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# How to successfully contribute to the world of scientific publishing



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**Editor-in-Chief Applied Surface Science**

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# Publish or Perish or is it Publish until you Perish?

The (self) imposed pressure to publish



U of I, Urbana-Champaign - July 17th, 2019

# The “ground rules” of scientific publishing

<https://www.publishingcampus.elsevier.com/pages/63/ethics/Publishing-ethics.html>

(Good) science

Science ethics

Authorship

Ownership of material

Conflict of interest


Publishing ethics

Salami publishing

Duplicate submissions

Fair peer reviewing

Research fraud




**Authorship**  
What does it mean to be an author and to establish authorship?

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INTERACTIVE COURSE



**Content ownership**  
You've written your paper but who technically owns it? Learn to separate copyright myths from facts

ONLINE LECTURE  
INTERACTIVE COURSE




**Plagiarism**  
An overview of plagiarism and how to avoid it

ONLINE LECTURE  
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**Why you can't afford to ignore research and publication ethics**  
Authorship, authorship dilemma's, self-plagiarism, conflict of interest and what to do when you detect fraud

ONLINE LECTURE



**Publishing Ethics in Chemical & Materials Sciences**  
An overview of authorship, responsibilities and publication ethics across the chemical sciences.

ONLINE LECTURE




**Conflict of interest**  
Transparency and objectivity are essential in scientific research and the peer review process

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**Research fraud**  
Both fabrication and falsification are serious forms of misconduct

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**Salami slicing**  
This involves segmenting a large study into two or more publications

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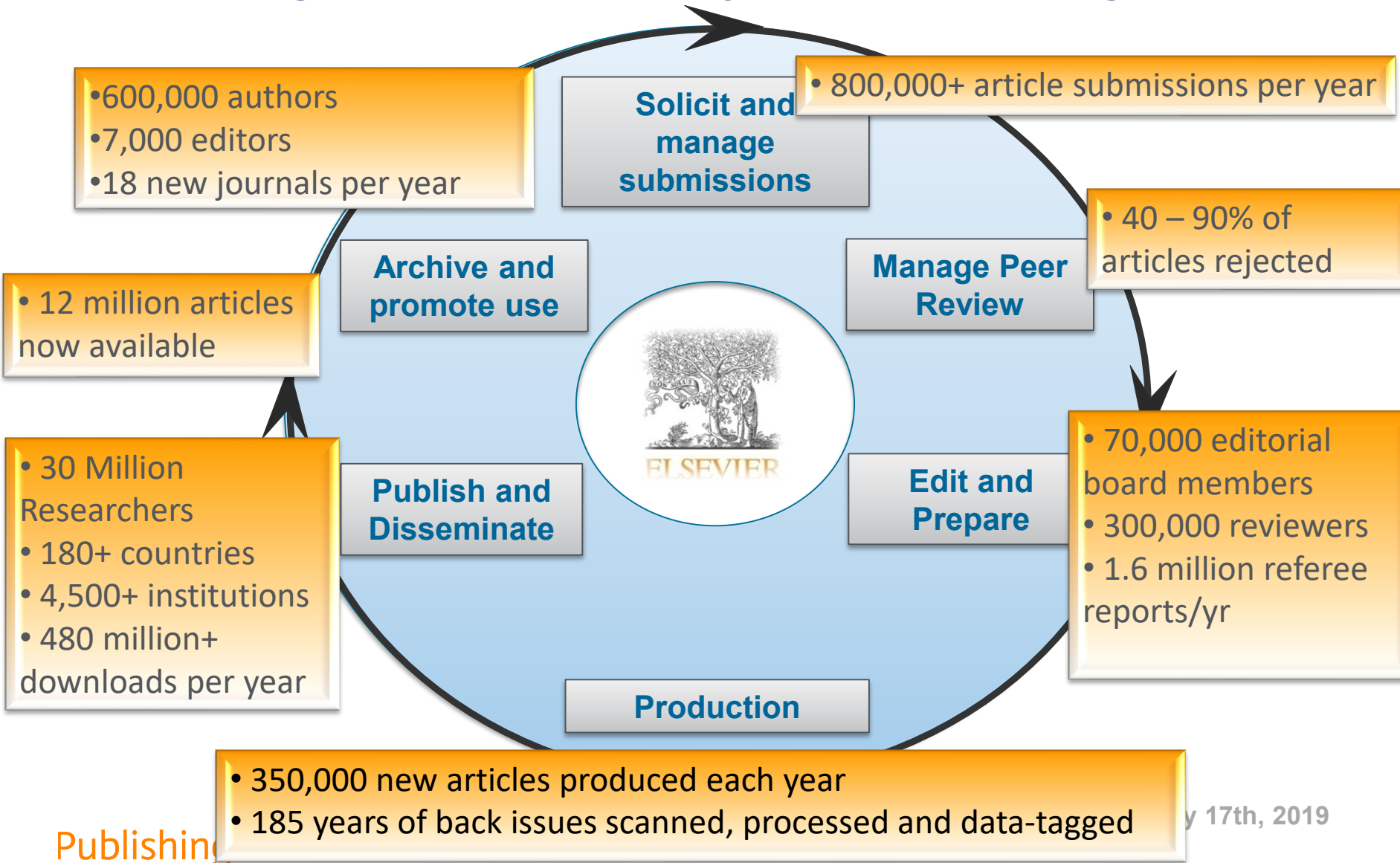


**Duplicate submissions**  
Intentionally re-submitting work for duplicate publication

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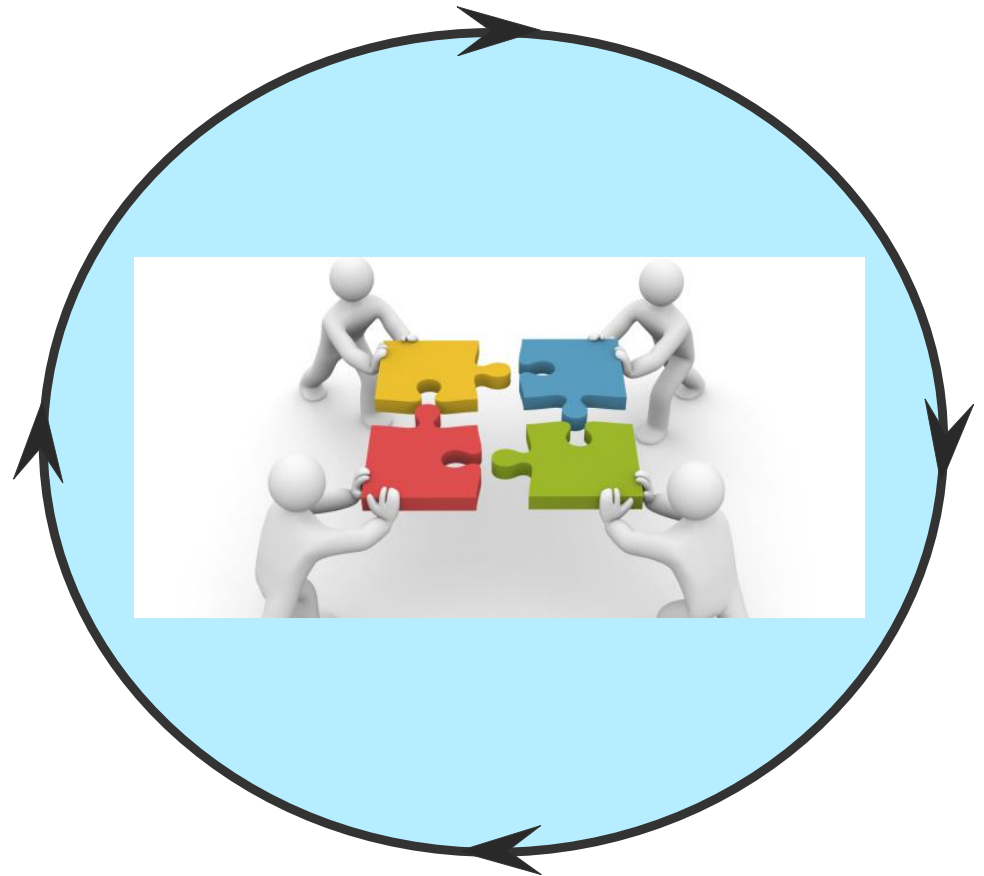
# Publishing in the 21st century – the publishing circle



# Stakeholders in the publishing circle

They all have a responsibility in the process

- 1) Funding “agency”
- 2) Academic institution
- 3) Author and co-authors
- 4) Publisher
- 5) Editor
- 6) Reviewers
- 7) Libraries
- 8) Readers



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# How to publish in a scientific journal

Becoming the (first) author of a manuscript

- **What steps do I need to take before I write my paper?**
- **Type of manuscript**
- **How can I ensure I am using proper manuscript language?**
  
- **How do I structure my article properly?**
  - **Process**
  - **Article Construction**

# Publishing a paper: step 1

## Choosing the right journal !

A journal always has an “Aims and Scope”, a text that describes the goal of the journal:

- Subject
- Audience
- Type of articles
- Quality or coverage of field
- Association with group

# The right journal – only the best for you

## The role of quality indicators

-Quality of journal can be reflected by its impact factor (IF): the average number of times articles from a journal published in the past two years have been cited in the current year

-Example: IF of a journal in 2017:

$$\frac{\text{All citations in 2017 to articles published in 2015 and 2016}}{\text{Number of source items published in 2015 and 2016}} = 3.456$$

1339 + 1467 = 2806

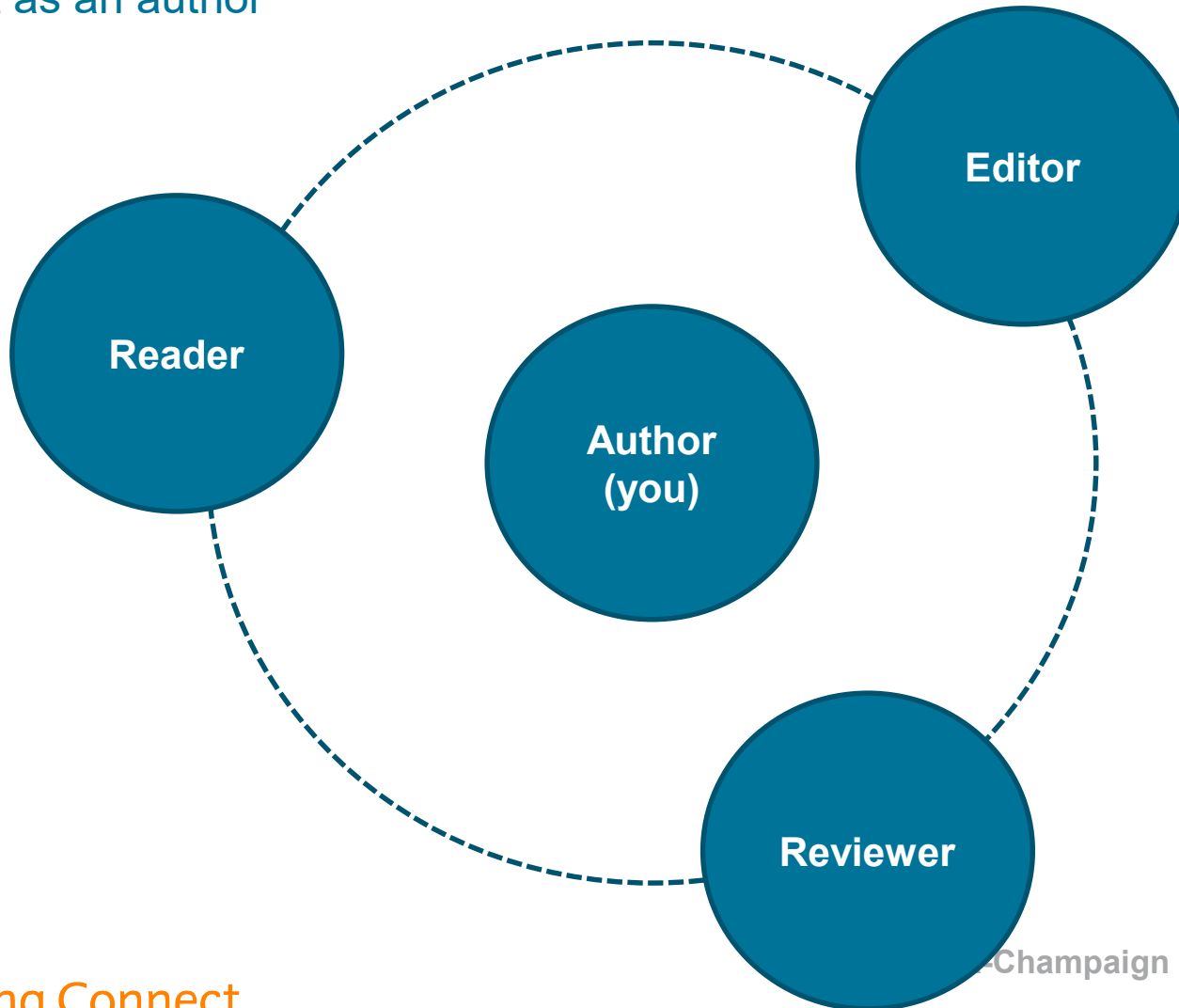
350 + 462 = 812

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# Publishing a paper: Step 2 prepare the paper

Mindset as an author



## Publishing – what constitutes a strong paper?

- Has a clear, useful, and exciting message
- Presented and constructed in a logical manner
- Reviewers and editors can grasp the significance easily



**Editors and reviewers are all busy people –  
make things easy to save their time**

# Decide the most appropriate type of manuscript

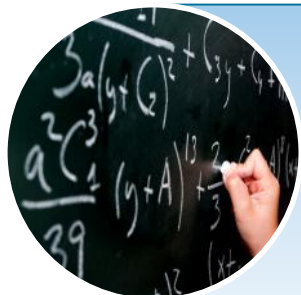
The many flavours of paper types

- Conference Papers
- Short communications/letters
- Full articles/Original articles
- Review papers (often only by invitation)
- Perspective papers (often only by invitation)

# General structure of a research paper



**Title**  
**Affiliations**  
**Abstract**  
**Keywords**

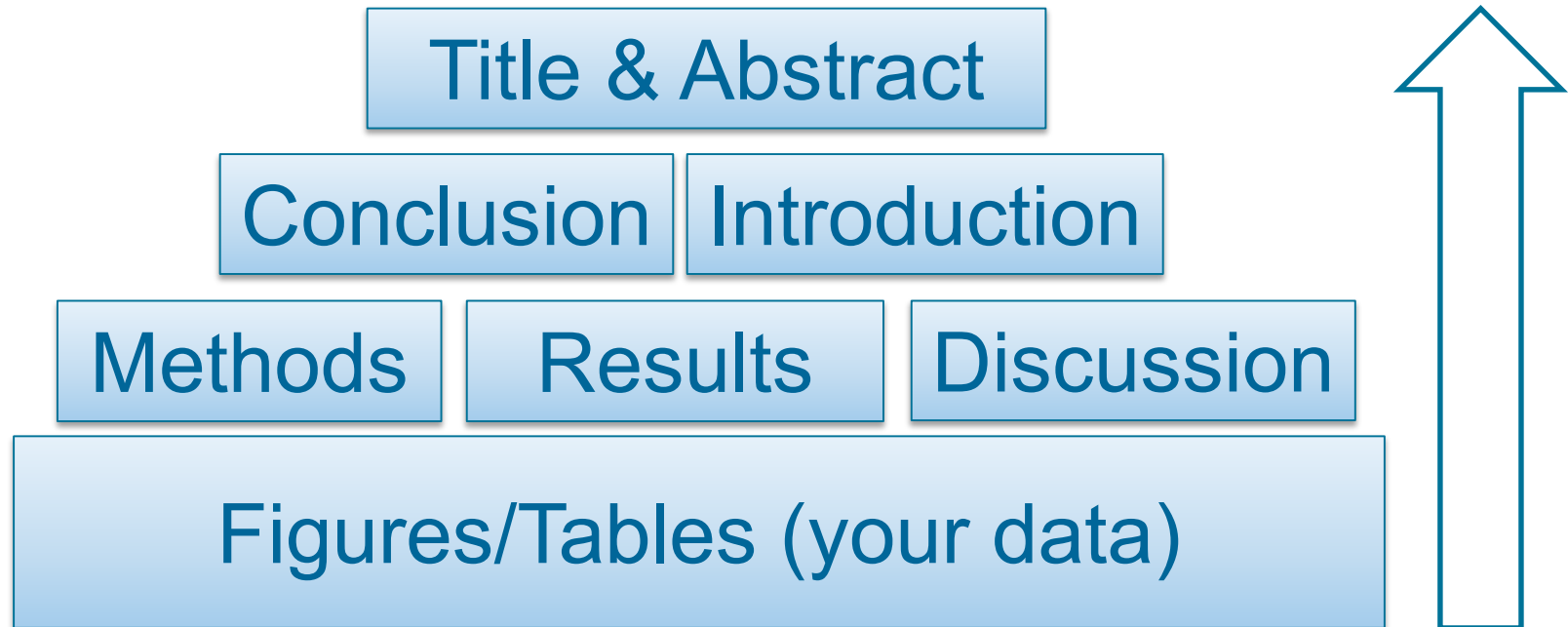


**Introduction**  
**Methods Results**  
**AND Discussion**



**Conclusion**  
**Acknowledgements**  
**References**  
**Supporting Materials**

## Building the manuscript – bottom up



## Preparing for submitting the paper

- Check the manuscript as thoroughly as possible before submission
- Ask colleagues and supervisors to review your manuscript

Finally - **SUBMIT** your manuscript with a proper cover letter and await a response...

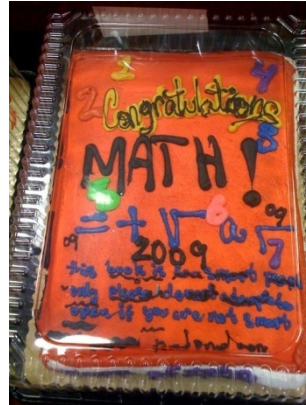
## After submission – the waiting game

- Generally editors do a first check (topic, language, completeness,...). They are allowed to desk-reject.
- After initial check, they will send out for review, usually to a few reviewers. Review process takes several weeks. Many invited reviewers decline invitation, adding to review times.
- Editor receives reviewer reports and takes a decision based on them.
- In case of doubt, they may consult another referee or review themselves.
- Editor informs author

## Editorial decision

### Accepted

- Very rare, but it happens

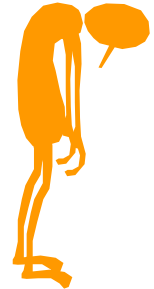


### Revision major/minor

- There is a chance that the paper will be published eventually

### Rejected

- Probability 40-90% ...
- Do not despair
- If you submit to another journal, begin as if it were a new manuscript





## Editor decision: revision (minor/major)

- **Carefully study the reviewers' comments, adjust your manuscript and prepare a detailed letter of response**
- **Respond to all points; even if you disagree with a reviewer. Provide a scientifically solid rebuttal, not ignore their comment**
- **State specifically what changes you have made to address the reviewers' comments, mentioning the page and line numbers where changes have been made**
- **Perform additional experiments, calculations or computations, if required; these usually serve to make the final paper stronger**

# Author responsibility – academic misconduct



doi:10.1016/j.sigpro.2005.07.019 Cite or Link Using DOI  
 Copyright © 2005 Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

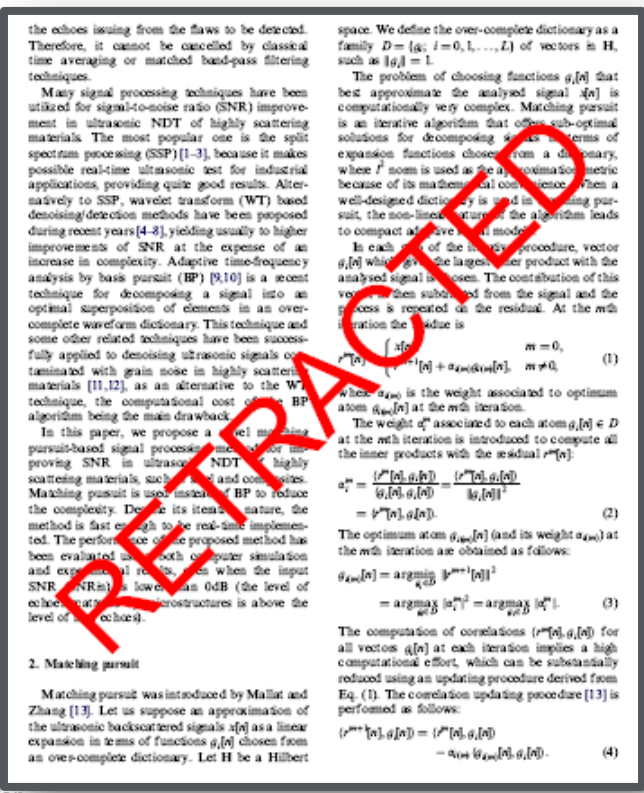
## RETRACTED: Matching pursuit-based approach for ultrasonic flaw

N. Ruiz-Reyes , P. Vera-Candeas , J. Curpián-Alonso , J.C. Cuevas-Martínez and F. Ló...

Available online 24 August 2005.

This article has been retracted at the request of the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher. Please see <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/withdrawalpolicy>.

Reason: This article is virtually identical to the previously published article: "New matching pursuit-based algorithm for SNR improvement in ultrasonic NDT", *Independent Nondestructive Evaluation International* volume 29 (2005) 453 – 459 authored by N. Ruiz-Reyes, P. Vera-Candeas, J. Curpián-Alonso, R. Mata-Campos and J.C. Cuevas-Martínez.



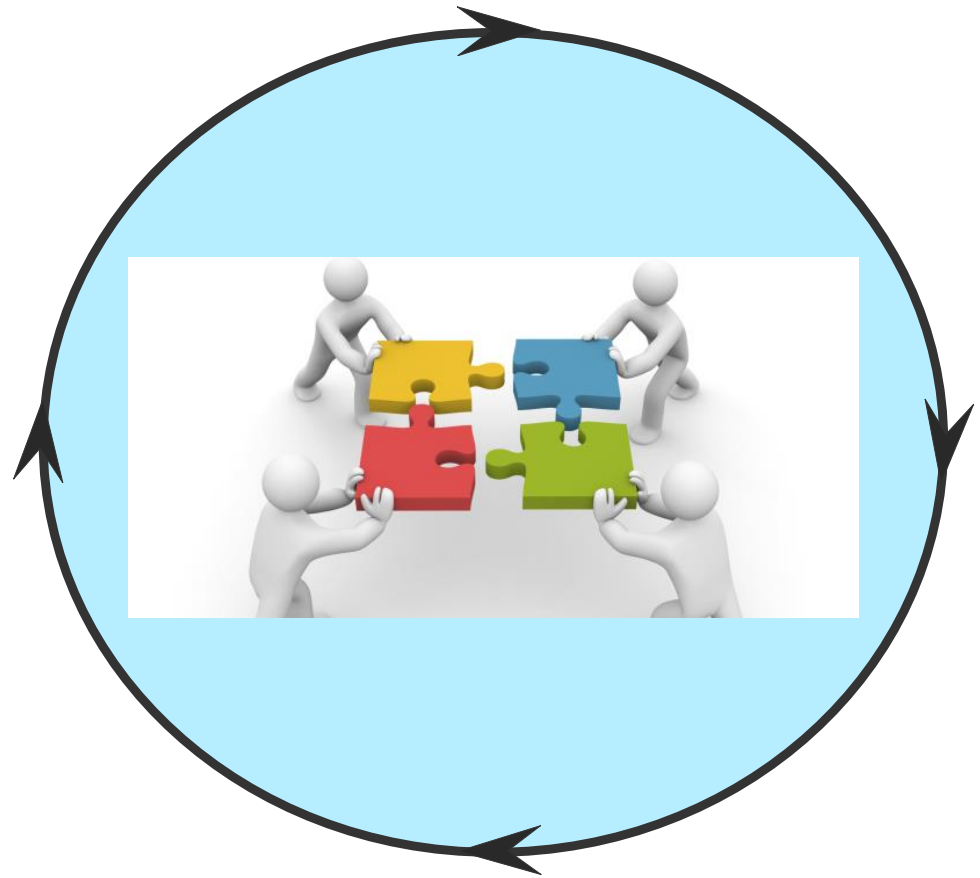
The article of which the authors committed plagiarism: it won't be removed from ScienceDirect. Everybody who downloads it will see the reason of retraction...

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# Stakeholders in the publishing circle

They all have a responsibility in the process

- 1) Funding “agency”
- 2) Academic institution
- 3) Author and co-authors
- 4) Publisher
- 5) Editor
- 6) Reviewers
- 7) Libraries
- 8) Readers



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## Why do we need peer-review?

Peer review is the evaluation of work by one or more people of similar competence to the creators of the work (peers)

**Peer-review** is used to assess the quality, significance and originality of scientific research before publication.

- provide credibility
- improve the record of science
- control in scientific communication
- ensures that previous work is acknowledged



# Step by Step

A guide how to become a good peer reviewer

**Before accepting the invitation, you should ask yourself**

- Am I truly a peer, i.e., do I have the necessary expertise in the field
- I don't have a possible conflict of interest
- Will I be able to make the review in time

If the answer to all of the above is yes, then you should accept the invitation to review

A 3D rendered word 'Yes!' in a bright orange color. The letters are thick and blocky, with a slight shadow underneath, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The exclamation point is also rendered in the same style.

## So why should I be a reviewer

It takes valuable time away from my own science, right?

- ✓ Academic duty – expect to review about two times as many papers as you publish yourself
- ✓ Access to new results prior to publication
- ✓ Networking within the scientific community
- ✓ Influence on the science and scientific quality
- ✓ Recognition by (some) governments
- ✓ Access to Scopus/Science Direct for a month (Elsevier specific)

## General impression and abstract

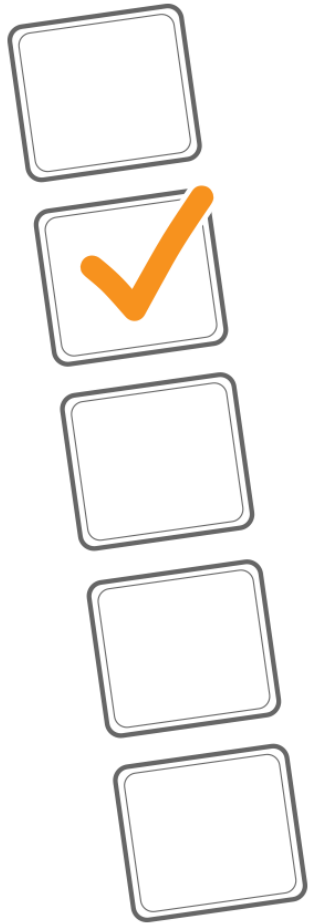
- Look at the manuscript as a whole
  - General comprehension of the manuscript
  - Language/style/grammar
  - Structure
  - Reviewer's general level of enthusiasm
  
- Is the Abstract included?
  - Is it a real summary of the paper?
  - Does it include the key results
  - Does it contain unnecessary information?
  - Is it too long? Journals set a limit for the number of words

# Introduction

- Is it effective, clear, and well organized?
- Does it really introduce and put into perspective what follows?
- Suggest changes in organization and point authors to appropriate citations if necessarily
- Be as specific as possible when giving feedback
  - Don't just write "the authors have done a poor job"



## Assessing the methodology



- Would a colleague be able to reproduce the experiments and get the same outcome?
- Is the description of new methodology complete and accurate?
- Did the authors include proper references to previously published methodology?
- Is the sample size large enough and was it selected in an appropriate way?
- Was the data collected in accordance with accepted practice?
- Could or should the authors have included supplementary material?

## Results and discussion

- Suggest improvements in the way data is shown
- Comment on general logic and on justification of interpretations and conclusions
- Comment on the number of figures, tables, and schemes
- Write concisely and precisely which changes you recommend
- List suggested style/grammar changes and other small changes separately
- Suggest additional experiments or analyses
- Make clear the need for changes/updates
- Ask yourself whether the manuscript is worth being published

## Assessing the conclusions

- Comment on importance, validity, and generality of conclusions
- Request toning down of unjustified claims and generalizations
- Request removal of redundancies and summaries
- The Abstract, not the Conclusion, summarizes the study

## References, tables, and figures

- Check accuracy, number, and appropriateness of citations
- Comment on tables and figures, and their quality and readability
- Comment on any footnotes
- Assess completeness of legends, headers, and axis labels
- Comment on need for color in figures
- Check presentation consistency

# Tools for reviewers (and editors)

## For Editors

## For Reviewers

- Plagiarism detection tool at time of submission
- Tool based on Scopus database to identify potential reviewers

- Free access to *All content published by Elsevier*
- Free access to *The world's largest abstract and citation database*
- Reference-linking and resolution in PDF of the manuscript

**\* Manuscript**  
[Click here to view linked References](#)

Identification of c-Src Tyrosine Kinase Substrates in Platelet-Derived Growth Factor Receptor Signaling

Ramary Amanchy\*, Jun Zhang\*, Rosa Hong\*, James H. Kim\*, Marjan Gueek\*, Robert N. Cole\*, Henrik Molina\* and Akhlesh Pandey\*\*

\*McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine and the Departments of Oncology and Pathology, \*\*Institute of Basic Biomedical Sciences, Marjorie P. Hooton Proteomics Facility, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21205, USA

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Abstract

Cell

2010-05-06 09:00:00 08748884077 Check for updates

Article

**PDGF-dependent tyrosine phosphorylation stimulates production of novel phosphopeptides in intact cells**

Ramary Amanchy\*, Jun Zhang\*, Rosa Hong\*, James H. Kim\*, Marjan Gueek\*, Robert N. Cole\*, Henrik Molina\* and Akhlesh Pandey\*\*

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Received 12 December 2009; Revised 20 January 2010; Accepted online 7 May 2010

Abstract

Phosphoproteomics (PP) is a field associated with various proteomic assays dependent on cell proliferation. Phosphoproteomics is the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing area of proteomics. Phosphoproteomics (PP) is a field associated with various proteomic assays dependent on cell proliferation. Phosphoproteomics is the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing area of proteomics. Phosphoproteomics (PP) is a field associated with various proteomic assays dependent on cell proliferation. Phosphoproteomics is the 2<sup>nd</sup> fastest growing area of proteomics.

Submission  
 "Identification of c-Src Tyrosine Kinase Substrates in Platelet-Derived Growth Factor Receptor Signaling"  
 Results produced by crosslink

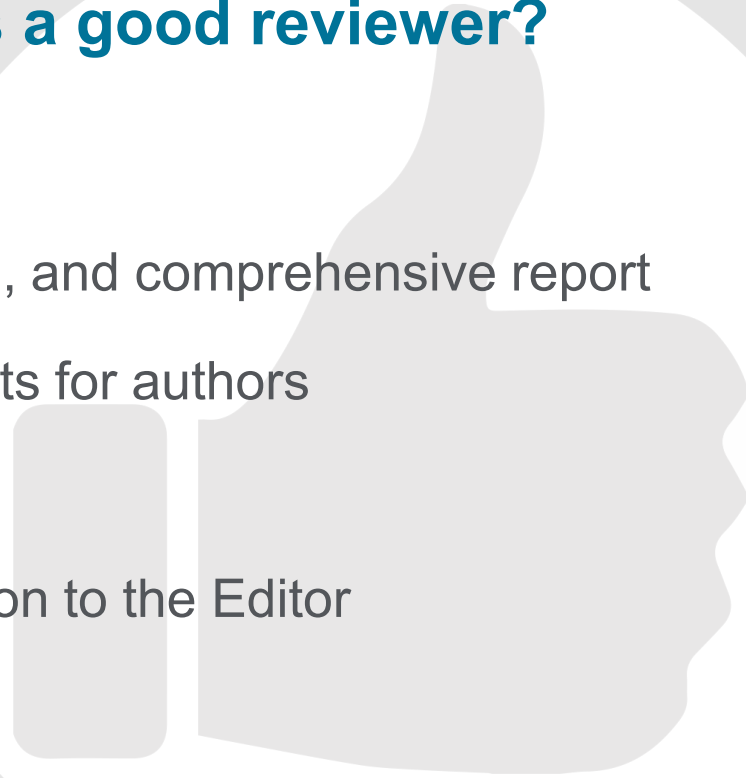
Assessment time for journal status: This journal status has a failed or Cancelled job, it has been validated. If Not Checked or Expired, either the status could not be identified as a journal or the linking journal did not contain results. The linked references in the journal status could not be validated as the linking journal.

Assessment Results	Validation	Crosslink
Total Citations	78	
Linked and online	62	
Not Checked	16	
Not Validated	0	

Citation	Validation	Crosslink
1. Amanchy R, Zhang J, Hong R, Kim JH, Gueek M, Cole RN, Molina H, Pandey A (2010) Identification of c-Src tyrosine kinase substrates in platelet-derived growth factor receptor signaling. <i>J Proteome Res</i> 9: 1188-1197.	Validated	Crosslink
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## Editors' view: what makes a good reviewer?

- Provides an objective, thorough, and comprehensive report
- Provides well-founded comments for authors
- Gives constructive criticism
- Provides a clear recommendation to the Editor
- Submits the report on time



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