Most researchers have received a bad peer review, where comments took a cold or even cruel tone. These uncivil reviewers hide behind their anonymity, knowing they can give vicious critique without being caught and reprimanded by the author. Although researchers never forget a bad review, there is growing consensus within the scientific community to create an open and enhanced peer review process. For example, in 2012, eLife, a biomedical and life sciences journal, created a private forum, where peer reviewers and authors could read and comment on manuscripts together. In this platform, reviewers are encouraged to reveal their name for the sake of openness. After several years of conducting open peer reviews, eLife surveyed 1,000 scientists and found that 90 percent felt the open consultation sessions to be helpful and impactful for both authors and reviewers.

Although acquiring detailed criticism is beneficial in enhancing one’s writing, peer review is often not recognized as a valuable asset within the academic community. Publons, a company owned by Clarivate Analytics, seeks to incentivize authors to conduct peer reviews by allowing scientists to create online profiles. In their profiles, reviewers can keep a record of their peer reviews and other editorial activities. Moreover, reviewers can receive feedback from editors based on timeliness, thoroughness, clarity, and helpfulness. To date, 240,000 scientists worldwide have created profiles and have added 1.3 million reviews to their repertoire, encouraging more open and insightful scientific dialogue.

Because all scientists want to provide beneficial advice to fellow colleagues, there are helpful tips for reviewers to follow:

1. **Create an Outline for your Review:** It is important for the reviewer to show that he/she has read and understood the contents within a manuscript. By introducing the review with a short summary of the article, “it tells the author and the editor what the reviewer thinks is the purpose of the paper.”

2. **Use Specific Examples to Support your Points:** It is important to clearly state what is wrong and right with the paper. Be sure to include specific references within the text so that the author knows what works and what doesn’t.

3. **Keep your Focus:** Comments should be focused on improving the paper. Keep in mind that peer review is intended to be productive. Therefore, comments should have the ultimate goal of providing constructive criticism without personal bias.

4. **Keep your Expectations Realistic:** All reviewers should leave comments that can realistically be accomplished and incorporated within the manuscript.

5. **Keep Comments Insightful:** Peer review should be a mentoring experience. As a reviewer, your comments are helping further the careers of other scientists and developing their scientific writing skills.

1. Dr. Ralph Harvey is currently serving as a member of the Fear-Free Executive Council.

2. Janina Bartels, Dr. Silke Hecht, Gordon Conklin, and S. Xiaocun won Best Resident Authored Poster Award at the ACVR Annual Scientific meeting for their poster, entitled “Effect of gadolinium contrast medium administration on T2*-weighted gradient recalled echo imaging of the canine brain.” The conference was held on October 18-21, 2017 in Phoenix, Arizona.

3. Dr. Diane Hendrix won the B. Ray Thompson, Sr. Outstanding Faculty Performance Award.

4. Drs. Marcy Souza and Sherry Cox received a $10,000 grant award from the Association of Avian Veterinarians for their project, entitled “Pharmacokinetics and egg residues of clavamox in domestic chickens.” The funds for this grant will extend until October 2018.

5. Drs. Marcy Souza, Richard Gerhold, Chika Okafor, B. Dell, and A. Willcox received a $5,000 grant award from the FEAR Fund for their project, entitled “Bushmeat Roulette.” The funds for this grant will extend until December 2018.

6. Drs. Marcy Souza and B. Dell received a $4,966 UT Graduate School Student/Faculty Research Award for their work, entitled “Species uncertainty and disease risk at the human-wildlife interface in Murchison Falls National Park, Uganda.” The funds from this award will extend until May 2018.

7. Drs. Marcy Souza, Zenithson Ng, and Julia Albright received a $381,500 grant award from the State of TN Office of Criminal Justice Programs for their work, entitled “Expansion of HABIT into Middle TN.” The funds from this grant will extend until July 2020.

8. Dr. Karen Tobias was granted a patent by the US Patent and Trademark Office on June 27, 2017. The patent number, US 9,687,220 B2, is entitled “Device for securing an object to a subject and wound closure.”

9. Dr. Debra Miller received a $10,000 grant award from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for her work, entitled “Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) Cooperative Assessment for At-Risk Species-Green Salamanders.” The funds for this grant will extend until the year 2020.

10. Dr. Debra Miller received the $2,950 CVM FEAR award for her work, entitled “Analysis of Skin Antimicrobial Peptides from Hellbenders, Cryptobranchus alleganiensis.” The funds from this award will extend until the year 2018.

11. Drs. Katherine Tolbert (PI) and J. Quimby received a $23,157 grant award from the Morris Animal Foundation for their work, entitled “Evaluation of the Effect of Omeprazole on Clinical Signs in CKD Cats.” The funds from this grant award will extend until the year 2019.

HELPFUL HINTS:

Browser extensions are innovative tools that allow researchers to quickly and efficiently access information. Below is a list of 5 browser extensions to consider adding to your computer.

1. Grammarly does real-time correction of grammar, spelling, and text readability. It has incorporated academic document styles to adapt to scientific writing.

2. HiPub recognizes, annotates, and translates biomedical entities from texts into networks for knowledge discovery.

3. Lazy Scholar finds information and helpful shortcuts when navigating scientific papers.

4. Unpaywall is a database with millions of free author-uploaded PDFs of scientific prereleased manuscripts.

5. Ferret adds extra features to online publications, including summarizing data and annotating proteins.
RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Albright, JD, Seddighi, RM, Ng, Z, Sun, XC, Rezac, DJ. Effect of environmental noise and music on dexmedetomidine-induced sedation in dogs. PEERJ, 5:E3659.


Lux, CN, Culp, WTN, Johnson, LR, Kent,
RECENT PUBLICATIONS continued...


Newkirk, K, Ehresensing, G, Odoi, A, Boston, RC, Frank, N. Immunohistochemical expression of insulin, glucagon and somatostatin in pancreatic islets from insulin sensitive and insulin resistant horses. Accepted for publication in Am J Vet Res.


Odunayo, A, Tobias, K, Okafor, CC, Flatland, B. Ammonia concentrations in canine whole blood, EDTA-


Gould, E, Giannone, R, Kania, S, Tolbert, MK. Cysteine protease 30 (CP30) corresponds to adhesion and cytopathogenicity in feline Tritrichomonas foetus. Vet Parasit, 244:114-22.


Frank, LA, Morandi, F, Whittemore, JC. Extended Low Dose Dexamethasone Suppression Test for Diagnosis of Atypical Cushing’s Syndrome in Dogs. Domest Anim Endocrinol, 60:25-30.


Steiner, RC, Anderson, DE, Dhar, MS, Biris, AS, Bourdo, S. Cytotoxicity of Hydrogen Peroxide Gas Sterilization towards Carbon-Based Biomaterials. Poster presented at: TERMS Americas Annual Conference and Exhibition, Charlotte, NC, Dec. 3-6, 2017. [Selected as Student and Young Investigator Section (SYIS) Top 10 poster].

RECENT PRESENTATIONS continued...

Exhibition, Charlotte, NC, Dec. 3-6, 2017.

Madhu, D, Elkhenany, H, Bourdo, S, Alghazali, K, Biris, A, Anderson, D.

Fasina, OO, Craig, LC.

Fasina, OO, Craig, LC.

Gerhold, R, Nobrega, M, Applegate, R.

Purple, K, Gerhold, R.
Decreased dissolved oxygen as a possible mechanism of increased persistence of Trichomonas gallinae in the presence of organic material in water. Paper presented at: American Association of Veterinary Parasitologists, Indianapolis, IN, July 2017.

Richards, J, Kania, S, Gerhold, R.

Crilly, N, Chapman, A, Schaefer, J, Gerhold, R.

Duncan, K, Phillips, A, Gerhold, R.

Applegate, R, Gerhold, R, Fenton, H, Fischer, J.

Ammar, S, Su, C, Gerhold, R.

Gerhold, R.

Gerhold, R.

Gerhold, R.

Giori, L, Flatland, B, Xiaocum, S, McCormick, K, Fecteau, K.

Corder, N, Fry, M, Flatland, B, Fecteau, K, Giori, L.

Giori, L, Flatland, B, Xiaocum, S, McCormick, K, Fecteau, K.

Smith, K, Hecht, S, Lux, C, Xiaocun, S.

Bartels, J, Hecht, S, Conklin, G, Xiaocun, S.

Hecht, S.

Hecht, S.
A Primer on MRI Physics-Not as Scary as You Think; MRI of Brain Tumors; MRI of Inflammatory Brain Diseases; MRI of Congenital, Degenerative and Metabolic Encephalopathies; MRI of the Spine-An Update; MRI and CT of the Brain-Are these Lesions significant? Oral presentations at: 33rd World Veterinary Congress (WVC), Incheon, Korea, Aug. 27-31, 2017.

Hecht, S.
Findji, L. Liver and GI imaging and surgery; Emergency radiology: Saving lives one x-ray at a time; Imaging the vomiting cat; Imaging the coughing dog; Pitfalls and pseudolesions in small animal radiology; Common and uncommon causes of lameness in dogs~A radiologist’s perspective; Is it straight enough yet? Tips and tricks to optimize musculoskeletal radiographs.
Oral presentations at: 42nd World Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress and FECAVA 23rd Eurocongress, Copenhagen, Denmark, Sept. 25-28, 2017.


Tobias, KM. Brachycephalic airway disease; Urethral surgery; Updated on reproductive surgery; Advanced wound management; Tension relieving techniques; Head and neck surgery; case presentations. Oral presentations at: Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, Nov. 2017.


Tobias, KM. Basic wound management; Favorite wound dressings; Tension relieving techniques; Flaps and grafts; Help- My dog has liver disease!; Brachycephalic airway syndrome; Updates on reproductive surgery. Oral presentations at: Gulf-Atlantic Veterinary Conference, Boca Raton, Dec. 2017.


Many grant organizations are now requiring Data Management Plans when completing a proposal. If your grant proposal requires a Data Management Plan, be sure to seek out the assistance of Chris Eaker, UT Library’s Data Curation Librarian. Eaker is available for one-on-one consultations, and he offers Data Management Plan workshops. Investigators can also submit plans for review by going to [http://bit.ly/16BIRyo](http://bit.ly/16BIRyo). Eaker’s office is located on the second floor of the John C. Hodges Library, room 236, or he can be reached by phone at 974-4404 or email at ceaker@utk.edu.

For further information, check out the Data Management website at [libguides.utk.edu/datamanagement](http://libguides.utk.edu/datamanagement).