadvantages:

- Competitors delay paper?
- Encourage harsh or personal criticism?
- Plagiarism?

Double blind

Both reviewer and author remain anonymous

Advantages:

- Prevents review bias against country, institution, author
- No influence of author's reputation

Disadvantages:

- Unrealized conflicts of interest?
- Often author's identity can be guessed

European Association of Science Editors

EASE

Workshop

How to get peer reviewed

Remedios Melero

Facultat de Biblioteconomia i Documentació, Universitat de Barcelona

Barcelona, 20 June 2011

Major and minor points

- ✓ General comment
- ✓ Major comments
- ✓ Minor comments
- ✓ Confidential information on acceptance (for editors)

Main points in peers comments

- ✓ General comment, interest to the readership of the target journal
- ✓ Title – concise, reflective, correct?
- ✓ Abstract – structured, contain numeric data, reflect the content, conclusions?
- ✓ Introduction, justification of the study and aims
- ✓ Novelty and originality

Main points in peers comments (2)

- ✓ **Where and when the study conducted**
- ✓ **Patients and controls, inclusion and exclusion criteria**
- ✓ **Methodological merit – new, modified tests; reproducibility tested or not**
- ✓ **Sample size calculation, distribution checked**
- ✓ **Statistical analyses – correction for confounders**
- ✓ **Methods and Results – is there a logical sequence**
- ✓ **Validity of the results**
- ✓ **Table and graphs are self-explanatory**
- ✓ **Discussion – strength and limitations**
- ✓ **References – up-to-date; suggest relevant refs**
- ✓ **Justification of the conclusions**
- ✓ **Quality of abstract**
- ✓ **Style and clarity of writing, typos and formatting**

En Español Login

equator network

Search: Go

Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research

Home | About EQUATOR | Resource Centre | Courses Events | Research Projects | Contact | News | Forum

Welcome to the EQUATOR Network website – the resource centre for good reporting of health research studies

Too often, good research evidence is undermined by poor quality reporting.

The EQUATOR Network is an international initiative that seeks to improve reliability and value of medical research literature by promoting transparent and accurate reporting of research studies.

Reporting guidelines

Library for Health Research Reporting

Authors

Information for authors of research reports

Statements of interest to reviewers

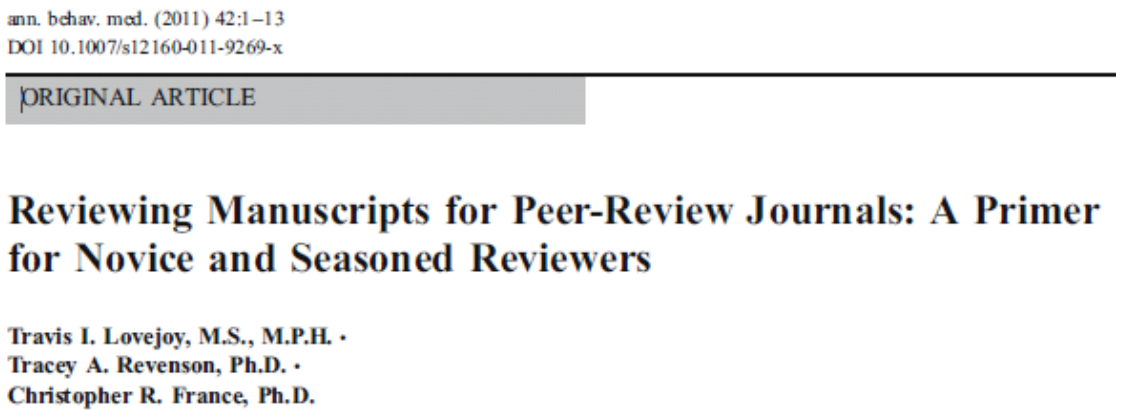
- **Editorial policy of the target journal**
- **CONSORT – Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials**
- **PRISMA - for systematic reviews and meta-analyses**
- **STARD – Standards for Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy**
- **STROBE - for observational studies**
- **QUOROM – The Quality of Reporting of Meta-analyses**
- **MOOSE – Meta-analysis of Observational Studies in Epidemiology**

Do's of peer review

- ✓ Make your enthusiasm for the paper clear to the authors
- ✓ Be consistent with the comments to the authors and editors
- ✓ Provide a detailed commentary if a manuscript has correctable shortcomings
- ✓ Recommend revision if the manuscript will make a significant contribution
- ✓ Provide references to support critiques
- ✓ Reread your comment to avoid harsh or inappropriate comments
- ✓ **Treat authors as your equals**, regardless of the quality of the manuscript

Don’ts of peer review

- ✓ **Do not state in comments to authors anything about decision** (i.e. reject, revisions, or accept)
- ✓ Don’t provide detail if you recommend rejection; a description of the major errors and flaws is sufficient
- ✓ Don’t recommend a revision if changes will not substantially improve the quality
- ✓ Don’t make vague references or *a priori* statements



ann. behav. med. (2011) 42:1–13
DOI 10.1007/s12160-011-9269-x

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Reviewing Manuscripts for Peer-Review Journals: A Primer for Novice and Seasoned Reviewers

Travis I. Lovejoy, M.S., M.P.H. ·
Tracey A. Revenson, Ph.D. ·
Christopher R. France, Ph.D.

Reviewer acknowledgements

CURRENT
PHARMACEUTICAL
DESIGN
A scientific journal at its best
BENTHAM SCIENCE PUBLISHERS

March 22, 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Dr. Theodoros Dimitroulas, MD, PhD, consultant rheumatologist served as a peer reviewer for Current Pharmaceutical Design, the leading journal in the field of rational drug design, molecular medicine and disease mechanism (Journal Impact Factor 4.774, h index 83). In 2011, he reviewed one manuscript for themed issue entitled "Cardiovascular Risk and Inflammation: Pathophysiological Mechanisms, Drug Design, and Targets", which is published in 2012. Peer review is an important part of the service to profession and a pillar of current science editing. Time and efforts of each expert reviewer devoted to the thorough evaluation of manuscripts allow further increasing the quality of journal publications and their impact.

Editors of Current Pharmaceutical Design hope that Dr. Dimitroulas will maintain his interest in the journal and will continue to contribute as an author and reviewer for the journal in the future.

Sincerely,

Mirza Kazim Ali Baig
Director
Current Pharmaceutical Design
Bentham Science Publishers

C O P E COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION ETHICS

COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers

March 2013, v.1

- **Expertise**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Ethical use of information**
- **Declare Conflicts**
- **Accurate information on reviewers' background and contacts**

http://publicationethics.org/files/Ethical_guidelines_for_peer_reviewers_0.pdf

The Curious Case of Hyung-In Moon

- **Moon was discovered in 2012 to have published a number of articles ... by writing the peer review reports for them himself. He used false names and emails that he controlled, and he then submitted his own (glowing) reviews. The articles were subsequently retracted ...; he reportedly acknowledged falsifying data in his papers...**

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Moon, HyungIn

Personal

Name	Moon, HyungIn
Other formats	Moon, H. I. Moon, Hyung I. Moon, Hyung In Moon, Hyungin
Author ID	8272636800
E-mail	himun68@dau.ac.kr
Affiliation	Dong-A University, College Busan South Korea

Research

Documents	151 View Author Ev
References	1369
Citations	607 total citations by 450 do
h Index	13 View h-Graph
Co-authors	150 (maximum 150 co-authors

Misconduct in peer review

Retraction count grows to 35 for scientist who faked emails to do his own peer review

with 9 comments

Hyung-In Moon, the South Korean plant compound researcher who made up email addresses so he could do his own peer review, is now up to 35 retractions.

Hyung-In Moon

The four new retractions are of the papers in the *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry* that initially led to suspicions when all the reviews came back within 24 hours. Here's the notice, which includes the same language as Moon's 24 other retractions of studies published in Informa Healthcare journals: Read the rest of this entry »

Journal editor resigned in wake of retractions for fake email addresses that enabled self-peer review

with 16 comments

The case of Hyung-In Moon — the researcher who faked email addresses for potential peer reviewers so he could do his own peer review — has already led to one resignation.

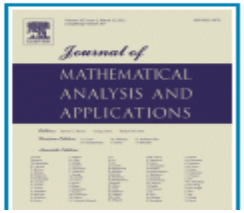
Emilio Jirillo, the editor of *Immunopharmacology and Immunotoxicology*, which retracted 20 of Moon's papers, stepped down earlier this year in the wake of the case, Retraction Watch has learned.

Here's a note the publisher posted on the journal's site on June 15: Read the rest of this entry »

Iranian mathematicians latest to have papers retracted for fake email addresses to get better reviews

with 6 comments

It's tempting to start calling this a trend.



Three Elsevier math journals are among the latest scientific publications to be retracting papers because fake email addresses were used to obtain favorable peer reviews.

The three papers appear in two journals: "On two subclasses of (α,β)-metrics being projectively related," in the *Journal of Geometry and Physics*; and "Complex Bogoslovsky

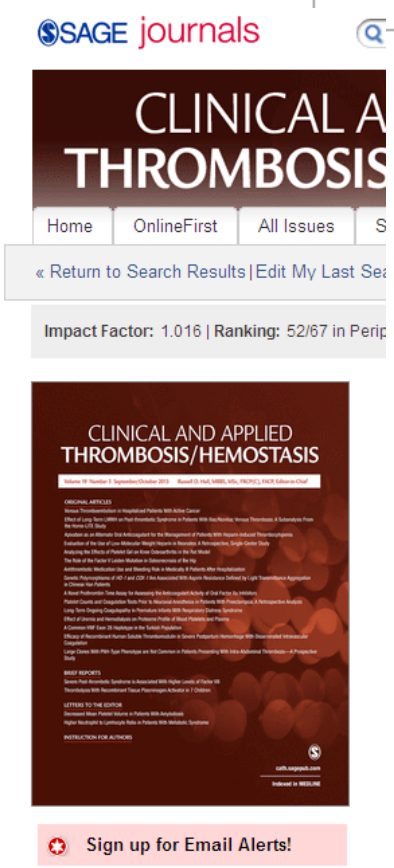
http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/?s=Yung-In+Moon

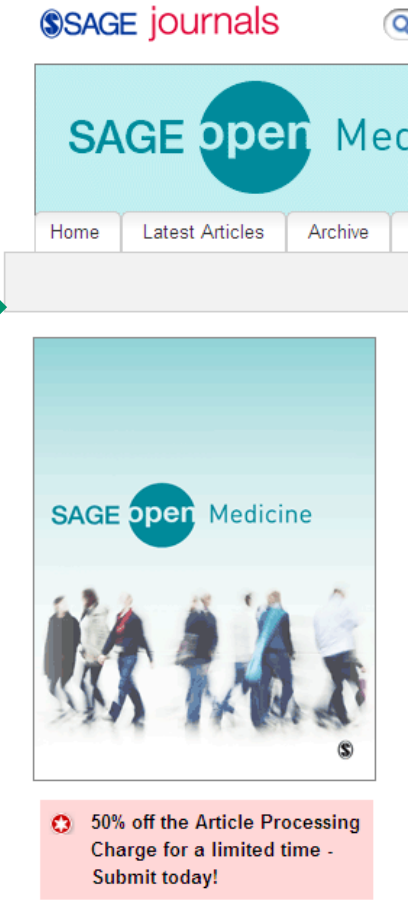
Cascading peer review

- **A new approach accepted by some publishers which allows to publish a manuscript in an appropriate target journal within the publisher's journals list**
- **The manuscript is usually initially rejected by one or more top journals of the publisher**
- **It allows to avoid repetitive reviews**
- **Saves time and reviewers' efforts**
- **May promote low-rank or new journals within the publisher's portfolio**

Cascading examples

	[View Submission]		Awaiting Reviewer Scores
CATH-13-	ince atients with ase in a [View Submission]	26-Sep-2013	ADM: • Reject - To be considered by SAGE Open Medicine (Sep-2013) • Transferred to another journal. view decision letter Response to Decision Letter:





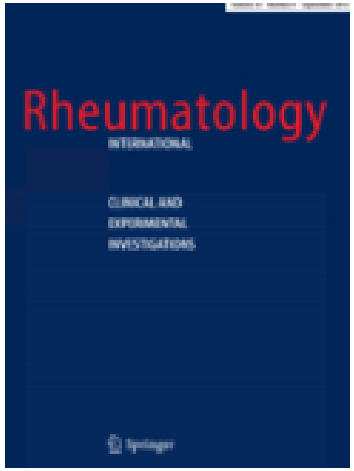
Cascading in Rheumatol Int

View Reviews and Comments for Manuscript
RHEI-D-13-
"R
Original Submission

Click the recommendation term to view the comments for the submission.

Attachments (0) View Manuscript Rating Card

	Original Submission
E (Reviewer 1)	Major Revisions Needed
S I.D. (Reviewer 2)	Major Revisions Needed
C (Reviewer 3)	Major Revisions Needed
Armen Yuri Gasparyan, MD, PhD (Associate Editor)	Reject and Transfer to SpringerPlus
	Reject and Transfer to SpringerPlus
Author Decision Letter	Reject and Transfer to SpringerPlus
(Author)	



Springer

SpringerPlus
a SpringerOpen Journal

2012 Impact Factor 2.214

SpringerPlus is now indexed in Scopus and PubMed Central!

SciVerse Scopus PubMed Central

Cascading letter

Dear Dr...,

I am sorry to inform you that Rheumatol Int could not accept your manuscript for publication. However, I see that your manuscript is very well suited for the journal SpringerPlus and I would like to advise you to resubmit your manuscript there.

SpringerPlus articles are free to read, an Open Access article processing fee (APC) is charged to cover all the costs associated with the publication of your article. ... Ability to pay the APC does not affect editorial decisions... .

Upon receipt of your approval the SpringerPlus editorial office staff will transfer your manuscript files to SpringerPlus.

Cascading from BMJ to BMJ Open

BMJ Helping doctors make better decisions

Year	Impact Factor (IF)	Total Articles	Total Cites
2012	17.215	328	81336

BMJ Open is a pure Open Access journal – which will publish a high volume of medical research articles which might be rejected from the BMJ or BMJJs or which might be otherwise submitted to a journal outside the BMJ Group.

BMJ Open

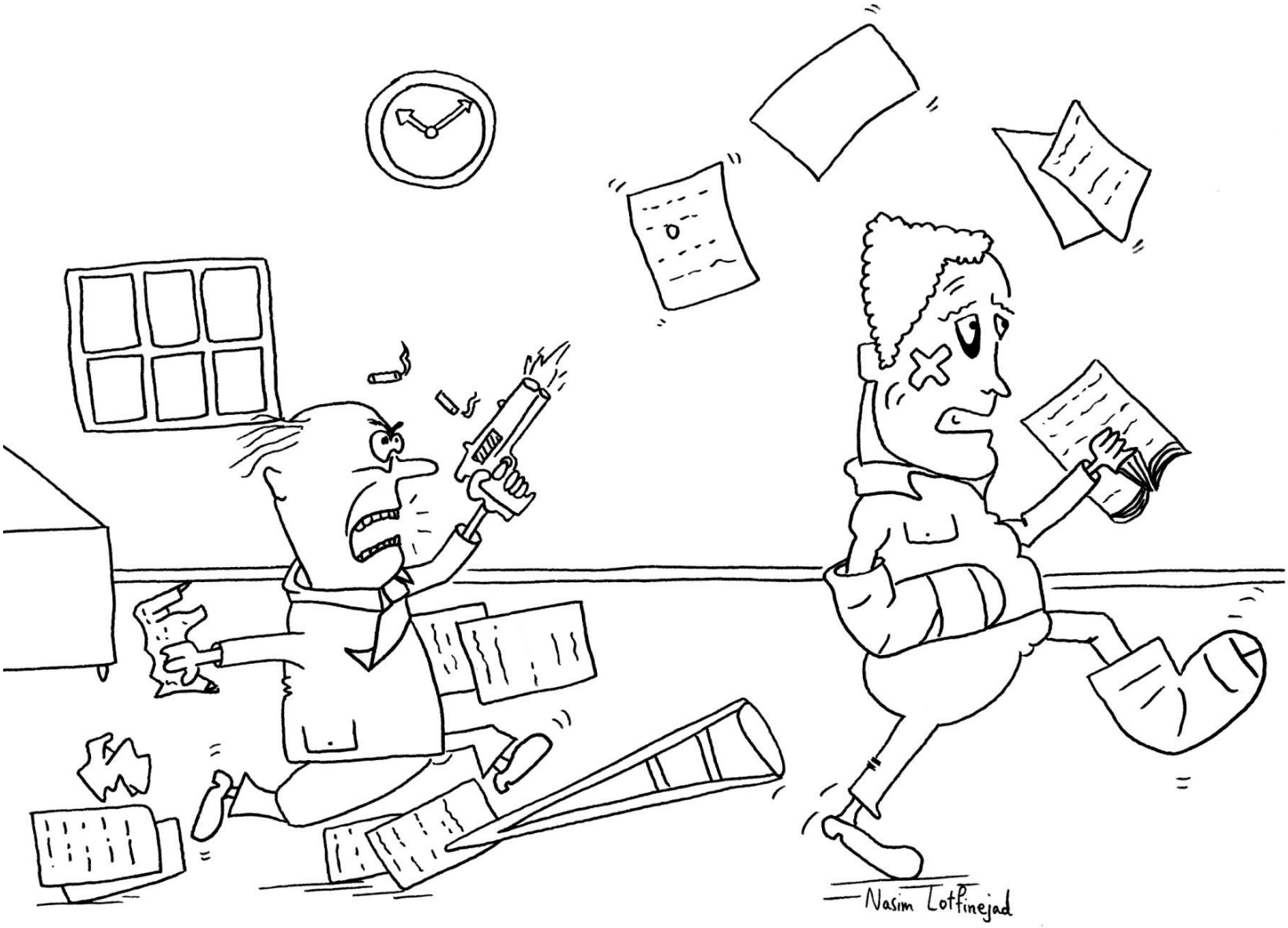
Search this site

An open access, online-only general medical journal dedicated to publishing research from all disciplines and therapeutic areas

Year	Impact Factor (IF)	Total Articles	Total Cites
2012	1.583	654	459

Limitations of cascading

- **Redundant papers may find a niche in low-rank journals**
- **Authors may loose the interest to publish in top journals**
- **Reviewers/editors may opt for controlling manuscript flows at the cost of the quality**
- **Publishers may encourage cascading creating conflict of interest**
- **Predatory open-access publishers may benefit from accepting papers with multiple rejections history**



"The peer review process, final round!"