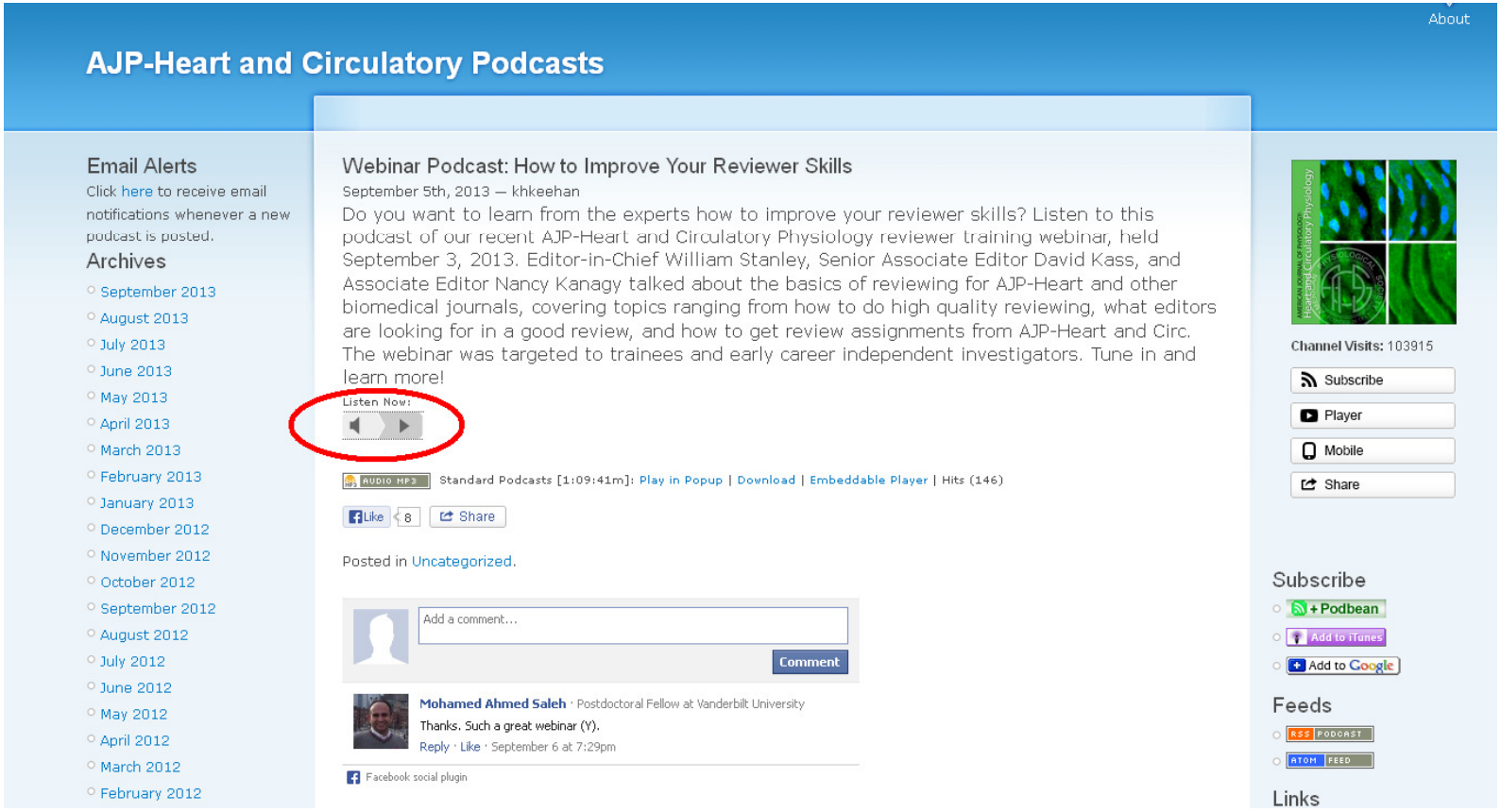
AJP-Hearts : Reviewer Training Online Seminar

"**AJP-Heart and Circulatory Physiology Hosts an Online Reviewer Training Seminar**"

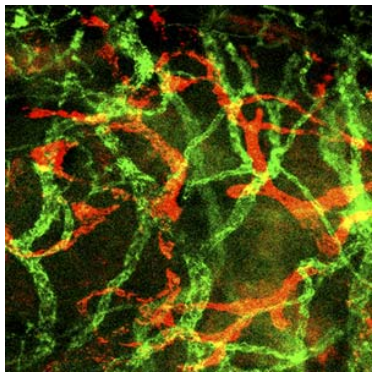
Editors of AJP-Heart and Circ are hosting a first-ever "AJP-Heart and Circ Reviewer Training Webinar" on Tuesday, September 3 at 4:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time. This online interactive seminar will be hosted via GoToWebinar.com. Editor in Chief William C. Stanley, Senior Associate Editor David Kass, and Associate Editor Nancy Kanagy will go over the basics of reviewing for biomedicine journals, covering topics ranging from how to do high quality reviewing, what editors are looking for, and how to get review assignments from AJP-Heart and Circ. The Webinar is targeted to advanced trainees and early stage independent investigator. Please register in advance by emailing our Executive Editor Kara Hansell Keehan at khkeehan@verizon.net

*PodCast URL: http://ajpheart.podbean.com/2013/09/05/webinar-podcast-how-to-improve-your-reviewer-skills/



American Physiological Society

AMERICAN JOURNAL of PHYSIOLOGY
Heart and Circulatory Physiology



How to Review for *AJP-Heart and Circulatory Physiology*:

A Primer for Potential Reviewers

WELCOME!

Speakers

- Dr. William C. Stanley, Editor in Chief
  University of Sydney

- Dr. David A. Kass, Senior Associate Editor
  Johns Hopkins University

- Dr. Nancy L. Kanagy, Associate Editor
  University of New Mexico

Journal: http://ajpheart.physiology.org
Podcasts: http://ajpheart.podbean.com
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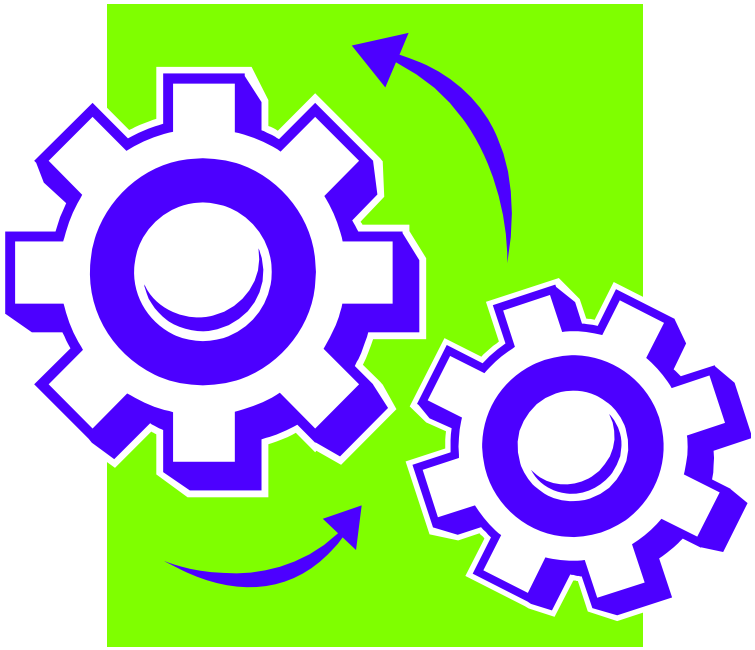
The Mechanics of *AJP-Heart and Circ* Peer Review

Dr. William C. Stanley

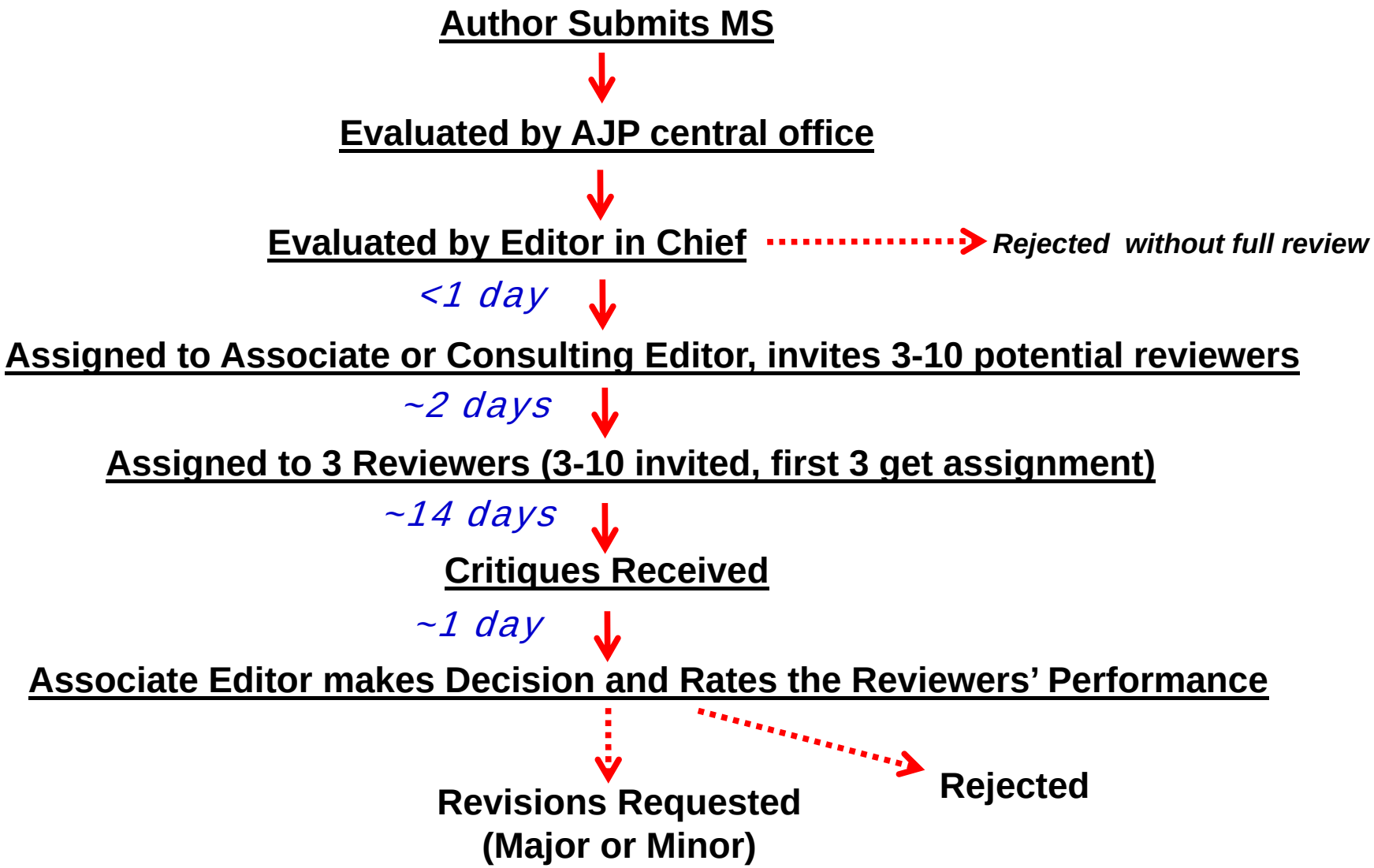


How the System Works:

1) Receive ~1000 manuscripts/year, and require ~4500 reviews/year.

2) Associate or Consulting Editor decides who to invite to review:

- 3 to 10 people are initially invited
- First 3 to accept the invitation get the assignment
- Often leaders in the field turn down the invitation but recommend junior investigators as alternative reviewers


Author Submits MS
Evaluated by AJP central office
Evaluated by Editor in Chief
Rejected without full review
<1 day
Assigned to Associate or Consulting Editor, invites 3-10 potential reviewers
~2 days
Assigned to 3 Reviewers (3-10 invited, first 3 get assignment)
~14 days
Critiques Received
~1 day
Associate Editor makes Decision and Rates the Reviewers' Performance
Revisions Requested
(Major or Minor)
Rejected

Who gets invited to review?

- Potential reviewers recommended by the authors (1 or 2 max per manuscript)
- Recognized experts in the field
- Editorial board members (provide ~30% of reviews)
- Reviewers who are recommended by invited reviewers who decline the invitation.
    - Editors often invite these recommended reviewers when they have trouble finding 3 reviewers.
    - ***THIS COULD BE YOU!***

How to get reviewer invitations:

1) Have a high prominence in your specific field of research so that authors recommend you as a potential reviewer and editors know who you are.

2) Get current reviewers for AJP-Heart and Circ to recommend you when they decline their invitation to review.

- Show people you can provide quality reviews
- Tell Editorial Board members and other experts of you willingness to review (NETWORK!)

3) Submit your papers for publication in AJP-Heart and Circ, particularly as senior author.

4) Do a good job when you review.

- Be on time, thorough, polite, constructive
- Maintain a high reviewer rating in the APS system

Questions?

“Die Gestalt” of a Paper

Dr. David A. Kass

Approaching a Paper

- Is this addressing an interesting, important and hopefully novel question?
- Is the approach appropriate for answering this question?
- Are there surprising findings that could lead the field in new directions or is this more incremental?
- Any really cool methodology (broadly inclusive) involved?

Tactics

- I read the abstract – definitely helps with the Gestalt issues.
- I then skip to the figures and figure legends. You can quickly get a sense of what sort of study this is – i.e. the level of detail, mechanistic or descriptive, quality of the data being presented, etc.
- IF at this point I have come to the conclusion that this has a solid feel to it, the data seem interesting, the flow of the data as represented by the figures tells an interesting and compelling story – THEN – I am ready to really dive in.

More Tactics

- Next I just read the paper straight as if it were published in a journal. No stopping.
- At this point, if it has passed the primary Gestalt tests and I am positive – then it is time to get down to the nitty gritty.
- Moving through the results and figures/tables, ask:
  - Is the question being addressed?
  - Do the data support the conclusion?
  - Are there problems?
- Do not get overly picky.
- Do not try to turn a study into something that it is not trying to be.

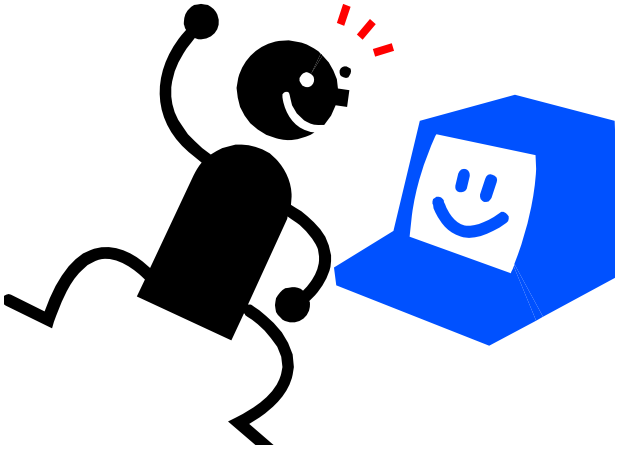
Synthesizing comments for the Editors

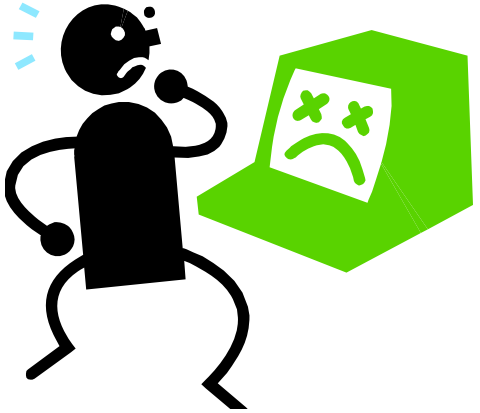
- Remember – we probably did not read it.
- We want the Gestalt stuff – is this novel, exciting, incremental, boring, useful or not?
- WHY?
- Please, do not cut and paste your review to the authors. EDITORS HATE THAT
- Please, do not tell the editors one thing, and then provide comments to the authors which send the opposite message.

Questions?

What Makes A “Good” Or “Bad” Review (for the authors)

Dr. Nancy L. Kanagy





Things That Make a Review Bad…..

- Extreme brevity…even good papers need a review stating why it's good!
- Rude or arrogant comments (would you say that to someone's face?)
- Scientific errors or misquoted literature (it happens!)
- Mention of "acceptance" or "rejection" in the review (not your decision)
- Sloppy writing with speling erors and not good grammar (please proof your reviews)

So What Makes A Review Good?

Critique the Science:

- List the major strengths and weaknesses of the science (independent of the writing style)
  - Were the appropriate controls and approaches included?
  - Does it address an important area?
  - Are the observations novel and robust enough to make a significant advance in the field?
- Suggest changes to improve the science of the study (or don't if not needed) and use references to support
  - Minor additional studies can be suggested (major revision)
  - Multiple additional major studies can be suggested (reject because it is incomplete)
  - No studies needed is a valid option

Critique the Presentation:

- Briefly critique the writing style
  - Is the introduction convincing and an appropriate review of the relevant background?
  - Are the conclusions justified by the data?
  - Does the discussion indicate how the results impact and advance the field?
- Suggest changes to improve the presentation
  - Suggestions to clarify or expand methods, results or conclusions or to include important references (minor revision)
  - Major reorganization of the presentation or reanalysis of the data (major revision)
  - Can't interpret data because the writing is so garbled or unclear (reject)

The Reviewer as a Consultant:

- A good reviewer is a consultant to the authors
  - Goal = improve the paper at hand, not make it into a different study.
  - Point out missing controls or studies needed to interpret data.
  - Evaluate clarity of presentation style and order.
- Make appropriate suggestions for new studies
  - Are the suggested studies really necessary before conclusions can be made?
  - Do the suggested studies fit within the scope of the work or would they lead to a major expansion?
  - Can the studies be done within the 90 day revision window? (i.e. new animal studies using a 6 month treatment protocol are not realistic to ask for)

Summary of a good review:

- Indicate the major strengths and weaknesses of the study for the authors (including novelty but independent of the writing style).
- Include references to support your comments.
- Suggest changes to improve the science of the study.
- Briefly critique the writing style and suggest changes to improve the presentation.
- Helpful comments to the editor telling what you really think and why!

Questions?

Thank you!