FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

Peer Review at *JGIM*

Mitchell D. Feldman, MD, MPhil¹ and Richard L. Kravitz, MD, MSPH²

¹Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, CA, USA; ²Division of General Medicine, UC Davis, Sacramento, CA, USA.

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Scientific peer review is imperfect, and efforts to improve the process have had limited impact. For example, concealing reviewer or author identity, using a statistical checklist, or training referees has yielded mixed results at best.¹ However, until new approaches (e.g. post-publication review) are tried and evaluated, peer review remains the scientific community's primary mechanism for ensuring editorial quality and principal bulwark against error.

JGIM's approach to editorial review is not dissimilar from that employed by our peer publications. We use a three-stage process, and at each stage we ask of the research, “is it new, is it true, and will it change practice.” First, the co-editors in chief and senior associate editor evaluate manuscripts for fit and potential impact. Manuscripts that pass this initial bar are sent to a deputy editor for a secondary, in-depth review. A subset of these manuscripts are sent on for peer review.

We ask peer reviewers to do three things: first, identify scientific strengths and deficiencies; second, assess impact on the field of general internal medicine; and third, help authors convey their ideas with greater clarity. We are biased,

of course, but we think that as a group, *JGIM* peer reviewers are exceptionally conscientious at accomplishing these tasks. While we ask reviewers to make recommendations regarding acceptance, we are mindful of the unreliability of this process² and use these recommendations as only one element in what is ultimately an editorial decision. Many good papers are returned to authors with regrets, and no doubt we reject some potentially important and impactful work. Peer reviewers, editors, and the editorial process are all fallible. We are grateful to authors who continue to submit to the journal, hoping that we finally get it right.

JGIM would like to thank the many talented people who have volunteered their time to serve as peer reviewers for the journal over the past 12 months. In 2015–2016, 795 reviewers provided a total of 957 reviews with a mean quality score of 4.4 on a scale of 1–6 (as judged by our *JGIM* deputy editors). Of these, 154 provided at least two reviews, and 8 provided three or more. We are indebted to them for their service.

Among this group of dedicated peer reviewers, there is a group that stands out. These top peer reviewers performed at least two reviews between July 2015 and June 2016, returned all reviews within 30 days, and received a quality score of 4 or greater (out of a maximum score of 6) on all reviews. An asterisk identifies the 88 reviewers who meet these criteria. We congratulate them on their service to the academic community and thank them for their efforts on behalf of the journal.

JGIM Reviewers, 2015-2016

Acharya, Chathur*	Bautista, Christopher	Byrne, Sharon K.
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Ajani, Umed	Bellows, Jim	Carroll, Aaron
Al-Bawardy, Rasha	Berg, Kristin	Carron, Pierre-Nicolas
Alavi, Reza	Berger, Rebecca	Casalino, Lawrence
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Alkhiary, Wael	Beste, Lauren	Catlin, Jesse
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Andersen, Ulla Overgaard	Birken, Sarah	Chadaga, Smitha
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Anderson, Heather	Blackstock, Oni*	Chander, Geetanjali
Anderson, Mel*	Blank, Arthur*	Chapman, Susan*
Andrews, Jane	Bliton, Mark	Charat, Stacy*
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Appelle, Nicole	Bonn-Miller, Marcel	Chawla, Neetu
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Aron, David	Bonsall, Joanna	Chen, Kenneth
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Barnett, Michael	Burgess, James	Connelly, Maureen*
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Barry, Michael	Burkitt, Michael	Coronado, Gloria
Barterian, Linda	Buscemi, Joanna	Cosco, Dominique
Batal, Holly	Buttorff, Christine	Cosmi, Benilde
Bates, Katherine	Byers, Tim	Costa, Elisio
Bauer, Amy	Byhoff, Elena	Coughlin, Janelle

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Danis, Marion	Fischer, Gary	Grover, Michael
Danziger, Larry	Fischer, Michael	Gudzune, Kimberly
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Davis, Terry	Forrow, Lachlan	Gupta, Reshma
DavisGiardina, Traber	Foster, Lovie	Hagiwara, Nao
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Dennis, Ashley	Fox, Rena	Hall, Melinda
Depue, Judith*	Francis, Joseph*	Halladay, Jacqueline
Desai, Anish*	Frank, Maria	Han, Heeyoung
Devidi, Manjari	Franklin, Gary	Han, Wencui
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Englander, Honora	Goldman, Joanne	Huang, Alison

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Nassery, Najlla	Pauly, Nathan	Roland, Martin
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Nguyen, Tung	Phelan, Sean	Rudolf, Mary
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O'Malley, Ann	Podugu, Amareshwar	Sandberg, Shana
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O'Toole, Thomas	Prasad, Ramakrishna	Sargin, Gokhan
Obi, Engels	Prentice, Julia	Satterfield, Jason
Okafor, Chukwumeka	Prescott, Pamela	Schaepe, Karen
Olayiwola, J. Nwando	Prochazka, Allan	Scheunemann, Leslie
Opotowsky, Alexander	Qamar, Arman	Schiff, Gordon
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Singh, Mamta	Toomey, Sara	Williams, Winter
Singh, Siddhartha	Traino, Heather	Wilson, Calvin*
Sinsky, Christine	Tseng, Eva*	Wilson, Michael
Sittig, Dean	Tsilidis, Konstantinos	Windle, John
Skeldon, Sean	Tuepker, Anais*	Winnike, Allison
Smieliauskas, Fabrice*	Turner, Robin	Winter, Anke
Smith, Alexander	Ubel, Peter	Wittenberg, Eve
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Smith, Samuel	Ulmer, Christi	Woo, Hyeyoung
Smits, Niels	Uygur, Jane	Woodward-Hagg, Heather
Solberg, Leif	Vafaei, Afshin	Wu, Shin-Yi
Solimeo, Samantha	Valcour, Victor	Wu, Wen-Chih
SolomonCargill, Stephanie*	VanDenBroek, Sjoukje	Wunderink, Richard
Song, Mi-Kyung	VanSchaik, Sandriijn	Wyer, Peter
Song, Wei	Vance, David	Xu, Jiayun
Song, Zirui	Vassilakis, Athina	Yackel, Thomas
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Yamin, Cyrus*
Yellowlees, Peter
Yen, Irene

Young, Eric

Zeliadt, Steven

Zhu, Junya

Zikmund-Fisher, Brian

Zipkin, Daniella

Zisberg, Anna

Zivin, Kara

Zullo, Andrew*

*Superior Reviewer, defined as ≥ 2 reviews, quality score no lower than 4 of 6 on any single review, no review returned past 30 days

Corresponding Author: Mitchell D. Feldman, MD, MPhil; Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of California, 1545 Divisadero, San Francisco, CA 94143-0320, USA (e-mail: mfeldman@medicine.ucsf.edu).

Compliance with Ethical Standards:

Conflict of Interest: The authors report no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

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