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The Dark Side of Peer Review

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To Identify or Not To Identify? The Rift Widens

Debates surrounding anonymous versus eponymous peer review are some of the most polarised in scholarly communication. Speak to one researcher, and they will tell you stories of the wonderful collaborations they gained after signing a review. Speak to another, and you will elicit outrage as they tell a much darker tale of targeted abuse they suffered for the same practice. Different levels of bi-directional transparency during peer review mean very diverse things to different demographics, and consequentially have led to much resistance to the idea and implementation of any system of 'open peer review.' Challenges surrounding reviewer transparency are invariably social rather than technical. This is because transparency is strongly coupled to behaviour and also to the perception of how behaviours will change based on reciprocal identification.

Proponents of double-blind peer review claim that it was designed to protect reviewers and authors so that evaluation remains impartial and focussed on the research, rather than being *ad hominem*. Here, the lack of transparency is supposed to protect reviewers from potential backlashes for fully expressing themselves and increase the honesty of their assessments. However, it is rarely that simple in reality, and reciprocal anonymity can be difficult to protect. There are ways in which identities can be revealed, either with or without malicious intent. Those who favour anonymity claim that identification leads to less critical and skewed reviews, is biased by community selectivity, and leads to reviewers being even stricter within an already conservative environment, thus imposing further potential impediments to the publication of research.

In the case of traditional single-blind review, opponents claim that anonymity can lead to reviewers being more aggressive, biased, and politicised in their language than they otherwise would be. This is because there are no negative repercussions for their actions, and therefore anonymity is seen to be protective in a different manner. Proponents of identification therefore claim it has the potential to encourage increased civility, accountability, and more thoughtful reviews, as well as extending the process to become more of an ongoing, community-driven dialogue rather than a singular event with a definitive finality. Furthermore, by protecting the identity of reviewers, an aspect of the prestige, quality, and validation associated with the review process is lost, leaving researchers to speculate on this post-publication. Transparency gained from signing peer reviews can resolve competition and conflicts that can potentially arise due to the fact that referees are often the closest competitors to the authors, as they will naturally tend to be the most competent to assess the research.

A process in which reviewers are identified but the authors are not may seem the 'middle ground,' but imposes a skew in accountability upon the reviewers, while authors remain relatively protected from any potential prejudices against them. Justification for this 'single blind' process lies in the validation that transparency provides, as any corruption should be mitigated due to the additional exposure resulting from transparency.

This brief summary of the arguments for and against transparency in peer review highlights its often overlapping, and sometimes conflicting, nature, and it remains inherently unclear whether transparency is objectively good or bad.

What Does the Research Say?

Research has shown that the philosophical debates surrounding identification are strongly reflected in the attitudes of researchers. Some studies have highlighted an overwhelming preference towards blinding from reviewers from some research communities.[1,2] Others have found that where the majority of reviewers signed their reviews or were more willing to do so, they also became of higher quality and more courteous, although also took longer to complete.[3,4] Randomised trials have found that blinding reviewers to authors' identities improves the quality of reviews, and that authors become less upset by negative comments if they are aware of the identity of reviewers.[5] Other randomised trials at a larger scale found almost the exact opposite, that blinding reviewers has no bearing on the overall quality of reviews,[6] and even sometimes having a negative impact on quality.[7] The majority of evidence suggests that anonymity has little impact on the quality or speed of the review or on acceptance rates,[8-10] but revealing the identity of reviewers may lower the likelihood that someone will accept an invitation to review.[8]

This small sample from a range of population-level studies into identification preferences exposes a rather complex, and incomplete, picture. They have produced different, and often conflicting, results on the impact of author and reviewer transparency on bias, ultimately creating little overall consensus on the system-wide practice of peer review. What is becoming increasingly clear is that simple calls for 'more transparency' or 'less transparency' end up oversimplifying an inherently complex, multi-dimensional, and often highly nuanced issue. It is, however, inescapable to conclude from the polarisation of the discussions around peer review that it is anything but objective, rarely impartial or evidence-based, and definitely not as simple as we often regard it to be.

The Interplay of Transparency and Bias

Reviewer identification is not to be taken lightly, with a general attitude of conservatism to it by the research community, as it comes up as the most prominent resistance factor in almost every discussion about open peer review. Junior researchers and those in positions of relatively less power, including demographics that are already marginalised or under-represented, in particular, are perhaps the most conservative in this area. They may be afraid that by signing overly critical reviews (*i.e.*, those which investigate the research more thoroughly, or are more expressive) they will become targets for retaliatory backlashes from more senior researchers. In this case, the justification for reviewer identification is to protect those demographics from bad behaviour.

There have also been numerous studies that have revealed bias against women in scholarly publishing to varying degrees,[11-18] indicative of wider-scale issues with the representation of women in research.[19] However, at present, there is no consistent story as to the extent of such bias, as well as that based on nationality, institute, or language, in a modern research environment.[20] There is no longer the question of whether peer review is biased but what these dimensions of bias are, what the causes of them appear to be, and what solutions we can implement to mitigate them.

Transparency as a Mechanism for a Better Scholarly Culture

Through all of this debate, it remains largely unclear how the widely exclaimed but poorly documented potential abuse of signed reviews, and harassment of particular demographics, is notably different from what exists in a closed system. At least part of this is probably because such retaliatory behaviour occurs in private. Such is probably the main reason why this abuse has not formally been documented as a direct consequence of reviewer identification. Proponents of identification here will claim that the reason for this is because reviewing with prior knowledge of identification prevents backlashes of any sort as reviewers do not want to tarnish their reputation in public. Indeed, publishers that have long had a process of reviewer identification, such as *BioMed Central* and *Frontiers*, do not seem to be suffering from serial harassers, but rather appear to be thriving. Nonetheless, the attitudes of many researchers towards reviewer identification suggest that there is still a strong social stigma associated with it that needs addressing.

In an ideal peer-review system, we would hope that strong, honest, and constructive criticism is well received by researchers. Yet, it seems that there is the very real perception, and often reality, that this is not the case. Whatever form the negative behaviour takes, retaliations against referees represent serious cases of academic misconduct. We need to be absolutely clear though that this is not a direct consequence of reviewer identification, but rather that transparency facilitates it. However, taking a step back, we should recognise that this is more about a failure of the academic system to recognise the existence of inappropriate behaviour and take action against it, rather than a failure of open peer review.

What we should be mindful of is the fact that bias and negative behaviour already occur as part of the peer-review system, including for double-blind peer review, despite generally being considered as more conservative or protective. This suggests that bias is a more general issue within peer review and academia more broadly, and we should be careful not to attribute it exclusively to any particular mode or trait of peer review. Increased transparency helps to highlight where such incidents happen and can therefore aid mitigating and tackling the potential issues of misconduct. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) already provides advice to editors on how to handle cases of peer-review misconduct. COPE could be extended to provide the basis for developing a formal mechanism for preventing, managing, and resolving misconduct that arises from reviewer identification. This highlights the doubled-edged sword that transparency brings by facilitating increased interaction, some of which might be negative, but then also providing the basis for dealing with any issues. Furthermore, in a closed system, it is much more difficult to prevent or deal with cases of misconduct due to the secrecy involved in the process.

If the main purpose of transparency as a mechanism is accountability, then we have to first recognise that this is almost entirely absent at present, and secondly that it will not result from the process naturally. Accountability has to be built into the structure of the peer-review system, which means that when issues and concerns are raised then they are sufficiently dealt with. This will be an extremely important social factor to consider in any future development of peer review, and one which can ultimately be used to foster a fairer, more inclusive, and equitable system of peer review. Any future system should be flexible and allow referees to have the choice of identification.

The fact remains that we cannot have calls for increased transparency in peer review without first providing solutions for the perceived risks associated with it. In turn, we cannot perform any sort of evidence-based risk assessment, as much of the process still remains concealed by the 'black box' of peer review. In the future, by emphasising both the different and common values across research communities, it is likely that we will see a new diversity of processes developed and different experimentations with reviewer transparency. Remaining ignorant of the existing diversity of practices and inherent biases in peer review, as both social and physical processes, would be an unwise approach for future innovations.

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ARTICLE

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Drawing Back the Curtain on Peer Review

By Tom Culley
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The unrelenting pressure to publish new research is harming human progress. While science and research have the potential to tackle the most pressing problems we face, we undermine their potential through a skewed system that is fracturing people's trust in peer-reviewed research.

The incentive structures for researchers are egregiously skewed toward publishing at nearly any cost, so we really shouldn't be surprised with the recent cases[1-3] of fraudulent peer review and subsequent article retractions. Researchers' deep reliance on the number of citations they can accrue to secure career progression and funding creates a climate that fosters temptation to fudge results, ignore inconvenient data, and slice submissions into as many 'novel' publications as possible.

So what can the community do to keep up with increasing submission rates, combat research fraud, and restore the trust in science? At the heart of the problem is peer review, and in line with the theme for this year's Peer Review Week, greater transparency.

Peer Review: A Pillar of Research Quality and Integrity Under Stress

Peer review—the quality-control system introduced by the Royal Society's *Philosophical Transactions* in the eighteenth century—has become ingrained in scholarly communication. The review process consists of experts being commissioned by an editor—often anonymously and almost always unpaid—to cross-examine a research manuscript, look for flaws, and recommend improvements. While the peer-review process isn't perfect, it is still widely considered a pillar of research quality and integrity.

But as we move into a more connected and productive world, publishing volumes are growing rapidly and demand on reviewers is increasing. With reviewer demand soaring, supply needs to keep pace. If not, the system clogs up and mistakes are made, ultimately fracturing our trust in the research enterprise and putting the brakes on discovery.

Symptoms of a peer-review system under stress are showing. Instances of research or reviewer fraud and subsequent retractions are more common. Even when the research is legitimate, it's slow. The average publication time for a peer-reviewed article is hovering around six months, sometimes dragging out to a year.[4] But we can bring greater trust and efficiency to scholarly communication, and the essential first step is through greater transparency of peer review.

Revealing and Rewarding Reviewer Workload

For us, greater transparency in peer review means accurately understanding the distribution of the peer-review effort. While most people focus on double- and single-blind review policies (which do warrant attention and analysis) the more basic issue of simply understanding global demand and supply of peer review goes overlooked. If we want to bring greater trust and efficiency to research, we need to strengthen peer review. This requires us to properly recognise and reward the reviewers, but to recognise reviewers, we have to know who they are and how much they do.

Attempts have been made to forecast the global reviewing burden and determine who is bearing it. But the reality is, no one actually knows who is performing reviews, where they come from, how much they do, how long it takes, and, least of all, how to adequately recognise and reward their efforts.

The lack of data about peer-review outputs is largely a legacy issue. Anonymous peer-review policies meant there was no easy way to accurately measure and contextualize review outputs for fear of compromising reviewer or author identities. Fortunately, technology such as Publons now provides a way to capture and contextualise individual reviewing contributions in real time without compromising any sensitive information. Now that we can capture the information, what can and should we do with it?

Safeguarding Science: Understanding and Incentivising Peer Review

As an essential first step, we can finally build an accurate understanding of the global peer-review burden. Previous forecasts have estimated that some four million scholars spend roughly 35 million hours peer reviewing article submissions each year.[5] But forecasts aren't actuals. More precisely, we don't know the distribution of the effort. With an accurate, real-time, and granular understanding of peer-review outputs, we can identify gaps and target our response to ensure the reviewing system is equitable and keeps pace with article submissions.

Whatever the actual numbers, it is clear that a remarkable amount of researcher time and effort is spent reviewing—all for little or no recognition. By revealing who is doing the work and putting it in context, we garner a better understanding of how the system works and where the gaps are. We can then provide a way for those doing the lion's share to be properly recognised for their vital contributions.

Finally, we must complement recognition with reward. Incentives matter. Researchers will ultimately do what's necessary to advance their careers and secure funding. We need to match the enormous incentives for publishing with incentives for evaluating and reviewing research. This means it is critical that tenure and grant committees consider researchers for their expertise as reviewers (amongst other things), not just as manuscript machines.

The great news is, not only is all of this possible, it's starting to happen. We see it here at Publons every day, with over 180,000 researchers now tracking their reviewing efforts and thousands more signing up every week. We hear from tenure committees all over the globe telling us how applicants are including their verified peer review and editorial records in applications, helping assessors to see the full picture of researcher outputs and esteem.

Initiatives like Peer Review Week are helping too—creating a platform for important dialogue about issues like transparency in peer review. So join us in drawing back the curtain on peer review this Peer Review Week. Whatever your position on transparency, we can all agree on trying to deliver more trustworthy research to the world, faster.

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Peers in Review: Introducing the Asian Council of Science Editors (ACSE)

By Nida Mohsin
ACSE Coordinator

Publications of scientific research have an immense responsibility toward the community. This responsibility has been uniformly recognized within the scientific publishing communities in developed nations; however, in Asia, the situation is different. The pressure to publish is intense in Asian countries, where researchers and journals struggle to meet international publication standards, increase the discoverability of their research, or adapt to global publication trends. Recognizing the need to establish an organization that can help editors in Asia, the Asian Council of Science Editors (ACSE) was formally established by a group of volunteer publishing professionals in early 2013.

The ACSE has now become a motivating and interesting meeting place that welcomes all stakeholders of the Asian scientific publishing community and has marked its distinction as, first and foremost, the largest not-for-profit organization in Asia for the scholarly publishing community. It was developed with a mission to provide a unified and active platform for Asian editors and scholars where they can better understand their editorial problems, learn about the solutions, and take up the future challenges to enhance the quality of Asian scientific and scholarly publications. Through providing several learning and networking opportunities for its members in the four years since its establishment, ACSE has successfully connected 4,500-plus editors and researchers. It has been continuously engaged in promoting the best practices in scholarly publishing through its unique programs.

One strong pillar of ACSE programs is its Annual Conference, which is organized each year in August. It is a combination of short courses, learning sessions, and keynote presentations by international industry experts and consultants. The ACSE Editors Café has also received tremendous response from the scholarly publishing communities in different Asian countries. It has made networking and learning more convenient than any other event, as editors meet in an informal setting and spend a day with their peers. Along with other educational opportunities, the ACSE has recently launched its Mentorship Program for its members. The program objective is to connect members of ACSE for the purposes of professional development, information exchange, networking, personal growth, and career advancement.

The ACSE is governed by a Board of Directors whose volunteers are elected by the council's membership.

The council has eight standing committees that are established for different operations, including education, networking, membership, communication, program, training, and mentorship.

The ACSE works with a strong focus to establish industrial partnerships and collaborations with many societies and associations including ISMTE, ISMPP, EASE, EAC, DOAJ, and ORCID. Along with this, ACSE also strives to enhance its members' knowledge by inviting leading industries that provide publishing solutions on different platforms to become partners. The ACSE industry partners include Editage, Aries, Crossref, and Knowledge E. Moreover, the ACSE has registered itself as a member of ALPSP, COPE, and Crossref to seek better opportunities to learn from these organizations. The council hopes to create a better and promising learning environment for all its stakeholders in the future in collaboration with all its peer organizations and industry partners.

The ACSE feels grateful to the ISMTE for its ongoing support in the form of a long-term strategic collaboration and appreciates this opportunity to introduce this council to the world through *EON*'s "Peers in Review" column.

Save the Date! Peer Review Week 2017

This year's Peer Review Week will be held **September 11 to 17** and will focus on the topic of transparency. Join the conversation and help promote Peer Review Week on social media by using the hashtags #PeerRevWk17 and #TransparencyinReview. Submit ideas and resources to the Peer Review Week committee to make sure your journal, organization, or institution is represented during Peer Review Week. Find the latest information and resources at www.peerreviewweek.org.

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Strategies for Implementing New Policies

By Sharon L. Quimby
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Neurology Clinical Practice
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In the protean world of journal publishing, new policy development and changes to existing policies are a constant. There is pressure to keep pace with industry standards, stay ahead of quickly evolving funding body mandates, and operationalize editorial leadership initiatives. Emerging technologies like plagiarism detection software, *e.g.*, iThenticate, allow journals to screen submissions for duplicate publication. Authors required by funders to publish their work under a specified open access license need assurance that the journal and publisher are equipped to facilitate. New editorial leadership may seek to redefine authorship criteria, enhance disclosure requirements, or aim for standardization of figures.

While we endeavor to get everything right the first time around, that isn't always realistic or even feasible. Oftentimes, a new policy needs to be in place for some time to solicit feedback and make sensible data-driven changes. Revising existing policies can be equally fraught with pitfalls. From initial considerations to developing best practices, input from colleagues internal and external to one's organization is invaluable. Essential discussion and collaboration are needed to implement, operationalize, and communicate new policies to all stakeholders.

Considerations in Implementing a New Policy or Policy Change

1. How are other organizations handling the policy? What, if any, is the industry standard?

Thankfully, journal publishing is rife with resources. ISMTE provides the opportunity for peer-to-peer conversations surrounding best practices and development of journal policy. The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) provides a forum to discuss all aspects of research and publication ethics. The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) provides wide-ranging recommendations for standardizing the ethics, preparation, and formatting of manuscripts. Examine other journals' Information for Authors, and ask your publishing partners for input based on their experience with other customers.

2. How will the policy be operationalized and enforced? What are the rules? Who will be the gatekeepers?

Enlist key staff to brainstorm how best to incorporate a new policy into the existing workflow. Determine whether there are potential deal-breakers that would prevent a manuscript from moving forward and identify those responsible for ensuring compliance. Examine whether development work may be required by publishing partners and determine cost/lead time that may be involved. Establish a clear process that avoids duplication of efforts while building in checks and balances. Once a process has been fine-tuned, devise/update best practices that deliver efficiency and result in stellar customer service.

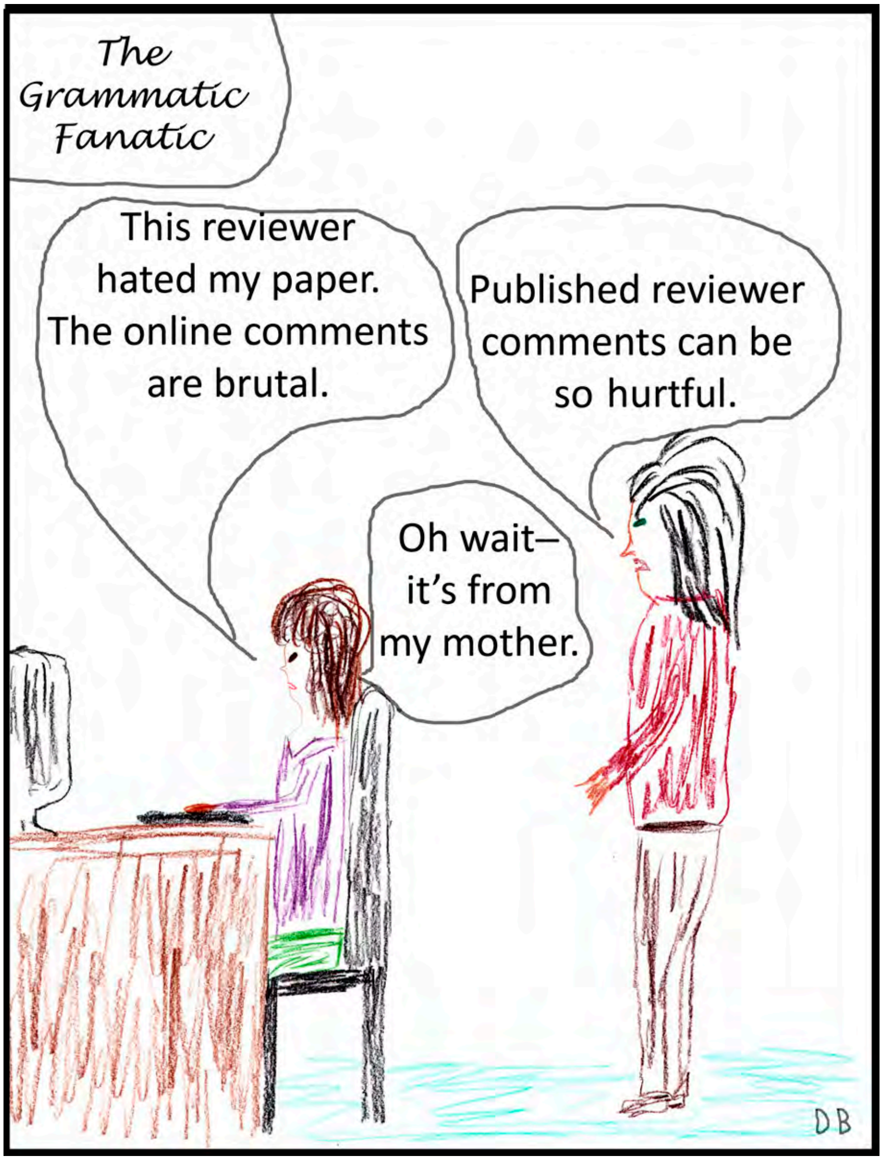
3. How best can we communicate the new or revised policy? How can we make the transition as seamless as possible?

Adopt a cooperative rather than adversarial stance/tone. In many instances, we're educating our authors about new channels they must navigate—usually involving more work on their part. In general, assuming positive intent and a "we're all in this together" mentality will go far in cultivating positive relationships with authors. Where possible, emphasize how a new policy is beneficial to them. Some tips to consider:

- Update the Information for Authors well in advance of enforcement of the new policy.
- Call attention to recent updates so they are easy to find and include dates that policies take effect.
- Add language to manuscript upload screens and link to relevant passages in the Information for Authors.
- Whenever possible, ensure that submitters are not navigated away from the submission site and that their work is auto-saved.
- Revise email templates, keeping in mind that the shorter the correspondence, the more likely to be read.

- Use HTML functionality (where possible) to link to relevant information and highlight important additions.
- Remember to edit auto-emails; for example, if you change timing for completion of required forms, ensure that auto-reminders do not reflect previous policy.
- If your policy departs from established industry standards, *e.g.*, ICMJE recommendations, clearly delineate the differences.
- Wherever possible, recognize language barriers and avoid convoluted language.

Ultimately, it is the mission of the editorial office staff to make policy transitions as seamless and painless as possible for authors, reviewers, and editors. We need to ensure that submission, review, and publication processes run smoothly so that authors are keen on submitting work to our journals. This is especially imperative for new journals that may not have the built-in prestige to maintain a healthy author base regardless. Attending professional meetings and participating in industry webinars help us stay on the vanguard to embrace emerging technologies, uphold the highest research and ethical standards, thwart predatory threats, and provide outstanding value to our authors and readers.



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Tools of the Trade: Free Resources That Can Make Your Job Easier

Reported by Brittany Swett
J&J Editorial

On Friday, March 17, the Research Triangle Park ISMTE local group convened with a lightning round of local editors sharing the tips and tools that make their jobs a little bit easier. The highlights of this meeting are included below.

Dropbox is a cloud-based, document-sharing resource that many of us use. You can access your Dropbox files via the company's website, or download the app to your desktop so that you have constant access to your Dropbox files without the need to log in. This allows you to open, edit, and save files without having to download or upload files from the website. There are numerous potential benefits of using cloud-based file management in the journal editorial-support world. Some editors like to read and edit manuscripts while they travel, sometimes in areas with limited internet access. Manuscript files or proofs can easily be downloaded from content management systems to Dropbox so that editors can easily access the files from their own laptops during travel. Once the files are finalized, they can let their support team know to grab the article and load it back into the system. Dropbox is also helpful for version control when multiple editors want to directly edit a manuscript. Everyone can access the file via Dropbox and make and save edits. Another benefit of Dropbox is sharing tracking sheets. If your journal uses, for example, an Excel file for tracking manuscript lineups or the status of multiple ongoing projects where multiple stakeholders need to update the content, Dropbox is a great option.

- Aidan Herbolich, Research Square

Toggl is a free software that allows members to keep track of the amount of time they spend working on, or with, different clients, tasks, and projects with the simple click of a button. Users can opt to utilize the start/stop button when tracking time, or they can manually enter their time. However, remembering to enter your time if you're offline is not an issue with this software, as Toggl's timer is synchronized in real-time via a cloud service, so it is always tracking and will re-sync whenever a user reconnects to the internet. Toggl allows users to indicate which tasks are billable versus which are not and offers a wide variety of reports and reporting methods. Users can pull PDF and CSV reports using the free version, or you can pay $5 a month for the ability to pull Excel reports and round the time spent. Toggl offers weekly, detailed, and summarized reports that can be customized based on the specific client, task, or project the user has detailed in their account. Though each account is individualized, Toggl is set up to accommodate time-management and reporting for teams as well.

- Lauren Bragg, J&J Editorial

Slack is a user-friendly, real-time messaging app for large and small businesses that easily integrates with dozens of external services. Slack works like traditional messaging apps that you may have used in the past, with added functionality like the option to create user-defined channels where you can message a group of contacts. Integrations with external services provide multiple ways for individuals and teams to be more productive and bring all your communication together in one place. For example, you can link your journal Twitter account to a channel in your team's Slack app, so you can view all Twitter activity through Slack. Using public and private channels, it offers built-in internal and external sharing options, so you can get and share files with anyone. Important files or pieces of conversations can be pinned for easy discovery and access long after the conversation is over. The paid version has unlimited searchable message archives (the free version limits you to the last 10,000 messages), advanced search, filters, and sorting that make it simple to find and access exactly what you need. Slack apps are available on just about all platforms, so it can keep you in touch with your teams from any computer or mobile device.

- Torraine Williams, Research Square

Worldtimebuddy.com is a simple, easy-to-use site that allows you to feel confident in arranging calls or meetings across multiple time zones. The free site allows you to select up to four world locations with timelines graphically presented, so you can easily see what times in various time zones correspond to the meeting you want to schedule in your time zone. There is also a feature to show the times in military time or a combination of 12-hour clock and military, depending on the style used in the city you have selected. Daylight savings changes are automatically integrated into the site's calendar, so you don't have to worry about checking when British Summer Time kicks in or when Daylight Savings time is in effect in various parts of the US.

- Brittany Swett, J&J Editorial

Email tagging is a helpful method to manage a busy inbox. Color tags can be used to prioritize and filter messages, as well as to identify items that are awaiting responses. Most email services (including Gmail, Outlook, and Thunderbird) allow users to create and manage their own tags.

- Sarah Forgeng, *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*

Google Keep is a free notepad app that connects to your Google Drive. It is a straightforward way to create to-do lists, shareable notes, and set reminders that are saved to Google Drive so you can access them from any web-connected device you use to manage your Google apps. You can organize notes by color and create hierarchies by pinning the most important notes to the top of the note of the screen. Notes with the same label are linked together and can be viewed as a group apart from the rest of your notes. You can also use this app to set reminders to yourself about upcoming deadlines or meetings; at the indicated time, a notification will appear on your browser or mobile device.

- Meaghan Kelly, J&J Editorial

Asana is a tool that helps teams manage projects from start to finish. It's the easiest way to break down goals and ideas into actionable tasks, assign that work to teammates, and communicate to move projects forward. It's free to use, simple to get started, and powerful enough to run your entire business. Asana has a calendar function to help track due dates, lists where tasks accomplished can be checked off, the ability to share project timelines and tasks with a team, and more.

- Elizabeth Blalock, *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*

Register now:

What should journals do in the wake of predatory journals?

Saturday, September 9th, 2017
1:30PM-5:00PM
Swissotel, Chicago, USA

Can you trust what you read? Can you trust where you read it? The Centre for Journalology and ISMTE are pleased to announce a session focusing on the phenomenon of potentially illegitimate and predatory publications. This session presents evidence-based criteria for distinguishing predatory entities and discusses journal standards, legitimacy, and transparency. Concerns about the validity of research published in predatory journals accompany a fear that these titles are little more than scams. Equally, that perfectly good research may have been published by these so-called journals is concerning. Yet, it seems impossible to discern whether and how they apply peer review to the papers they publish. Our session calls for universally higher journal standards and demands fully transparent implementation of such standards. Visit our website for more information or to register today!

Committee Update:

Partnerships with Peer Organizations

By Meghan McDevitt
Managing Editor
The Journal of Pediatrics

As a focus area, Partnerships with Peer Organizations aims to develop and maintain relationships with similar groups in the international scholarly publishing sphere. Connecting with other organizations brings visibility to the ISMTE and promotes the Society as a willing and engaged participant in the community. It also provides additional member benefits such as discounted registration rates at conferences and events run by our peer organizations. The Community Calendar is updated regularly and features industry events around the globe that might be of interest to ISMTE members. Additionally, you can read about related organizations in *EON*'s Peers in Review column. In this issue, you can learn about the Asian Council of Science Editors on page 7.

The ISMTE is proud to be an organizing member of Peer Review Week 2017, which takes place September 11-17. We hope that you will take part in all of the Peer Review Week activities, and join the conversation on social media by following @PeerRevWeek and using the hashtags #PeerRevWk17 and #TransparencyinReview.

We are looking for volunteers to join the Partnerships with Peer Organizations focus area! If you are interested in helping to spread awareness of the ISMTE and promote the Society as a voice within the industry, please contact Meghan McDevitt at meghanmcdevitt@outlook.com.

ISMTE Upcoming Conferences

From the Forum

Have you checked out what's new with the ISMTE Discussion Forum? The Forum is now available to all registered ISMTE members through email. To have access you must be an ISMTE member and subscribe to the Discussion Forum. Click here for our new instructions and guidelines.

How to Subscribe to the Discussion Forum

Visit: http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/listinfo/ismte or email info@ISMTE.org.

How to Send a Message and Respond to Messages

To send a message, all you have to do is send an email to the Discussion Forum email address (ismte@listserve.com); this will then forward to everyone who is subscribed to the Discussion Forum.

The default reply is set up to go directly to the message sender. If you would like to have the whole list see your answer, please add the Discussion Forum email list to your reply email (ismte@listserve.com).

You will receive Discussion Forum email in real time. To change to the weekly digest, visit http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/options/ismte.

References Within Messages

Citations to reports, free links, or other open access content are extremely helpful, so if you can readily include them, please do so. Otherwise, we appreciate as much information as you can give us about how to obtain materials. You can also paste the information you are citing in the text or attach it. Please use your best judgment about how to share the information with your colleagues.

Attachments

If you are attaching a document or a spreadsheet, please use a standard format such as Microsoft Word or Excel. Adobe PDFs are a good choice as well.

Message Archives

You can view the message archives through the Discussion Forum system, http://mailman.listserve.com/listmanager/private/ismte/. These archives are searchable by date, thread, and keywords. The archives in this system start from August 1, 2017.

To view the archives prior to August 1, 2017, click here. You will need to sign in with your ISMTE membership information to get access to this area of the website.

Calendar of Events

Asia Pacific Meeting of ISMPP
September 5, 2017
Tokyo, Japan
http://www.ismpp.org/

8th International Congress on Peer Review and Scientific Publication
September 10-12, 2017
Chicago, Illinois, USA
www.peerreviewcongress.org

ALPSP Conference and Awards
September 13-15, 2017
Noordwijk, the Netherlands
http://www.alpsp.org/

8th IPEd National Editors Conference
September 13-15, 2017
Brisbane, Australia
http://iped-editors.org/

12th Annual Be a Better Freelancer® Conference
September 15-16, 2017
Rochester, New York, USA
www.communication-central.com

SfEP AGM and 28th Annual Conference
September 16-18, 2017
Wyboston Lakes, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom
https://www.sfep.org.uk/

STM Frankfurt Conference 2017
October 10, 2017
Frankfurt, Germany
http://www.stm-assoc.org/events/

Mediterranean Editors & Translators Meeting 2017
October 26-28, 2017
Brescia, Italy
http://www.metmeetings.org/

ISMTE European Conference
November 9-10, 2017
London, England
www.ismte.org
EASE members receive ISMTE member registration rate

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ISMTE Editorial Office News

A note on English: ISMTE aims to be a truly international society. English will represent our lingua franca, but we would like to stress that, in materials published in EON or online, variations in idiomatic usage and spelling should reflect the origins of the author. No one version of English is preferred over the other.

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