How to review a paper
For Heart

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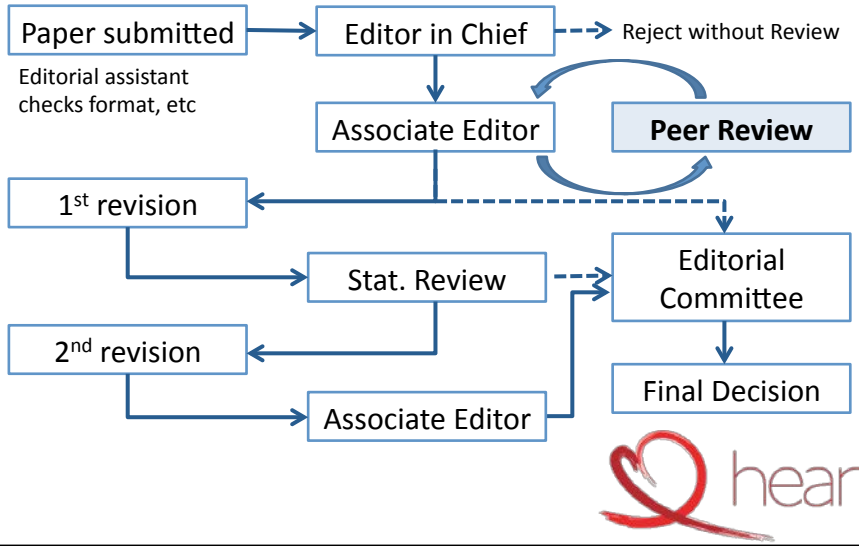
How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Be courteous to authors

- Agree to review right away
  - Download the paper and read it that day
  - Think about it and then go back to take notes for your review as discussed on following slides
- If unable to review, answer "no" quickly so the next reviewer can be invited
  - Decline if you really do not have time (2-3 hours)
  - Decline if the paper is outside your area of expertise
- Turn your review in on time (or early)!
  - Authors appreciate rapid turn-around
  - Editors value timely reviews

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
From submission to decision



How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Peer review is key to scientific publishing

- Independent reviewers with expertise in the field evaluate the submitted paper and provide an unbiased objective assessment
- Pre-publication peer reviews ensures high quality papers are published in high impact journals.
- Post-publication peer review is what we all do every day when we discuss published research

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
First, read the paper

- Is the article important?
- Will it help readers to make better decisions and, if so, how?
- Will the article add enough to existing knowledge?
- Does the article read well and make sense?
- Does it have a clear message?

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Next, organize your thoughts

- Background and Hypothesis
  - **Does the study address an important question?**
- Methods
  - **Are the methods appropriate and clearly described?**
- Results
  - **Are the results presented clearly and analyzed correctly?**
- Conclusions
  - **Are the conclusions justified by the data presented?**

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Address an important question?

- Does the paper address an important clinical or science question?
- Is the background and rationale for the study described clearly and concisely?
- Is the hypothesis clearly stated?
- Is this the appropriate journal for publication of this paper?

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Methods appropriate and clearly described?

- Will the study design provide an answer to the question?
- Is the sample size adequate to provide a definitive answer?
- Are the methods valid and clearly described?
- Is the statistical approach appropriate for the data?
- Are details adequate for replication of the study data?

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Results presented clearly?

- Does the text of the results match the methods described?
- Is the data in tables complete and understandable?
- Has the best graphical display of data been used and are all the data elements displayed?
- Is there overlap between text, tables and figures?
- Are any data elements missing?

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Other considerations

- References
  Up to date and relevant? Any glaring omissions?
- Abstract/summary/key messages
  Reflect accurately what the paper says?
- Is the title descriptive of the study design and objectives?
- Research checklists (e.g. CONSORT, PRISMA, and STROBE
see http://www.equator-network.org
Do these properly match what is in the manuscript? Do they contain information that should be better reported in the manuscript, or raise questions about the work?

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Key Reporting Guidelines

- Randomized controlled trials (RCTs): CONSORT guidelines
- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses: PRISMA guidelines and MOOSE guidelines
- Observational studies in epidemiology: STROBE guidelines and MOOSE guidelines
- Diagnostic accuracy studies: STARD guidelines
- Quality improvement studies: SQUIRE guidelines

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Comments to the Authors

- Summary (1-2 sentences) of the key point of the paper
- Comment on study design, whether data are convincing and conclusions appropriate
- Be polite

- Specific recommendations to strengthen the paper
- Background
- Methods
- Results – including tables and figures
- Conclusions

How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Comments to the Editor

- Originality
- Importance of the work to readers of this journal
- Scientific reliability
- Clinical Impact

Do not repeat comments to authors ! (the editors can see both)

- Why you recommend accept/reject/revise
- Major flaws
- Key revisions
- Is an editorial needed?

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How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Ethics of publishing

- Are there any ethical concerns in terms of study design, patient consent or review board approval?
- Are you concerned about duplicate publication, plagiarism or fraud?
- Remember that the article is confidential until published.
- Avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest

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How to review a paper (or get yours accepted)
Finally…

- Being asked to review an article is a professional accomplishment (list ad hoc reviewer on your CV)
- Reviewers have insight into cutting edge science and learn critical thinking – these skills enhance their own research and publications
- Reviewers who provide frequent useful reviews on time are invited to join Editorial Boards