New innovations in peer review: Open peer review, patient review, reviewer discussions
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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.

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
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


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

If academia ditches IF who needs journals?
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/

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
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.


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/

Publons: giving reviewers credit

https://publons.com/home/
Thank you

Questions?

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