

WHAT IS PEER REVIEW? PROCESS AND VARIATIONS

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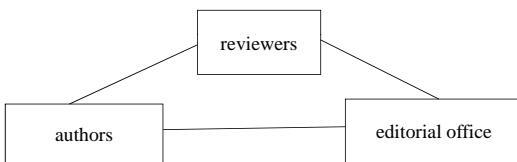
LECTURE OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Peer review: what is it?
- Process
- Variations
- Summary



INTRODUCTION

Important partners in the scientific
process & publication system



INTRODUCTION

Editor's role vis-à-vis reviewers

- Appoints and assigns reviewers
- Makes editorial decisions about fate of manuscripts
 - aided by reports of reviewers



EDITOR'S ROLE

Editorial decisions

- Grades review quality
- Manuscript fate
 - send for additional review
 - return to author



EDITOR'S ROLE

Editorial decisions

- Return manuscript to author
 - *reject
 - *ask for revision and/or re-review
 - accept subject to minor revisions
 - outright acceptance



PEER REVIEW

What is it?

- Evaluation of a manuscript by peers of authors (doctors/scientists working in same area of interest or sub/specialisation)
- Provide critical assessment of submitted manuscripts



REVIEW PROCESS

Value

- Important component of modern scientific publishing
- Helps editors make decision on whether manuscript is suitable for journal



PEER REVIEW

Value

- Improves quality of manuscript: affirmation of
 - soundness of study
 - credibility of results and conclusions



PEER REVIEW

Value

- Aids in gatekeeping of the knowledge pool
- Adopted by all major journals



PEER REVIEW

Process

- Usually 2-3 per manuscript
- Reviewers selected from database
- Check reviewer availability
- Instructions to reviewers
- Time deadline for review return



REVIEW PROCESS

Variations

- Online versus hardcopy review
- Open versus blinded review
- Author recommendation of reviewers
- Quality control of reviewers



REVIEW PROCESS

Variations in review types

- Double blinded
- Single blinded
 - reviewers know identity of authors
- Open
 - review process only
 - post-publication



SUMMARY

- Peer review system is adopted by all major journals
- Still the best way for quality control of material submitted
- Some variations exist

