



**New innovations in peer review: Open peer review, patient review, reviewer discussions**  
**CSE Annual Meeting 2018, New Orleans**

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**Competing interests**

I'm editor in chief of BMJ Open and deputy editor of The BMJ. Publishing company BMJ is a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Medical Association.

BMJ (the company) receives 8.7% of revenues from drug & device companies through advertising, reprint sales, & sponsorship. For The BMJ it's 12%. The BMJ and BMJ Open are open access journals that charge author fees for Research.

I'm director of academic outreach and advocacy for BMJ; this includes work for the subscription-based BMJ Research to Publication eLearning programme <http://rtop.bmj.com/>

Annual bonus scheme is based on performance of both BMJ and The BMJ.



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**Open review:**

- signed review
- open review with prepublication histories
- open review of preprints

For both open and closed review reviewers should declare competing interests



Bias: author/institution related: prestige, gender, geography; paper-related: positive results, English language; Reviewer-related: competing interests, personal issues



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### Open peer review: different models

- Open identities:** Authors and reviewers aware of each other's identity
- Open reports:** Review reports published alongside articles eg The BMJ, BMJ Open
- Open participation:** Community can contribute to review process eg Science Open
- Open interaction:** Direct reciprocal discussion between author(s) and reviewers, and/or between reviewers, allowed and encouraged eg eLife, BMJ Open Science
- Open pre-review manuscripts:** Manuscripts made immediately available (e.g., via pre-print servers like arXiv) in advance of any formal peer review procedures
- Open final-version commenting:** Review or commenting on final "version of record" publications eg F1000Research
- Open platforms ("decoupled review"):** Review is facilitated by a different organizational entity than the venue of publication eg PubPeer, PubMedCommons

Ross-Hellauer T. What is open peer review? A systematic review [version 2; referees: 4 approved]. *F1000Research* 2017, 6:588 (doi: [10.12688/f1000research.11369.2](https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.11369.2)) <https://f1000research.com/articles/6-588/v2>




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### Latest disruptor: the Open Research Platform



Open research platforms post preprints that are peer reviewed openly and quickly, providing approval and version control. Approved papers are then indexed




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Open Research platforms:  
If academia ditches IF who needs journals?




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The BMJ  
<http://www.bmj.com/theBMJ>  
 publishes all research with open access and, since early 2015, with a detailed "prepublication history" that includes reviewers' signed reports.

This open peer review policy draws on evidence from two randomised controlled trials of open peer review, and on experience of mandatory open peer review for more than 3000 published papers at BMJ Open <http://bmjopen.bmj.com/>

### Timeline

Open peer review at The BMJ

1999: Signed reviews for all BMJ research papers

1999: RCT of open (signed) review

2010: RCT of fully open review - prepublication history

2011: BMJ Open launches with fully open review

2014: The BMJ launches patient review

2014: The BMJ launches fully-open review

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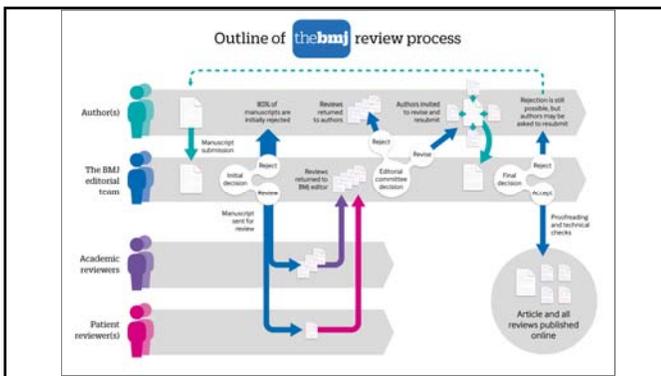
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### Patient review at The BMJ

- authors of research papers state if/how they involved patients in setting research question, outcome measures, design and implementation of study, and results dissemination
- patient review of papers
- patient partnership editor, patient editor

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In 2016, 359/647 research articles (55%) sent for review had at least 1 patient reviewer invitation.

122/164 patient reviewers (74%) responded to a survey, and 100 would recommend being a patient reviewer for *The BMJ* to other patients and carers. 107 patient reviewers who responded to a survey (88%) think more journals should adopt patient review, and (80%) did not have any concerns about doing open review. 12 patient reviewers for papers returned to the authors for revisions felt they included points important to patients that were not raised by the traditional reviewers.

All editors reported patient reviewers “occasionally” include insights not raised by other reviewers; 6 of 7 editors “occasionally” and 1 of 7 editors “frequently” find patient reviewers’ comments helpful when advising authors on revisions to manuscripts. Four editors felt that other journals should adopt patient review, and 3 were unsure.

Schroter S et al. **Introduction of Patient Review Alongside Traditional Peer Review at a General Medical Journal (*The BMJ*): A Mixed Methods Study**  
<https://peerreviewcongress.org/prc17-0103>

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### Collaborative open peer review: eLife and BMJ Open Science

Editor initiates an online consultation session in which each referee can see who the others are and their reviews. Over several days, referees exchange views on the work. If consensus is that the manuscript should be rejected—and about 40% of the manuscripts that have reached this stage to date have been rejected—the reviews are usually conveyed to the authors in full. If the consensus is that the manuscript is, in principle, acceptable for publication in *eLife*, but requires additional experiments or analysis, the referees work with each other to identify the additional studies that are required for acceptance.

*BMJ Open Science* editors have the option to invite reviewers to collaborate on a discussion of the article when they have further questions or would like to reconcile divergent reviews.

<https://elifesciences.org/articles/00799> and <http://openscience.bmj.com/pages/reviewer-guidelines/>

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### Publons: giving reviewers credit

Publons helps you get the recognition you deserve for leading world science and research. Easily import, verify and store a record of every peer review you perform and every manuscript you handle as an editor. For an journal in the world, in full compliance with all editorial policies.

<https://publons.com/home/>

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Thank you

Questions?

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