TRANSPARENCY IN PEER REVIEW

Eva Amsen, PhD
Outreach Director, *F1000Research*

Open Access conference, Bern, May 19, 2014

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FACULTY OF 1000

F1000Prime

Directory of recommendations of the best research in biology and medicine from a faculty of global experts.

(Launched 2002)

F1000Research

Open science journal for life scientists that offers rapid publication and transparent peer review.

(Launched 2012)

F1000Posters

Open access repository for posters and slide presentations in biology and medicine that is free to view and deposit

(Launched 2010)

WHAT IS *F1000RESEARCH*?

F1000Research is an open science journal for life scientists, launched in January 2013

Key features:

- All data included
- Accepts all sound science
- Publication within a week
- **Transparent, post-publication peer review by invited referees**

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F1000Research has a prestigious international Advisory Board of more than 1300 of the most eminent names in biology and medicine, **including the following from Switzerland:**

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The Seer of Science Publishing

Vitek Tracz was ahead of the pack on open access. Now he wants to rewrite the rules of peer review

LONDON—"Nobody reads journals," says science publisher Vitek Tracz, who has made a fortune from journals. "People read papers." Tracz sees a grim future for what has been the mainstay of scientific communication, the peer-reviewed print journal. Within the next 10 years, he says, it will cease to exist.

This prophecy ought to carry weight. Over the past 3 decades, Tracz, chairman of a conglomerate called the Science Navigation Group, has helped transform the world of science publishing. His most notable creation to date may be BioMed Central, the first for-profit open-access publisher. The pioneering site, founded in 2000 in London, has grown into an empire with more than 250 biology and medicine journals in its stable.

BioMed Central earned Tracz a reputation as a visionary. "He's one of the most important publishers of the last decade," says Michael Eisen, a biologist at the University of California, Berkeley, and co-founder of the Public Library of Science (PLOS), a nonprofit open-access publisher that launched its first journal in 2003.

Tracz "always has many irons on the fire; he likes to experiment. That's unlike the rest of science publishers who are quite conservative and work on standardizing, consolidating, and reducing costs," says Matthew Cockerill, managing director of BioMed Central, which Tracz sold in 2008. By contrast, he says, "Vitek doesn't believe in business plans, but in ideas."

Now, the revolutionary, who calls himself "shy" and "un-neat," is stirring up what could become one of the biggest controversies yet in scientific publishing. Tracz is setting out to shake the very foundations of contemporary science by abolishing anonymous peer review.

Michelin Guide of science

Tracz was born in 1940 in a Polish village then occupied by the Soviet Union, and soon afterward his family joined relatives in Siberia, where his father worked in a mine. After the war they made it back to Poland, where Tracz, as an undergraduate at the University of Warsaw, tried his hand at architecture for a year and then switched to mathematics. Before he completed his degree, Tracz's family emigrated to Israel, where he continued his math studies. A year later, he moved to London and studied cinematography at the Slade School of Art. He put down roots and launched Medi-Cine, a company that made educational films for medical doctors. His enthusiasm for filmmaking soon waned, however. Tracz sold Medi-Cine and started up Gower Medical Publishing, which printed full-color medical atlases (at a time when most textbooks were in black and white) and assembled slide collections for lecturers.

Tracz grew bored of textbooks, too. In the early 1980s, he saw an opportunity to create something truly novel. That was the *Current Opinion* journals, publications that offer comprehensive reviews in biology and medicine. Tracz likens them to "Michelin Guides": "There is a problem with the quantity of literature, just like with the quantity of restaurants available out there. You need some [expert] advice and selection, especially when you're outside your territory," he says. He later sold *Current Opinion*'s biology journals to Elsevier, and its clinical journals to Rapid Communications of Oxford, which became part of Thomson.

Tracz was quick to grasp how the rise of the Internet in the 1990s could transform scientific communication. In 1996, he launched BioMedNet, an online club for biomedical researchers that included a library of scientific papers and a news service called HMS Beagle, named after the ship that Charles Darwin sailed on to South America. "We had a community of 1 million scientists, biologists, and doctors. It was incredibly popular," Tracz recalls. Two years later, at the height of BioMedNet's popularity, Tracz sold the site for an undisclosed sum to publishing giant Elsevier, which closed the site in 2004.

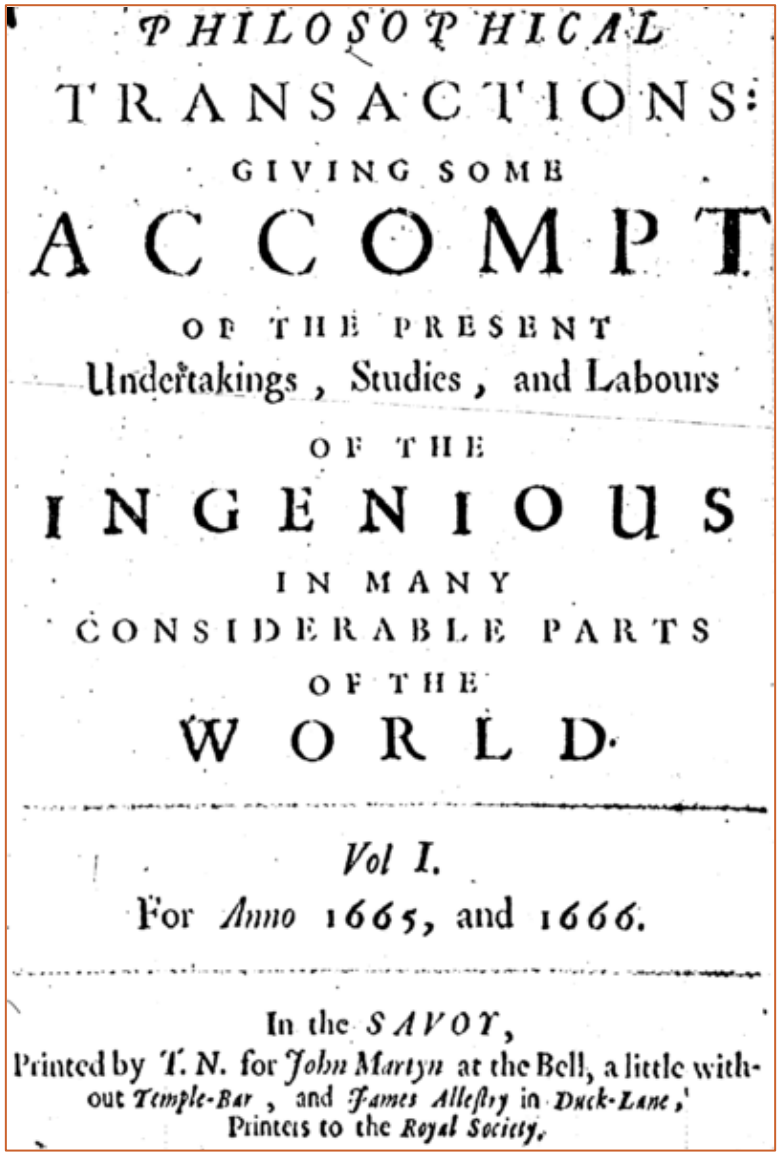
CREDIT: EVA PONG

Published by AAAS

CHANGES IN PEER REVIEW

PUBLISHING AND PEER REVIEW

- First scientific journals were not peer reviewed.
- Peer review was introduced later, and developed as a method to select what is fit to print in limited available space.
- Journals as gatekeepers.
- Current popular system of peer review dates from mid-twentieth century.



PHILOSOPHICAL
TRANSACTIONS:
GIVING SOME
ACCOMPT
OF THE PRESENT
Undertakings, Studies, and Labours
OF THE
INGENIOUS
IN MANY
CONSIDERABLE PARTS
OF THE
WORLD.

Vol I.
For *Anno* 1665, and 1666.

In the *SAVOY*,
Printed by *T. N.* for *John Martyn* at the Bell, a little without *Temple-Bar*, and *James Allestry* in *Duck-Lane*,
Printers to the *Royal Society*.

CURRENT STATE OF PEER REVIEW (AS REFLECTED BY A TWITTER HASHTAG)

Dean Burnett
@garwboy

"I've researched this. So you shouldn't". #SixWordPeerReview

10:28 AM - 22 Jan 2014

Spiny Norman
@threadtangler

Taking my time. Love, your Competitor. #SixWordPeerReview

7:48 PM - 21 Jan 2014

Killian Hanlon
@Killianhmmm

Do Western blots of everything, please #SixWordPeerReview

10:27 AM - 22 Jan 2014

Oliver Robinson
@olijrobinson

Minor comment: add 100 fMRI subjects. #SixWordPeerReview

11:54 AM - 22 Jan 2014

Matthew R. Francis
@DrMRFrancis

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7:37 PM - 21 Jan 2014

My T Chondria
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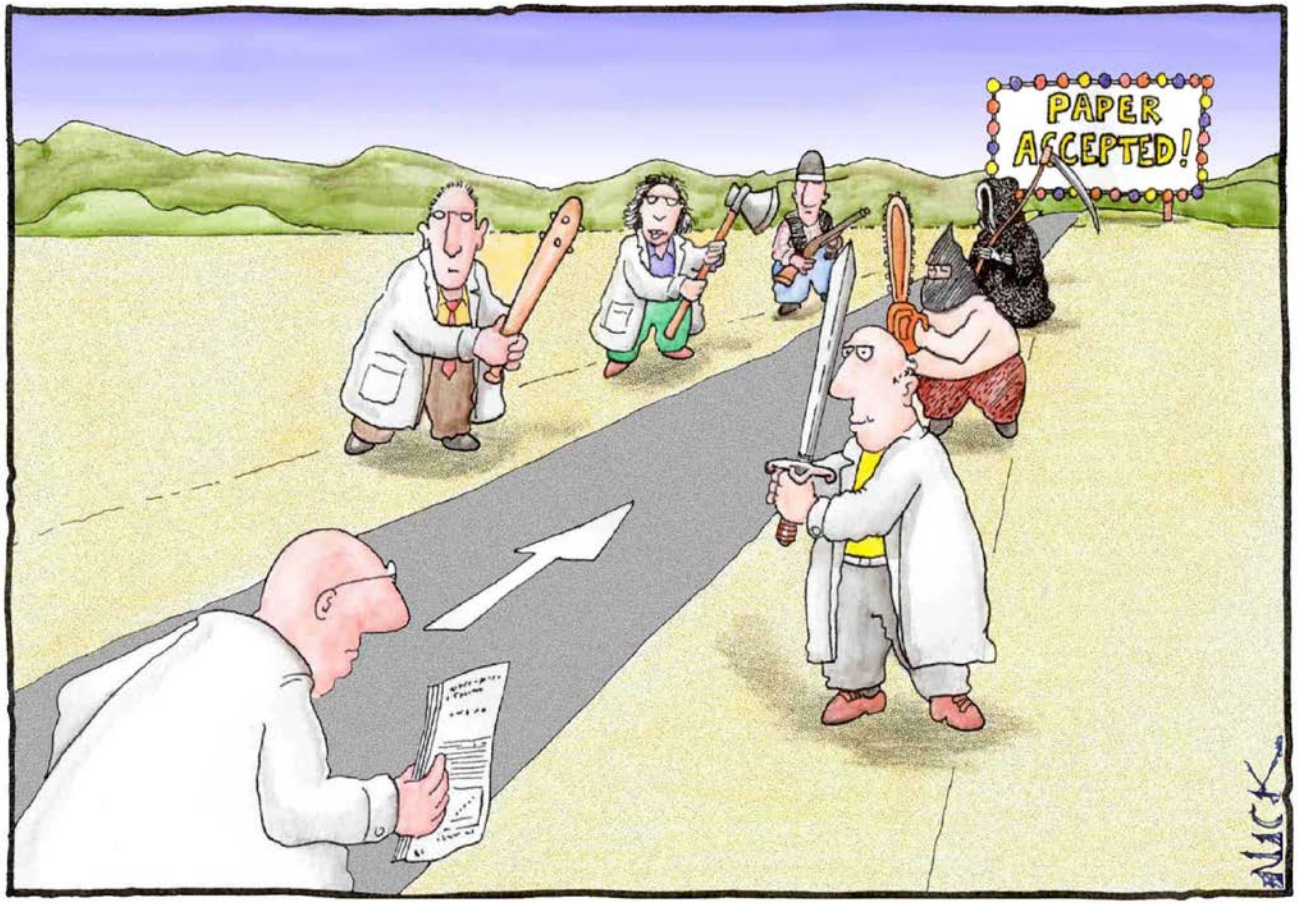
Could be suited for specialty journal #SixWordPeerReview

7:43 PM - 21 Jan 2014



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."

TYPES OF PEER REVIEW

Time of review:

- Before publication: mediated by each individual journal
- Cascading review: reviews carried over to the next journal after rejection
- Third-party review: the peer review is no longer coupled to a journal.
- Post-publication peer review: journal publishes the article, then reviewers look at it.

Transparency of review:

- Single-blind: the reviewer knows who the authors are, but the authors don't know who the reviewers are
- Double-blind: authors and reviewers are both anonymous
- Open peer review: all names are public.

See: http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/journals/ for examples of each

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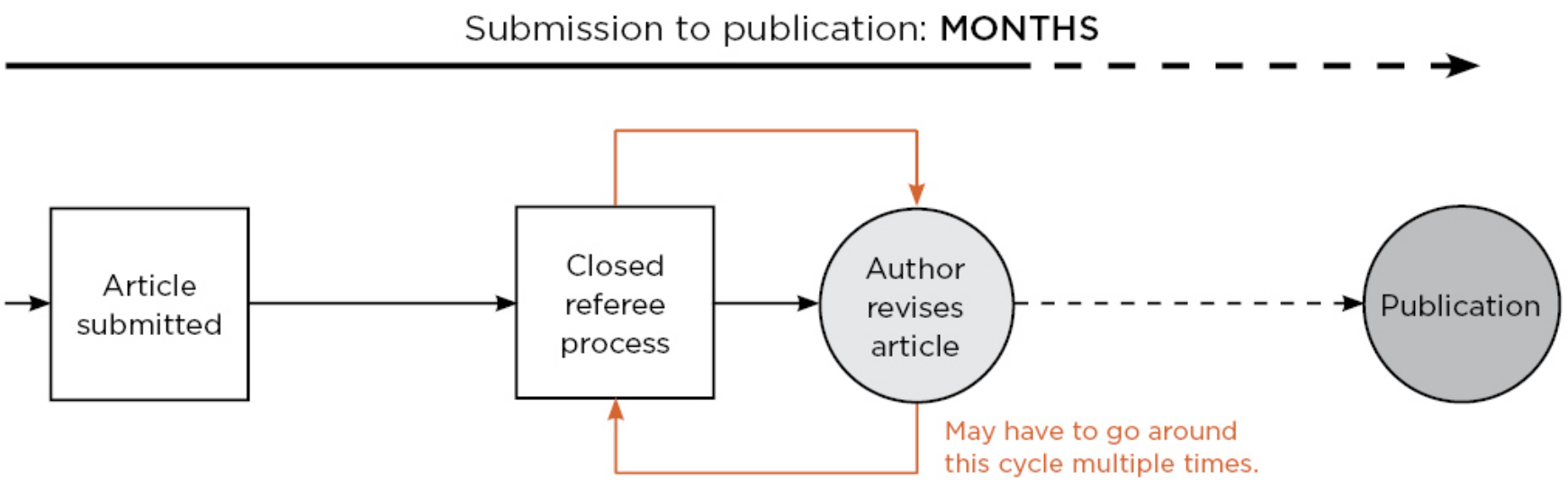
See: http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/publications/journals/ for examples of each

THE PUBLICATION PROCESS

Traditional journal



The peer review process can take months – sometimes years.
After rejection, start over again with another journal.
This delays publication.
Referees are anonymous.

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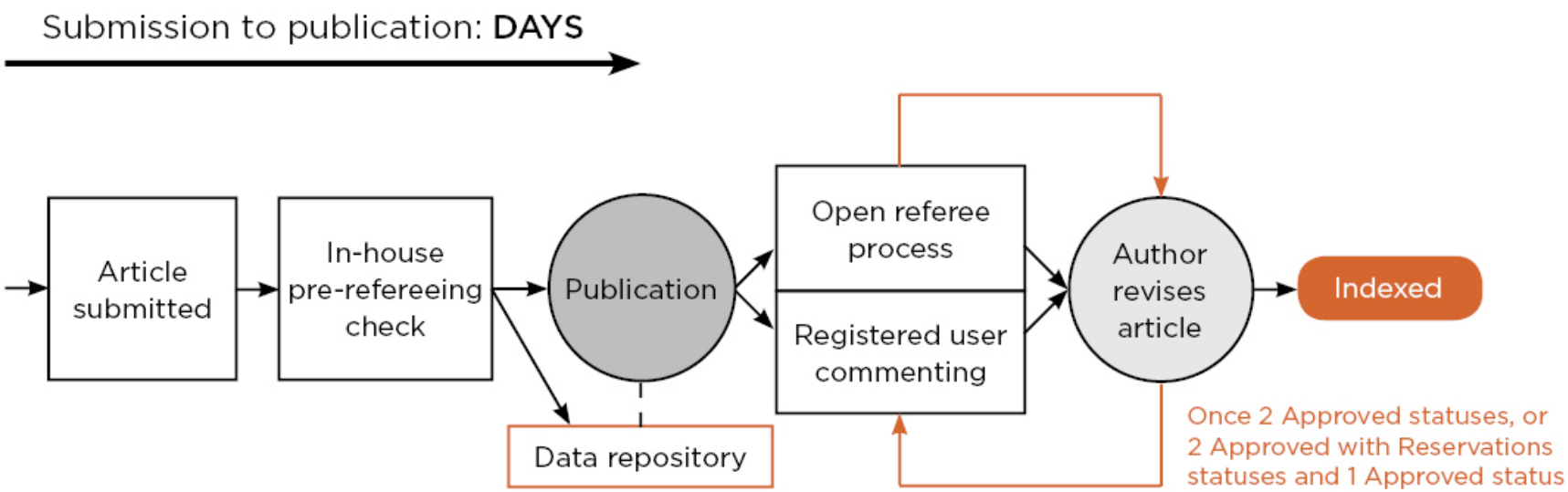
THE PUBLICATION PROCESS

F1000Research



- *F1000Research* articles are published online after an in-house pre-refereeing check, on average, within 5 working days.
- Peer review and revisions are carried out publicly by invited referees.
- Articles with sufficient positive referee reports are indexed in PubMed.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

JOURNALS WITH TRANSPARENT PEER REVIEW

2012:
F1000Research , eLife, PeerJ, GigaScience

2011
BMJ Open

2010
EMBO journal

2007
Frontiers journals

2006
Biology Direct

2001
Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics

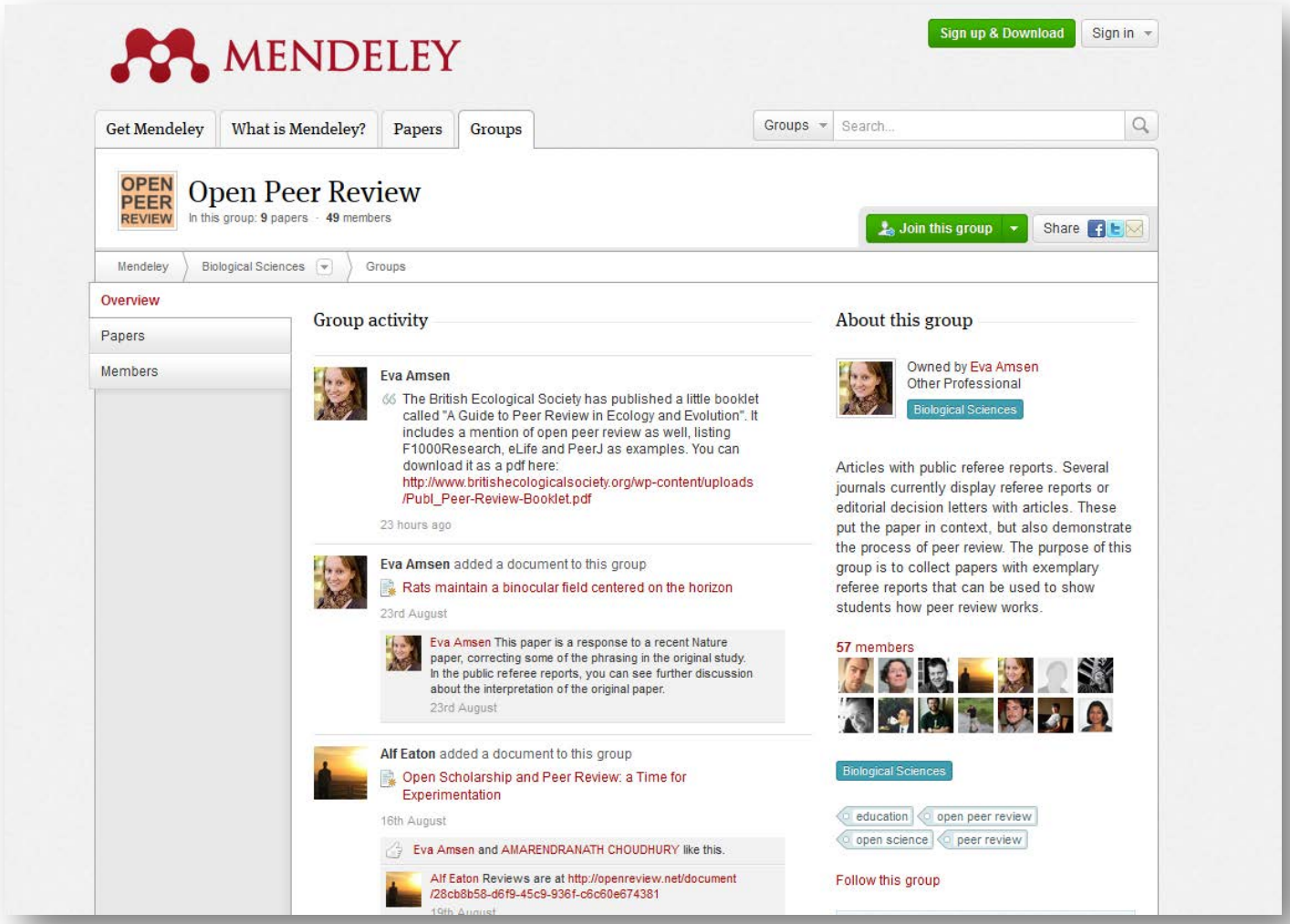
2000
Medical journals in the BMC series

Variations:
All referees are named
Optional referee names
Reports shown
Editorial decision public

BENEFITS OF TRANSPARENT REVIEW FOR AUTHORS AND READERS

- Visible discussion between referees and authors (and editors) puts paper in context.
- Authors can demonstrate that their paper was reviewed by top people in their field.
- Reduces bias amongst referees, and leads to more thoughtful referee reports.
- Educational aspect of open peer review

USING OPEN REFEREE REPORTS AS EDUCATIONAL TOOL



http://bit.ly/OpenPeerReviewExamples

BENEFITS FOR REVIEWERS

- Demonstrate experience as reviewer
- Shows reviewer's informed opinion of the work as a peer in the field, and where they thought it could be improved.
- Take credit for hard work

Christine Mummery
Department of Anatomy and Embryology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, Netherlands
Approved: 09 May 2014

Referee Report: 09 May 2014 145

doi: 10.5256/f1000research.4382.r4727

The authors describe their attempt to reproduce a study in which it was claimed that mild acid treatment was sufficient to reprogramme postnatal splenocytes from a mouse expressing GFP in the oct4 locus to pluripotent stem cells. The authors followed a protocol that has recently become available as a technical update of the original publication.

They report obtaining no pluripotent stem cells expressing GFP driven over the same time period of days described in the original publication. They describe observation of some green fluorescence that attributed to autofluorescence rather than GFP since it coincided with PI positive dead cells. They confirmed the absence of oct4 expression by RT-PCR and also found no evidence for Nanog or Sox2, also markers of pluripotent stem cells.

The paper appears to be an authentic attempt to reproduce the original study, although the study might have had additional value with more controls: "failure to reproduce" studies need to be particularly well controlled.

Examples that could have been valuable to include are:

1. For the claim of autofluorescence: the emission spectrum of the samples wou broad spectrum not coincident with that of GFP.
2. The reprogramming efficiency of postnatal mouse splenocytes using more co the hands of the authors would have been useful as a comparison. Idem the lu
3. There are no positive control samples (conventional mESC or miPSC) in the q pluripotency markers. This would have indicated the biological sensitivity of the
4. Although perhaps a sensitive issue, it might have been helpful if the authors ha samples of cells (or their mRNA) from the original authors for simultaneous analysis.

In summary, this is a useful study as it is citable and confirms previous blog reports, but it could have been improved by more controls.

I have read this submission. I believe that I have an appropriate level of expertise to confirm that it is of an acceptable scientific standard.

Competing Interests: No competing interests were disclosed.

Referees are named

Referee report metrics

DOI for referee reports

Referee reports and other comments are visible to anyone.

WORKING GROUP: PEER REVIEW IN ORCID

casrai Connecting Research

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ORCID & CASRAI Kick-off New Standards Project on 'Peer Review Services'

Posted by Asha Law on Mon, 2014-04-07 08:12

In addition to integrating ORCID identifiers into manuscript submission and grant application workflows, publishers and funders have been adding the identifiers into reviewer workflows. From this, a question arose as to how to acknowledge review activities in ORCID. To address this need, ORCID has asked CASRAI to facilitate a new standards project focusing on Peer Review Services Contributions. The participant-funded project is the first in a new program of International Projects being launched by CASRAI.

An international working group has been convened, with members representing associations, publishers, and funder organizations (see list below). The group is co-chaired by Rebecca Lawrence of F1000 Research and Laura Paglione of ORCID. Organizations serving on the working group are Autism Speaks, Denison University, Cambridge University Press, American Geophysical Union, Origin Editorial, University of Split, and Hypothes.is. Individual contributors by organization include:

POST-PUBLICATION PEER REVIEW AT *F1000RESEARCH*

F1000RESEARCH ARTICLE

F1000Research » Articles

Version 1 of 1

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Working memory training shows immediate and long-term effects on cognitive performance in children and adolescents [v1; ref status: awaiting peer review, http://f1000r.es/315]

Fiona Pugin[1,2], Andreas J. Metz[2,3], Madlaina Stauffer[1,4], Martin Wolf[2,3], Oskar G. Jenni[1,2,5], Reto Huber[1,2,5]

Author affiliations

[1] Child Development Center, University Children's Hospital Zurich, Zurich, 8032, Switzerland
[2] Zurich Center for Integrative Human Physiology (ZIHP), University of Zurich, Zurich, 8057, Switzerland
[3] Biomedical Optics Research Laboratory, Division of Neonatology, University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, 8091, Switzerland
[4] Division of Neuropsychology, Institute of Psychology, University of Zurich, Zurich, 8050, Switzerland
[5] Children's Research Center (CRC), University Children's Hospital Zurich, Zurich, 8032, Switzerland

Grant information

Abstract

Working memory is important for mental reasoning and learning processes. Several studies in adults and school-age children have shown performance improvement in cognitive tests after working memory training. Our aim was to examine not

Article Status Summary

Referee Responses
AWAITING PEER REVIEW

Comments

No comments | Add Comment

F1000RESEARCH ARTICLE

F1000Research » Articles

Version 1 of 1

CASE REPORT

Traditional medicine: a rare cause of lead poisoning in Western countries [v1; ref status: indexed, http://f1000r.es/2c6]

Halima Muller, Simon Regard, Nicole Petriccioli, Omar Kherad

Author affiliations

Service de Médecine Interne, Hôpital de la Tour, Geneva, Switzerland

Grant information: The author(s) declared that no grants were involved in supporting this work.

Abstract

A 42-year-old man from Bhutan was admitted to the emergency department with a 5-day history of abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Enhanced abdominal CT scan was found negative, however laboratory tests showed hemolytic anemia and basophilic stippling which are often seen in lead and heavy metal poisoning. Additional tests revealed a high level of lead in blood and urine. The patient was administered a chelator treatment with rapid improvement of the symptoms. A detailed interview revealed that the patient had been taking daily Bhutanese traditional medicines to treat a Bell's palsy from which he had been suffering for a few months. The analysis of these medicines confirmed the presence of a high level of lead.

Article Status Summary

Referee Responses

Referees	1	2
v1 published 19 Nov 2013	✓ report	✓ report

1 **Arnaud Perrier**, University Hopitals of Geneva (HUG), Switzerland

2 **Bruno Mégarbane**, Lariboisière Hospital, Paris-Diderot University, France
Robert Garnier, Fernand Widal Hospital

Comments

No comments | Add Comment

VERSIONS


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RESEARCH ARTICLE
REVISED
Casanovas are liars: behavioral syndromes, sperm competition risk, and the evolution of deceptive male mating behavior in live-bearing fishes [v3; ref status: indexed, http://f1000r.es/1zi]
David Bierbach[1,2], Amber M Makowicz[3], Ingo Schlupp[3], Holger Geupel[1], Bruno Streit[1], Martin Plath[1]
Author affiliations
Grant information
Views 2554
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Abstract
Male reproductive biology can by characterized through competition over mates as well as mate choice. Multiple mating and male mate choice copying, especially in internally fertilizing species, set the stage for increased sperm competition, i.e., sperm of two or more males can compete for fertilization of the female's ova. In the internally fertilizing fish *Poecilia mexicana*, males respond to the presence of rivals with reduced expression of mating preferences (audience effect), thereby lowering the risk of by-standing rivals copying their mate choice. Also, males interact initially more with a non-preferred female when observed by a rival, which has been interpreted in previous studies as a strategy to mislead rivals, again reducing sperm competition risk (SCR). Nevertheless, species might differ consistently in their expression of aggressive and reproductive behaviors, possibly due to varying levels of SCR. In the current study, we present a unique data set comprising ten poeciliid species (in two cases including multiple populations) and ask whether species can be characterized through consistent differences in the expression of aggression, sexual activity and changes in mate choice under increased SCR. We found consistent species-specific differences in aggressive behavior, sexual activity as well as in the level of misleading behavior, while decreased preference expression under increased SCR was a general feature of all but one species examined. Furthermore, mean sexual activity correlated positively with the
Article Status Summary
Referee Responses
Referees 1 2 3
v1 published 05 Mar 2013
v2 published 12 Aug 2013 REVISED
v3 published 23 Oct 2013 REVISED
report
1 Katja Heubel, University of Tuebingen, Germany
2 Lisa Locatello, University of Padova, Italy
3 Clelia Gasparini, The University of Western Australia, Australia
Comments
No comments | Add Comment

REFEREE SCORES

Approved

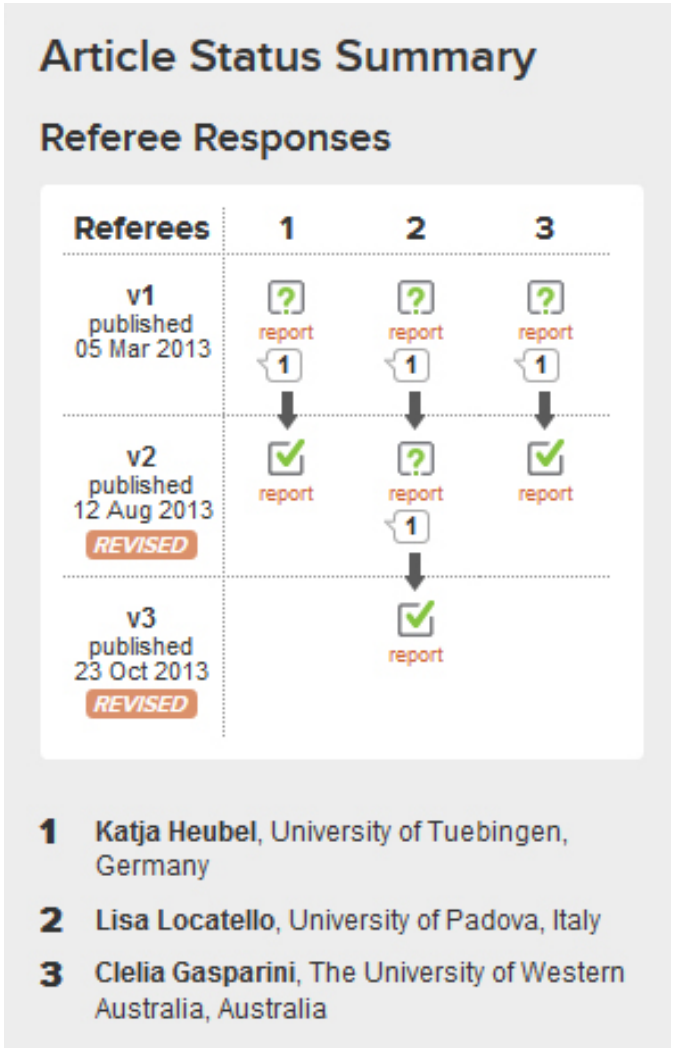
Approved with reservations

Not approved

Articles with sufficient positive evaluations are indexed in PubMed, Scopus, and Embase.

or

Minimal requirements for indexing



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Version 2. F1000Res. 2013 Feb 13 [revised 2013 Apr 5];2:48. doi: 10.12688/f1000research.2-48.v2. eCollection 2013.

Electrophysiological properties of mouse and epitope-tagged human cardiac sodium channel Na v1.5 expressed in HEK293 cells.

Reinhard K[1], Rougier JS[2], Ogrodnik J[2], Abriel H[2].

Author information

[1]Department of Clinical Research, University of Bern, Bern, 3010, Switzerland ; Current address: Centre for Integrative Neuroscience, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, 72076, Germany.
[2]Department of Clinical Research, University of Bern, Bern, 3010, Switzerland.

Abstract

Background: The pore-forming subunit of the cardiac sodium channel, Na v1.5, has been previously found to be mutated in genetically determined arrhythmias. Na v1.5 associates with many proteins that regulate its function and cellular localisation. In order to identify more in situ Na v1.5 interacting proteins, genetically-modified mice with a high-affinity epitope in the sequence of Na v1.5 can be generated. Methods: In this short study, we (1) compared the biophysical properties of the sodium current (I Na) generated by the mouse Na v1.5 (mNa v1.5) and human Na v1.5 (hNa v1.5) constructs that were expressed in HEK293 cells, and (2) investigated the possible alterations of the biophysical properties of the human Na v1.5 construct that was modified with specific epitopes. Results: The biophysical properties of mNa v1.5 were similar to the human homolog. Addition of epitopes either up-stream of the N-terminus of hNa v1.5 or in the extracellular loop between the S5 and S6 transmembrane segments of domain 1, significantly decreased the amount of I Na and slightly altered its biophysical properties. Adding green fluorescent protein (GFP) to the N-terminus did not modify any of the measured biophysical properties of hNa v1.5. Conclusions: These findings have to be taken into account when planning to generate genetically-modified mouse models that harbour specific epitopes in the gene encoding mNa v1.5.

PMID: 24555036 [PubMed] PMCID: PMC3869486 Other versions Free PMC Article

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Molecular cloning, distribution and functional analysis of the N [Brain Res Mol Brain Res. 2002]
Review Biology of cardiac sodium channel Nav1.5 expression. [Cardiovasc Res. 2012]
Review Cardiac sodium channel Na(v)1.5 and interacting proteins: Ph [J Mol Cell Cardiol. 2010]

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Gastroenterology & Hepatology
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Immunology
Infectious Diseases
Metabolic & Endocrine Science
Microbiology
Molecular Biology
Molecular Medicine
Nephrology
Neurological Disorders
Neuroscience
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320 results displayed.

All Articles | Indexed

Article Type

Per page: 20 | 50 | 100 | 1 - 20 of 320

RESEARCH ARTICLE

REVISED

JSim, an open-source modeling system for data analysis [v2; ref status: indexed, http://f1000r.es/39h]

PUBLISHED: 12 MAY 2014

Authors: Erik Butterworth, Bartholomew E. Jardine, Gary M. Raymond, Maxwell L. Neal, James B. Bassingthwaighte

Referees: Steven Niederer; David Nickerson

F1000Research 2014, 2:288 *(doi: 10.12688/f1000research.2-288.v2)*

Referee responses 2

Views 689 | Download As 230 | Cite | Share 5 | Track

RESEARCH ARTICLE

REVISED

Short- and long-term habituation of auditory event-related potentials in the rat [v2; ref status: indexed, http://f1000r.es/3dv]

PUBLISHED: 01 MAY 2014

Authors: Kestutis Gurevicius, Arto Lipponen, Rimante Minkeviciene, Heikki Tanila

Referees: James Knierim; Timm Rosburg; Colin Lever

F1000Research 2014, 2:182 *(doi: 10.12688/f1000research.2-182.v2)*

Referee responses 3

Views 449 | Download As 163 | Cite | Share 1 | Track

SHORT RESEARCH ARTICLE

REVISED

Modulation of gene expression in guinea pig paraflocculus after

Highly Accessed Articles

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Transient acid treatment cannot induce neonatal somatic cells to become pluripotent stem cells [v1; ref status: approved 1, http://f1000r.es/3dq]

PUBLISHED: 08 May 2014

Mei Kuen Tang, Lok Man Lo, Wen Ting Shi *et al*

F1000Research 2014, 3:102

Referee responses 1 | Article Comments 2

OPINION ARTICLE

Data publication consensus and controversies [v1; ref status: approved with reservations 1, http://f1000r.es/3ag]

PUBLISHED: 23 Apr 2014

John Kratz, Carly Strasser

F1000Research 2014, 3:94

Referee responses 1 | Article Comments 4

REVIEW

Why do proteins aggregate? "Intrinsically insoluble proteins" and "dark mediators" revealed by studies on "insoluble proteins" solubilized in pure water [v1; ref status: indexed, http://f1000r.es/z0]

PUBLISHED: 22 Mar 2013

Jianxing Song

F1000Research 2013, 2:94

Referee responses 3

LIVING ARTICLES

Authors of an *F1000Research* paper can always update their paper, even after it has been indexed

REVISED Authors responded to referee or community feedback and amended their article resulting in a new version.

UPDATE Authors updated the article following minor developments. (For example, papers about software can be updated when the software itself is updated.)

GENERAL INFORMATION

ARTICLE TYPES ACCEPTED BY *F1000RESEARCH*

- Research Articles
  - Incl. Null/negative findings and replication/refutation findings
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Research Articles; Method Articles; Study Protocols; Reviews; Systematic Reviews	US $1000

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