

EDITORS' NOTE

Peer Reviewers for the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* in 2008

External peer reviewers are the unsung heroes of the *JABFM*. Here we acknowledge and thank all who so generously gave their time and expertise to build the evidence base of family medicine, as well as to advance the scholarship of their peers. We also take this opportunity to identify how our peer review processes are aligned with the recent National Institutes of Health (NIH) plans to enhance its peer-review system.

In September, 2008, the NIH Peer Review Oversight Committee announced plans to enhance NIH peer-review activity, stating, "The excellence of peer review is directly correlated to our ability to recruit and retain the most accomplished, broad-thinking, and creative scientists to serve on study sections" (available at <http://enhancing-peer-review.nih.gov>). Although the NIH peer review enhancements are specific to the federal grant review process, we found that those related to "engaging the best reviewers" are also pertinent to our efforts at the *JABFM*. These are excerpted below along with comments specifying how the *JABFM* addresses these best practices.

NIH: "Recruit the Best Reviewers"

***JABFM* alignment:** We aim to secure a content specialist and family physician generalist for each reviewed manuscript to provide a broad and scholarly critique to assist authors in disseminating their work. In 2008, reviews were submitted from 43 states and 21 countries.

NIH: "Improve Reviewer Retention"

***JABFM* alignment:** We recognize that reviewers are very busy, and we avoid overburdening our reviewers with many requests. To expand our peer reviewer database, we actively recruit new reviewers with most new submissions; authors are also invited to suggest reviewers.

NIH: "Provide Benefits for Reviewers"

***JABFM* alignment:** Reviewers receive a copy of the editor's decision letter that includes the reviews for the manuscripts they critiqued. In 2008, we instituted

an annual letter to those reviewers who provide exceptional service to the *JABFM*. With this we intend to show our appreciation and strengthen relations with the family medicine research community. We also consider requests from excellent reviewers for letters of support for promotion or tenure.

NIH: "Enhance Reviewer Training"

***JABFM* alignment:** We provide resources for peer reviewers, which are available in the "Peer Reviewers" area on the *Journal's* home page (www.jabfm.org). These include an article about how to review a manuscript,¹ an article about the *JABFM* peer-review process,² and an article about what we seek in reviewer critiques.³ The editors also provide occasional workshops on journal peer reviewing at national primary care. Reviewers should also be aware of the *JABFM* editorial statement regarding conflict of interest.⁴

NIH: "Allow Flexibility"

***JABFM* alignment:** Reviewers are encouraged to enter into their Rapid Review reviewer profile dates in which they will be unavailable for requests for manuscript review. Reviewers who receive a request that they are unable to accept are encouraged to let us know of such circumstances; some reviewers take this opportunity to suggest alternative potential reviewers.

NIH: "Streamline Applications"

***JABFM* alignment:** All manuscript submissions are assigned to an editor for internal review and a decision to send the paper out for external peer review.² In 2008, 26% of unsolicited manuscripts were rejected after this internal review. The top reasons for rejection (internal review only and external review combined) were because it added little new information to topic (34%); it was faulty research (26%); or it was poorly written (18%).

Electronic Table of Contents Alerts

We invite our peer reviewers to submit their best work to the *JABFM*. We are an open-access journal

with a wide readership. At the end of 2008, 67,015 members of the primary care community received our electronic Table of Contents, which is sent when each issue posts online. These eTOCs have hyperlinks to each new article. Sign up for eTOCS at <http://www.jabfm.org/subscriptions/etoc.shtml>.

Recruiting New Peer Reviewers

New reviewers are welcome; researchers, faculty, and community-based physicians are invited to enlist as peer reviewers for the *JABFM* (see the peer

reviewer registration form on the website at www.jabfm.org).

2008 Reviewer Performance

In 2008, 390 individuals submitted to the *JABFM* editors 455 peer reviews and advice regarding suitability for publication. Reviewers took an average of 24 days (median, 25) to submit a review. Thanks to the following reviewers for their outstanding responsiveness:

Ya'aqov M. Abrams	Franco Benazzi	Ashwin Chatwani
John Abramson	Michal Benderly	Rajesh Chauhan
David A. Acosta	Ian M. Bennett	Frederick M. Chen
David C. Agerter	Alfred O. Berg	John A. Chiladakis
Erin J. Aiello	Stephen Berman	Kaj S. Christensen
James E. Aikens	Frances E. Biagioli	Richard D. Clover
Grace A. Alfonsi	Dawn Bielawski	Andreas Cohrsen
Deborah Allen	Juliann Binienda	Vilma Cokkinides
William A. Alto	Helen J. Binns	Yeates Conwell
Gail M. Amundson	B. Wayne Blount	Michael A. Crouch
J. Ellen Anderson	Alan Blum	Rebecca Crowell
Ronald J. Angel	Thomas Bodenheimer	Brian K. Crownover
Jack Ansell	Patrik Borg	Richard W. Crummer
Christine Arenson	Hayden B. Bosworth	Jennifer F. Culhane
Cheryl B. Aspy	Rachel Bramson	Larry Culpepper
Liv Berit Augestad	Kent Bream	William Curry
John Bachman	Patrick Bridge	Craig W. Czarsty
Elisabeth L. Backer	Howard Brody	Timothy P. Daaleman
Eric W. Bakker	Carlos Brotons	Peter G. Danis III
Beth Barnet	David W. Brown	Robert J. Darios
Kirsten Barrett	Richard L. Brown	Martin G. Dawes
Monina Bartoces	Sharon A. Brown	Cheryl Dee
Kay A. Bauman	Cynthia M. Bulik	M. Dianne Delva
Max Bayard	Sandra K. Burge	Raymond Y. Demers
Elizabeth A. Bayliss	Lucinda M. Buys	Cristina Demian-Popescu
Oralia V. Bazaldua	Suzanne M. Cadarette	Richard A. Deyo
Howard B. Beckman	Peter J. Carek	Joel Dickerman
Marvin Moe Bell	Nancy Carter	L. Miriam Dickinson

Allen J. Dietrich	Erica Frank	Robin Helm
Joseph R. DiFranza	Jennifer Frank	Eric Henley
Martey S. Dodoo	Peter Franks	Joshua A. Hirsch
Lisa Dodson	Michael D. Freeman	Joseph Hobbs
Rowena J. Dolor	Linda M. French	Michael F. Holick
Steven A. Dosh	Ivar L. Frithsen	Christina T. Holt
Tanya Dougherty	Vicki Fung	Eugene Hong
Susan Dovey	Sim S. Galazka	Phyllis Horns
Benjamin Druss	Mauro Gallitelli	Margaret S. Houston
Anne L. Dunlop	Joseph J. Gallo	Sharon K. Hull
Eileen F. Dunne	Elizabeth Garrett	Jon Eric Isaacson
Scott Eathorne	James M. Gill	Livia Jackson
Charles B. Eaton	Dwenda K. Gjerdingen	Carlos Roberto Jaen
Nancy C. Elder	Stephen Goggans	Paul A. James
William G. Elder, Jr.	Marji Gold	Sandeep Jauhar
Eva K. Ellegard	Adam O. Goldstein	Shannon B. Jenkins
William A. Ellert	Rise B. Goldstein	Sue Jessop
John W. Ely	Jodi M. Gonzalez	Raymond Jian
Charles C. Engel	Robert Graham	Masahito Jimbo
John W. Epling, Jr.	Judith A. Gravdal	Michel R. Joffres
Edzard Ernst	Beverly B. Green	David W. Johnson
Paolo Fabbri	Larry A. Green	Mark S. Johnson
Krista Farey	Michael E. Green	Jason D. Jones
Adrienne Feldstein	Tomas L. Griebing	Nikolaos V. Kafkas
Joshua J. Fenton	Kim Griswold	Jordan F. Karp
Robert L. Ferrer	Michael Grover	Robert D. Keeley
Karl B. Fields	Jasen W. Gundersen	Amy J. Keenum
Edgar Figueroa	Warren G. Guntheroth	Omar A. Khan
Kenneth S. Fink	A. Gutke	Niharika Khanna
Murray M. Finkelstein	David L. Hahn	George E. Kikano
Kevin Fiscella	S. A. Haje	Colin P. Kopes-Kerr
Colleen T. Fogarty	Jennifer L. Hamilton	M. Z. Koubeissi
Patricia Fontaine	E. Haneke	Grace M. Kuo
Stuart Forman	Susan Harris	Jesse Lachter
E. Foster	Kelly Haskard	Joseph M. Lane
Arthur Fournier	Robert L. Hatch	Robert Langan
Chester H. Fox	Diana L. Heiman	Lixing Lao

Cristina Lara-Castro	J. L. Michener	Valory N. Pavlik
Frank Lawler	Daniel Miller	Kevin A. Pearce
Edward W. Lee	Sandra Miller	Randolph L. Pearson
Lawrence M. Leeman	Arunima Misra	William S. Pearson
Patricia M. Lenahan	James W. Mold	Wayne F. Peate
Stephen Lerner	Alain J. Montegut	Michael J. Petrizzi
Barcey T. Levy	Michael V. Moore	T. Grant Phillips II
Joseph A. Lieberman III	Pablo A. Mora	William R. Phillips
Elizabeth Lin	Karen Muchowski	Marty S. Player
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David P. Losh	Zsolt J. Nagykaldi	Elizabeth Proude
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Margaret A. Maglione	Warren P. Newton	Michael D. Reis
Mark Mahowald	Giang T. Nguyen	Erika Ringdahl
Kamal A. Mansour	Polly H. Noel	Louis Ritz
Jun J. Mao	Thomas E. Norris	Peter A. Rives
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Cara Marshall	Jim Nuovo	Hector P. Rodriguez
Luca Mascitelli	Steven M. Ornstein	James E. Rohrer
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Joel H. Merenstein	Donald Pathman	John W. Saultz

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Stuart M. Speedie	Daniel C. Vinson	Adam J. Zolotor
Joseph B. Stanford	Iliia D. Volkov	Stephen J. Zyzanski
Jamie Stang	Peggy J. Wagner	Anne Victoria Neale, PhD, MPH
Barbara Starfield	Gordon Walbroehl	Marjorie A. Bowman, MD, MPA
Michael Stehney	Peter D. Watson	Phillip Lupo, MLIS

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