CANCER’S APPROACH TO REVIEWER RECOGNITION

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ABOUT CANCER

• International interdisciplinary journal of the American Cancer Society
• Published in partnership with Wiley
• Peer review performed via ScholarOne Manuscripts (Sch1)
• Editor-in-Chief and 22 disease site/discipline-specific Section Editors
• Received ~2,700 papers in 2016
• ~40% of submissions go to external peer review
• 20% acceptance rate
• ~1,500 reviewers utilized annually
THERE IS NO WAY A JOURNAL CAN EVER GIVE ENOUGH TO MAKE PEER REVIEW WORTHWHILE

DR. WALTER STADLER
SECTION EDITOR, GENITOURINARY DISEASE
CANCER
WILEY 2015 SURVEY

• Reviewers believe reviewing is inadequately acknowledged and should carry more weight in institutions' evaluation processes

• Respondents value recognition over monetary rewards

• Most valued reward and recognition initiatives:
  o Feedback from journal (review quality, decision outcome, access to other reviewer comments)
  o Acknowledgement (in printed journal, on journal website, or personal note from editor)

OUR PREVIOUS EFFORTS

• Annual listing of reviewers in the journal; special acknowledgment for top reviewers (by # of reviews completed)
• Thank you email upon review submission (signed by Section Editor)
• Thank you email upon decision (signed by Section Editor) including all reviewer comments to authors
• 30% discount code on Wiley books (in thank you email)
IMPRACTICABLE IDEAS (FOR US)

• CME for reviewers—really need dedicated CME department; competing journals did not see enough uptake to make it seem worthwhile
• Tchotchkes—no budget
• Recognition at annual meeting—not a membership society; no annual meeting
SECTION EDITOR GUIDANCE

- Academic recognition desired
- Needs to assist reviewers with tenure/promotion
- Building up people’s egos is surprisingly effective
- Language for inclusion on CVs, needs a name that sounds official
NEW APPROACHES

- Outstanding Reviewer Recognition Program
  - More stringent criteria for top reviewers; criteria stated in annual thank you to reviewers published in the journal
  - Personal thank you letters from Section Editors to reviewers
  - Letters of recognition to deans/chairs
  - Discount on OnlineOpen fees for top reviewers
- Publons
CRITERIA FOR TOP REVIEWERS

• Had previously been those who reviewed 4 or more papers in a year—upped to 5 or more

• Wanted to add turnaround time and reviewer score to the criteria
  o Average review time of 14 days or less
  o Reviewer score snag—scoring not mandatory in Sch1 (only 55% of reviewers who met other criteria had R-scores)
PERSONAL THANK YOU LETTERS

- Informed that performance was in top 2%
- Told about OnlineOpen discount
- Sent template language and reviewer contact information to Section Editors and asked them to send personal emails
- Differing Section Editor engagement
  - signed letters on letterhead
  - asking me to send emails on their behalf
LETTERS TO DEANS/CHAIRS

• Sent 30 letters (emailed PDFs of letters on Cancer letterhead) to deans, chairs, and department heads
• Unexpectedly gratifying response
SAMPLING OF RESPONSES

• “Ryan—congratulations, such an important service to do well. It is great to see this.”

• “Dr. Picus is a star and excels in so many areas.”

• “I am delighted to hear of this recognition for Yu Shyr. I'm not surprised, as he excels in so many ways and contributes so much to science. Still it is great for an important journal to recognize him in this way!”

• “Please pass on my thanks to Dr. Khuri for the recognition; this is a very nice process of the journal.”

• “Thank you very much for the time and effort you and your team put into making this possible. I am deeply appreciative.”
Kudos to @ColumbiaUrology @ColumbiaDoctors @CBAnderson2014 earning top peer reviewer @JournalCancer @AmericanCancer! columbiaurology.org/profile/cbande
PUBLONS

- Invited to participate by Wiley (offered to all publishing partners that use Sch1)
- Wiley has 773 integrated journals (publishes ~1,600)
- Cancer integration date: July 13, 2016
- Sch1 configuration changes:
  - Text to inform reviewers of Cancer’s involvement with Publons added to reviewer invitations and reviewer acceptance email templates
  - Opt-in question added to reviewer scoresheet
  - Email template added to send review/reviewer details to Publons upon completion of every review
**WILEY GOALS**

- Improve review invitation acceptance rates
- Motivate reviewers to deliver better quality, more timely reviews
- Increase reviewer engagement/satisfaction
WORKFLOW

1. Review invitation email w/ info on Publons
2. Reviewer accepts invitation and is reminded about Publons
3. Reviewer given option to opt-in when completing review scoresheet
4. Review submitted; info about review automatically sent to Publons
5. Thank you email w/ Publons details
6. Reviewer receives email w/ instructions to claim review; review removed if no response 30 days after 3rd email
7. Article publishes; reviewer profile displayed publicly; 2 weeks later, reviewer receives link to article
Do you want to get credit for reviewing this manuscript on Publons? [what’s this?]
Publons provides verified credit for peer review without compromising your anonymity or
infringing upon journal policies. By selecting “yes” you are opting in to the Publons service and
data about this review (including your name and the review itself) will be transferred to
Publons. The content of the review will not be publicly displayed, and only the year of the
review and the journal title will be shown on your profile. You may opt-out of the service at
any time.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questionnaire</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>See Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the paper contain new information and concepts that advance the field of oncology or that would benefit the readers of Cancer?</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Are experimental procedures clearly described, up-to-date, and pertinent?</td>
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<td>Does the discussion provide accurate and justifiable interpretations?</td>
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<td>Is the manuscript well organized? If not, please provide an explanation in your comments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Are the statistical methods and their interpretation appropriate?</td>
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CONFIDENTIALITY

• Privacy settings
  o Open: Reviewer name associated with article
  o Blind: Reviewer name associated with journal
  o Blind: Reviewer name is associated with publisher
  o Hidden: Reviewer name is never shown on profile
• Default for Wiley: Blind (reviewer name associated with journal) and Unpublished (review content hidden)
• Disclaimer: “You have a publisher level policy that applies to this journal preventing reviewers from displaying review content and preventing them from signing their reviews.”
WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATES

• How many reviewers added how many reviews
• Total number of Cancer reviews on Publons
• Total number of Cancer reviewers on Publons
• Demographics of reviewers (e.g. country)
• Other journals they review for
JOURNAL DASHBOARD

• Reviewer engagement
• Top reviewers
• Suggested reviewers
• Demographics of reviewers (e.g. country, institution)
• Other journals they review for
### Journal Integration Overview

Reporting period: 2016-07-01 to 2017-05-04

Overview of Cancer during the reporting period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVIEWERS</th>
<th>REVIEWS</th>
<th>UPTAKE RATE</th>
<th>REVIEWER SATISFACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>275</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td>8.7</td>
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You have a publisher level policy that applies to this journal [1] preventing reviewers from displaying review content and preventing them from signing their reviews. Additionally, authors may disable display of review content. You can adjust your review policy here [2].
Firas Abdollah

BIO
Firas has not yet completed their profile bio.

RESEARCH FIELDS
MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIPS
CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS
European Urology

HAS REVIEWED FOR

- (15) European Urology
- (6) Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Oncology
- (5) Cancer
- (7) Journal of Urology
- (6) BJU International
- (3) European Urology Focus

Showing 6 of 11, Show more...

PRE PUBLICATION REVIEWS

- 2017 Reviewed for Journal of Urology
- 2017 Reviewed for Annals of Surgical Oncology
- 2017 Reviewed for Cancer
- 2017 Reviewed for BJU International
- 2017 Reviewed for European Urology
- 2017 Reviewed for Cancer
- 2017 Reviewed for European Urology
- 2017 Reviewed for European Urology
- 2017 Reviewed for European Urology
- 2017 Reviewed for European Urology

Identifiers
- publons.com/a/1174806/
- 0000-0002-1298-0231

Navigate
- Is editing for 1 journal
- Has reviewed for 11 journals
- 48 Pre Publication Reviews
Impact factors of journals reviewed for

The distribution of the impact factors of journals Firas Abdollah has reviewed for.

32.6% of Firas Abdollah's reviews are for journals with an impact factor between 13 and 14 (0.4% for Medical and Health Sciences reviewers)
REJECTED MANUSCRIPTS

• Reviewers get credit for rejected manuscripts
• Information not displayed until article publishes somewhere
• Manuscript list on journal dashboard shows published manuscripts, including those your journal reviewed and rejected
• See where your rejected papers end up and the Altmetric score—any regrets?
MEASURING SUCCESS

- Opt-in rate—45% (answered “yes” on scoresheet)
- Review invitation acceptance rate
- Average review time
- Review quality
# COMPARISON OF PRE- AND POST-PUBLONS BEHAVIOR FOR REVIEWERS WHO OPTED IN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Before Opt In</th>
<th>After Opt In</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response %</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree %</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed %</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>94%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg Response Time (Days)</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg Review Time (Days)</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg Review Score</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>3.76</td>
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RECENTLY LAUNCHED/COMING SOON

• Publons Academy—launched May 2nd
• Reviewer Finder tool
• Links from Sch1 accounts to Publons profiles
• Integration with Reviewer Locator tool in Sch1
THANK YOU

QUESTIONS? EMAIL ME AT CARISSA.GILMAN@CANCER.ORG