

# Peer review for authors of scientific manuscripts

## Convener

Dr. Joan Casey

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## Background and Significance:

Surveys by the Nature Publishing Group indicate that 90% of scientists feel peer review improves their work. However, few researchers receive formal training on how to efficiently conduct and respond to reviews. We aim to provide participants with skills and strategies to maximize the quality and utility of their reviews. Learning to provide better reviews can also help authors improve their own manuscripts.

## The Workshop:

We will familiarize participants with the overall peer review process: the purpose and ethics of peer review, when to accept or decline a review invitation, the review itself, and responding to reviews. Participants will learn key elements of a reviewer report and when to send private comments to the editor. An excellent review includes an evaluation of scientific soundness and whether the authors appropriately summarize and discuss the current literature, whether the authors' conclusions match their results, and whether the main findings are important, interesting, and relevant to the reviewing journal. Reviewers should also focus on tables and figures. Techniques to convey comments politely and constructively will be discussed. A brief discussion of journal decisions and appeals will provide context for the editorial process. The session will also feature "live edits" of manuscript abstracts and responses to reviewer reports to enhance learning.

The Capacity Building and Education Committee has agreed to sponsor this session, possibly providing scholarships for early career or LMIC researchers.

## Interest for the workshop

Peer review is a critical quality control mechanism in the advancement of science. Through the process, researchers review the work of others and receive feedback from their peers, but few people have received formal training as a peer reviewer. All members of ISEE may benefit from this session, however, we anticipate the greatest interest from early-career researchers and members from low- and middle-income countries. After the session, participants will have a clearer understanding of the peer review process, how to write useful reviews, and how to respond succinctly and successfully to reviewer comments on their own work.

## Maximum number of attendees

200

## Duration workshop

Half day