

## Acknowledgement to referees 2013

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All scholarly work published in *Naturwissenschaften* has been subjected to rigorous peer review. Peer review is a tedious and often time-consuming process but essential for maintaining and developing high scientific standards. In 2013 alone, about 650 scientific peers from 44 countries volunteered their time to support the journal and science, and many have assisted in more than one case, for which I am highly grateful. Average time from submission to first decisions was 23 days in 2013, which is exceptionally fast and the result of peers' commitment to the process. Peer review is not always an enjoyable process, neither for authors nor for reviewers, but it does undoubtedly increase the quality of science and scientific publishing. On average, I seek the views of three independent referees and, in many cases, the journal's associate editors to provide additional report on manuscripts. Often, referees are willing to again assess revised work, which adds to the overall commitment to this process. Below is a list of the names of all colleagues who delivered a review in 2013, with the number of reviews in brackets if more than one. The information is derived from our online submission system; peers themselves mostly provide the information. Although this information should be correct, I would already like to apologise in case I have missed recognising the name of any referee. At the same time, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank my board of Associate Editors for their enormous support in the assessment of hundreds of manuscripts we receive each year.

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