Harness the power of *peer review*

JOIN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF PEER REVIEWERS

REVIEWERS

EDITORS

PUBLISHERS

INSTITUTIONS

390,000+
Researchers

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Reviews

25,000+
Journals

Publons helps you get the recognition you deserve for keeping watch over science and research.

Easily import, verify, and store a record of every peer review you perform and every manuscript you handle as an editor, for any journal in the world, in full compliance with all editorial policies.

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Robert Keith Shaw

Keti Glonti

Jonas Ranstam

David Moher

Dr Jacobus Donders

Dr. Guillermo Rein

Dr. Randy Schekman

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Expert Tip

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Powering Peer Review

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Editors

PUBLONS ACADEMY

Reviewers

1. What is peer review?

2. The Academy Modules

Publons Academy covers three key areas

Publons Academy covers three key areas

- Industry knowledge

Publons Academy covers three key areas

- Industry knowledge

- Core reviewing skills

Publons Academy covers three key areas

- Industry knowledge

- Core reviewing skills

- Practical experience activities

Course Outline

Overview of each module and your progress through the course.

Continue Module 5: At first glance

1. Welcome to the Publons Academy	✓

2. Academic publishing and peer review	✓

3. What journals want	✓

4. Ethical considerations	✓

5. At first glance	⌄

6. Evaluating introductions	⌄

7. Evaluating methodology	⌄

8. Evaluating data and results	⌄

9. Evaluating discussions and conclusions	⌄

10. Structuring your reviews	⌄

Module 1: Welcome to Publons Academy
Get an overview of what you'll learn in this course

Course Outline

Overview of each module and your progress through the course.

Continue Module 5: At first glance

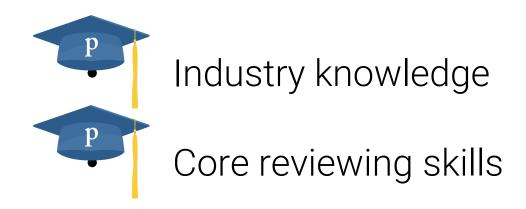| 1. Welcome to the Publons Academy | ✓ |
2. Academic publishing and peer review	✓
3. What journals want	✓
4. Ethical considerations	✓

Industry knowledge

5. At first glance	⌄
6. Evaluating introductions	⌄
7. Evaluating methodology	⌄
8. Evaluating data and results	⌄
9. Evaluating discussions and conclusions	⌄
10. Structuring your reviews	⌄

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Overview of each module and your progress through the course.

Continue Module 5: At first glance

1. Welcome to the Publons Academy ✓

2. Academic publishing and peer review ✓

3. What journals want ✓

4. Ethical considerations ✓

5. At first glance ⌄

6. Evaluating introductions ⌄

7. Evaluating methodology ⌄

8. Evaluating data and results ⌄

9. Evaluating discussions and conclusions ⌄

10. Structuring your reviews ⌄

Core reviewing skills

Paper title:

Aim(s):

DOI:

Review due date: /   /

Section	Points to Ponder	Review comments and notes

Abstract, title and references	• Is the aim clear?
	• Is it clear what the study found and how they did it?
	• Is the title informative and relevant?
	• Are the references:
	    • Relevant?
	    • Recent?
	    • Referenced correctly?
	    • Are appropriate key studies included?	

Introduction/ background	• Is it clear what is already known about this topic? • Is the research question clearly outlined? • Is the research question justified given what is already known about the topic?	
Methods	• Is the process of subject selection clear? • Are the variables defined and measured appropriately? • Are the study methods valid and reliable? • Is there enough detail in order to replicate the study?	

Results	• Is the data presented in an appropriate way?
	    • Tables and figures relevant and clearly presented?
	    • Appropriate units, rounding, and number of decimals?
	    • Titles, columns, and rows labelled correctly and clearly?
	    • Categories grouped appropriately?
	• Does the text in the results add to the data or is it repetitive?
	• Are you clear about what is a statistically significant result?
	• Are you clear about what is a practically meaningful result?	

Discussion and Conclusions	• Are the results discussed from multiple angles and placed into context without being overinterpreted? • Do the conclusions answer the aims of the study? • Are the conclusions supported by references or results? • Are the limitations of the study fatal or are they opportunities to inform future research?	
Overall	• Was the study design appropriate to answer the aim? • What did this study add to what was already known on this topic? • What were the major flaws of this article? • Is the article consistent within itself?	
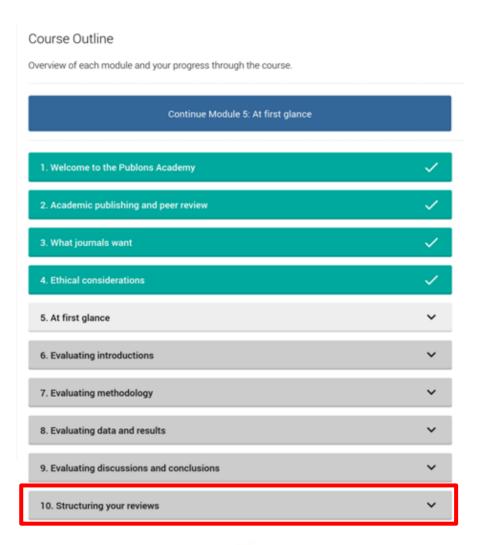
Structure your comments into a full review:

Overall statement or summary of the article and its findings in your own words	
Overall **strengths** of the article and what **impact** it might have in your field	
Specific comments on **weaknesses** of the article and what could be done to improve it	Major points in the article which needs clarification, refinement, reanalysis, rewrites and/or additional information and suggestions for what could be done to improve the article. 1. 2. 3. Minor points like figures/tables not being mentioned in the text, a missing reference, typos, and other inconsistencies. 1. 2. 3. 4.

Submit reviews for feedback

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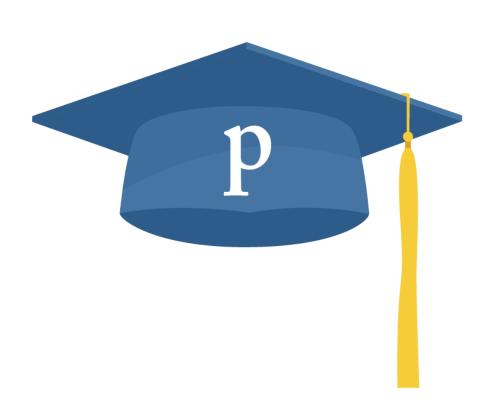
To graduate you will need to…

- Complete all Multiple Choice Questions
- Write and Submit 2 post-publication reviews in the format of pre-publication reviews
- Choose 2 published papers to review
- Secure a Mentor to approve your reviews

3. Choosing Papers to Review

- DOI - doi: 10.1136/bmj.g7094

- URL - https://www.bmj.com/content/349/bmj.g7094

- ArXiv - arXiv:1804.02712

- PubMed - PMID: 25500113

RESEARCH

CHRISTMAS 2014: GOING TO EXTREMES

The Darwin Awards: sex differences in idiotic behaviour

OPEN ACCESS

Ben Alexander Daniel Lendrem *student*[1], Dennis William Lendrem *project manager, Institute of Cellular Medicine*[2], Andy Gray *consultant orthopaedic trauma surgeon*[3], John Dudley Isaacs *director, Institute of Cellular Medicine*[2]

[1]The King Edward VI School, Morpeth NE61 1DN, UK; [2]Newcastle University, Newcastle NE2 4HH, UK; [3]Major Trauma Centre, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle NE1 4LP

Article

If the article has been published please enter its DOI to ensure we associate your review correctly. As it would be unfair to the author(s) **we do not show the title of the article or publish the content of your review until the manuscript has been published (given a DOI or URL)**.

Complete article details:

Article title
The Darwin Awards: sex differences in idiotic behaviour

CLEAR ALL

Article DOI
10.1136/bmj.g7094

PubMed ID

Article arXiv

Journal's internal manuscript ID

Article URL
http://www.bmj.com/cgi/doi/10.1136/bmj.g7094

4. Your Academy Mentor

Your Mentor will…

- Check your review
- Provide feedback
- Endorse your competency

My Progress

Course outline
Mentor status
Continue

Modules

✓ 1. Welcome
✓ 2. Peer Review
✓ 3. Journals
✓ 4. Ethics
   5. First Glance
   6. Introductions
   7. Methodology
   8. Data & Results
   9. Discussion
   10. Structure

Academy

About
Course prep
Reviewer resources

Mentor status

You should now ask your **current academic advisor or a senior colleague** to mentor you in the Publons Academy.

Journal editors have told us that they are much more likely to send a review invitation to early career researchers who have been endorsed by a senior researcher. With this in mind, it's important you find a senior researcher in your field who can mentor you in peer review. They will ensure you get the most out of the course by providing feedback on your reviews, and helping you build a relationship with editors in your field.

You can still do all modules of the course without a peer review mentor, but you will not receive any feedback on your practice reviews in Module 10 or become an endorsed reviewer. This is needed in order to graduate from the course.

There are lots of reasons your academic advisor would be interested in helping you improve your peer reviewing skills. And don't worry, 9 out of 10 senior researchers said they'd mentor their students through the Publons Academy if asked.

Click here to learn more about the role of a peer review mentor and here to download a mentor invite email template.

Invite your mentor here:

| Mentor name | Mentor email | **INVITE MENTOR** |

Our Peer Reviewer Resources offer some best practice tips and guides for any general questions you may have. If you have any additional questions or need help throughout the course then contact us at academy@publons.com.

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Click here to learn more about the role of a peer review mentor and here to download a mentor invite email template.

Invite your mentor here:

| Mentor name | Mentor email | INVITE MENTOR |

Our Peer Reviewer Resources offer some best practice tips and guides for any general questions you may have. If you have any additional questions or need help throughout the course then contact us at academy@publons.com.

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Dear Dr. Mentor,

Reviewer has asked that you mentor them as they progress through Publons Academy.

Publons Academy is an online course designed to train early career researchers how to peer review. You can find more information about being a supervisor in the Publons Academy here.

If you are happy to supervise Reviewer please follow this link to accept the invitation:
Accept invitation to supervise

If you would rather not supervise Reviewer please click here to let them know so they can ask someone else:
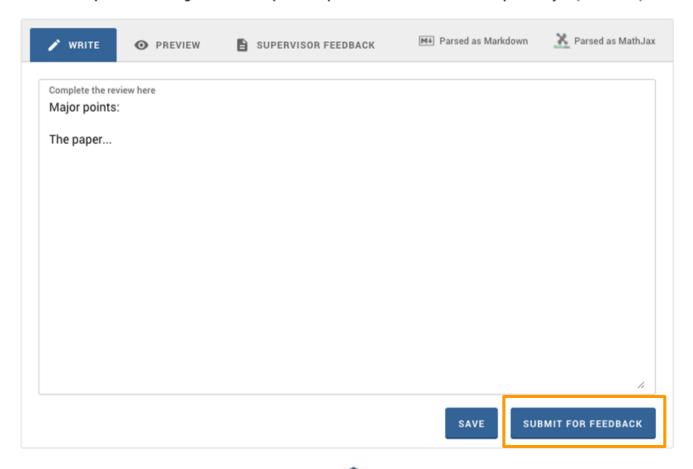Decline invitation to supervise

About: Publons is a free service that helps you track your peer review activity so you can include it on your CV and funding applications. We verify peer review contributions with publishers and are already partnering with many of the world's top publishers, including Wiley, Springer Nature, and Cambridge University Press.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reply to this email or contact Reviewer directly.
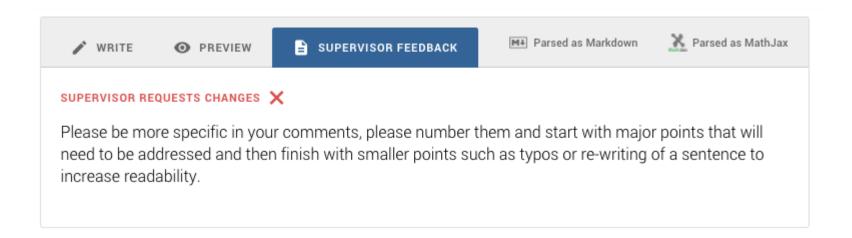
Kind regards,
Julia from the Publons Academy

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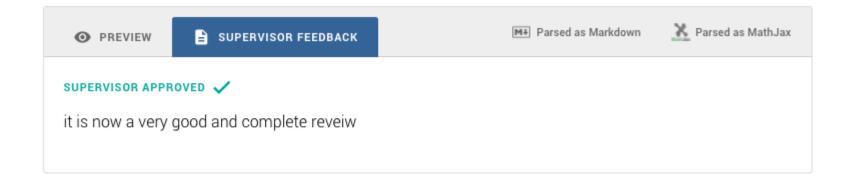
Review of 'Speciation with gene flow in equids despite extensive chromosomal plasticity.' (Guidelines)

WRITE | PREVIEW | SUPERVISOR FEEDBACK | Parsed as Markdown | Parsed as MathJax

Complete the review here
Major points:

The paper...

SAVE | SUBMIT FOR FEEDBACK

| ✏️ WRITE | 👁 PREVIEW | 📄 **SUPERVISOR FEEDBACK** | M↓ Parsed as Markdown | ✕ Parsed as MathJax |

SUPERVISOR REQUESTS CHANGES ✕

Please be more specific in your comments, please number them and start with major points that will need to be addressed and then finish with smaller points such as typos or re-writing of a sentence to increase readability.

| 👁 PREVIEW | 📄 **SUPERVISOR FEEDBACK** | M↓ Parsed as Markdown | ✕ Parsed as MathJax |

SUPERVISOR APPROVED ✔

it is now a very good and complete reveiw

CERTIFIED PUBLONS
ACADEMY PEER REVIEWER

Graduates of the the Publons Academy Practical Peer Review course have been endorsed by a qualified mentor after completing peer review course work corresponding to 10-15 hours.

Publons, in accordance with the recommendation of the Managing Director, hereby recognize

Peer Reviewer

As having completed the Publons Academy Practical Peer Review course to a satisfactory level.

Dr. A.R.H. Preston, Managing Director, publons.com

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Let's Get Started!