

AUGUST EDITORIAL



Why Peer Review Matters (And How You Can Get Involved)

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Peer review is the backbone of medical publishing. At *Consultant*, it ensures that the case reports, reviews, and original research we publish are clinically sound, relevant, and truly useful to practicing clinicians. A strong peer review strengthens a manuscript, offering not only a quality check but also a chance to refine arguments, sharpen clinical messages, and improve clarity for the benefit of readers. For that reason, we are eager to expand our community of reviewers, and we invite you to consider joining us.

Becoming a reviewer for *Consultant* is straightforward. Simply send a short **email to our editorial office** outlining your areas of expertise and qualifications, and include a recent CV. By contributing your time and knowledge, you will play a key role in shaping the literature that clinicians rely on in daily practice.

Reviewing also benefits you directly: it is an opportunity to sharpen your critical appraisal skills, stay current with evolving standards of care, and give back to the profession by mentoring authors through thoughtful feedback.

So, what makes a good peer review? Above all, it should be constructive, fair, and timely. A useful review highlights the strengths of a manuscript as well as its weaknesses, and frames critiques in a respectful, professional tone. The best reviews do not stop at pointing out flaws; they suggest solutions. For instance, recommending that an author clarify the rationale behind a diagnosis or expand on a treatment option can make an article more valuable to readers.

Clinical relevance is another cornerstone of a strong review. Ask yourself whether the manuscript offers information that would meaningfully impact patient care. Are the diagnostic approaches and treatment recommendations consistent with current guidelines? Are references accurate and up to date? By ensuring that published work meets these standards, reviewers help maintain the credibility of the journal and its usefulness to busy clinicians.

Equally important is attention to clarity and organization. Even a clinically sound article can fall short if it is not well structured. Reviewers can help identify areas where explanations need to be expanded, transitions improved, or figures and tables clarified. For case reports and research articles, reviewers also play a critical role in checking that the methodology is adequately described and that the conclusions follow logically from the data presented.

Finally, reviewers uphold ethical and professional responsibilities. Manuscripts under review must remain confidential, and potential conflicts of interest should always be disclosed. Timeliness is also crucial—authors and readers benefit when manuscripts move efficiently through the editorial process.

In short, a good peer review is more than a gatekeeping exercise; it is a collaborative effort to improve the scientific and clinical literature. If you are interested in joining our reviewer community, we encourage you to reach out. Together, we can continue to ensure that *Consultant* remains a trusted, practical resource for clinicians across the spectrum of patient care.

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