

Getting published – the next steps



27TH INTERNATIONAL NURSING RESEARCH CONGRESS

Cape Town, South Africa • 21-25 July 2016

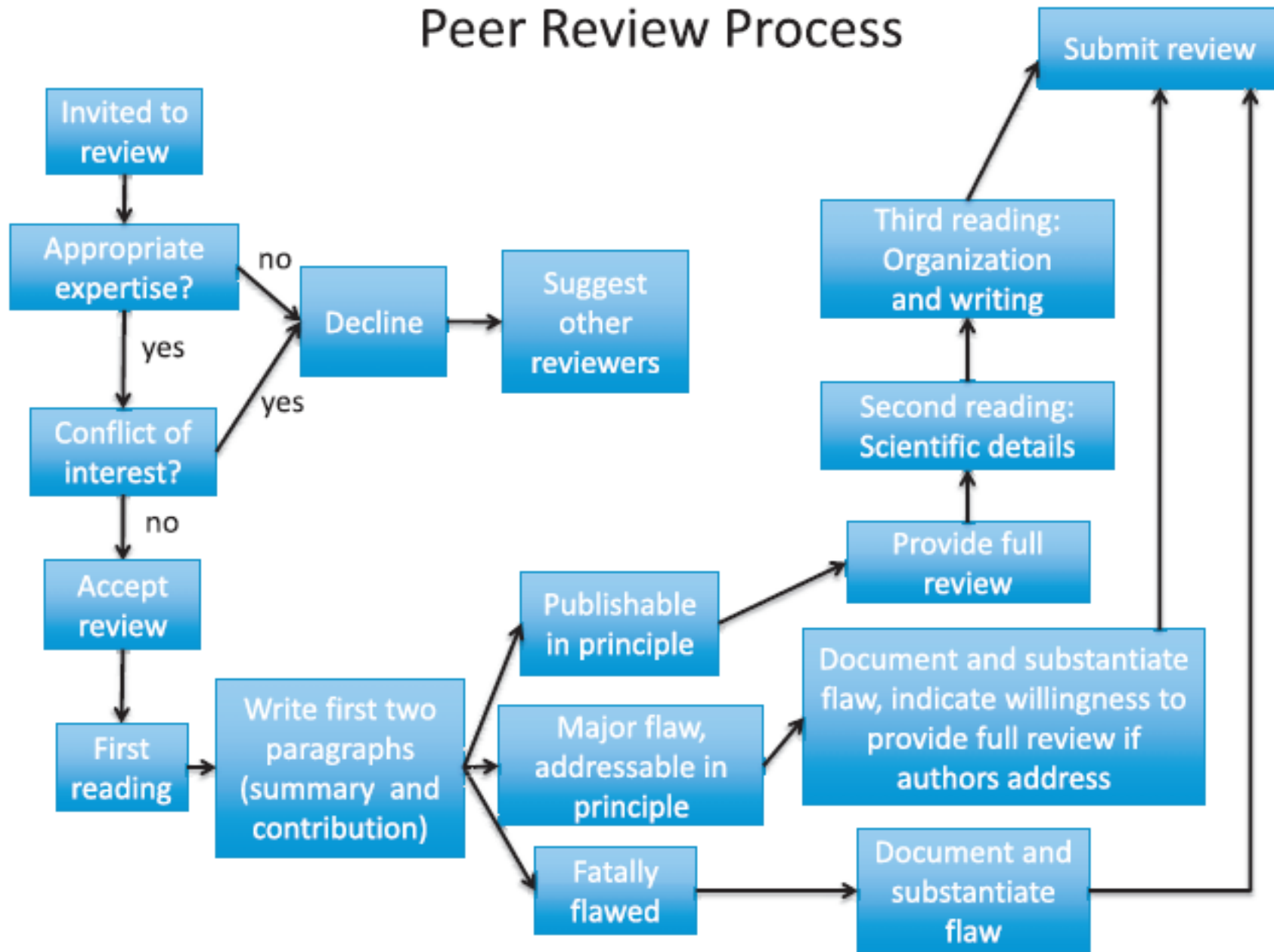
Dr. Nelouise Geyer, Prof Judith Bruce, Prof Rene D Phetlhu IJANS Editors



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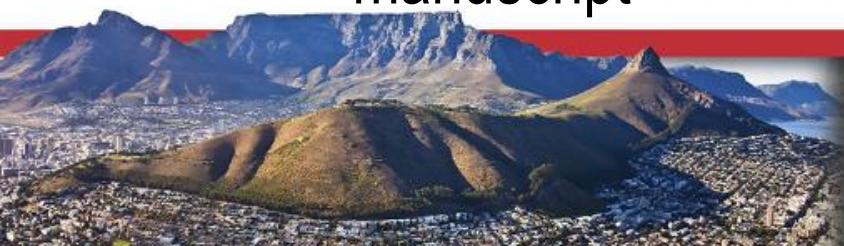
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Peer Review Process



Why is article review important?

- To enable the journal editors to
 - make a fair decision
 - explain to authors whether and how manuscript can be improved to be acceptable
- Considers quality of manuscript
- Peer review is at the heart of the scientific method: research must survive the scrutiny of experts before presentation to larger scientific community as worthy of serious consideration
- Therefore reviewers have to ask the question:
 - Does this manuscript merit publication
 - What advice (***positive constructive criticism***) can be given to improve the manuscript



Responsibility of reviewers

- Reviewers (or referees) as experts in a particular topic or field determine the quality of the system
- Use experience and knowledge to evaluate whether:
 - study methods are appropriate
 - results are accurate
 - authors' interpretations of the results are reasonable
- Alert the journal editor to any problems identified
- Report if duplicate publication, fraud, plagiarism, or ethical concerns about the use of animals or humans are seen
- Give the same kind of feedback that they expect for their own manuscripts



So, as reviewer...

- Does this paper fall inside my discipline and knowledge?
- Provide honest, critical assessment, strengths and weaknesses of the research, provide suggestions for improvement
- Timeliness
- Take it seriously and do a good job
- Avoid bias
- Don't be intimidated
- Respect confidentiality
- Do not plagiarise this work



Benefits for reviewers

- No obvious immediate benefits!
- Doing so is a good way of keeping abreast of cutting edge research in your discipline
- Going through the process makes you better at critical reading and thinking, and allows you to give back to your field in a very important way
- Civic obligation to the broader scientific community



Overall impression

- Is the manuscript logically structured according to expected structure
- Does the content flow logically
- Is the author focused and systematic – do they lead the reader through their thinking?
- Is there congruence between all the elements of the article?
- Rigor (thoroughness, consistency, precision, accuracy, objectivity)
- Was the information presented in an open-minded and objective manner?
- Were there instances of plagiarism?
- Did the researcher obtain ethics approval



How to read a manuscript

Depends on your style. Many do a quick survey (e.g. read abstract, skim remainder) to start to address the following general questions:

- Why are the authors reporting this? What was their intent?
- Is the topic of interest to readers of the journal?
- Does study try to answer important questions that have not been answered adequately?
- Try to see what is missing
- *AND* read the article a few times before writing the report!
- Make notes as you proceed through the manuscript to jog your memory when writing the report
- Read more than once and set aside for a day or two before the next reading



Originality

- The most important criteria are:
 - The importance of the study or report to the existing body of knowledge
 - The scientific merit of the study
- Is the article sufficiently unique and interesting to warrant publication?
- Does it add to the present body of knowledge?
- Does the article adhere to the journal's standards?
- Is/are the research question(s) important?
- Do a quick literature search using tools such as Scopus to see if there are any reviews of the study or of similar studies



Abstract

- Many readers ONLY read this part
- The summary of the manuscript's most important features - the abstract should be able to stand alone as a summary of the work
 - Ideally, should contain a well-articulated purpose and hypothesis (not just “report our experience with...”)
 - Purpose (avoid vague objectives)
 - Materials and Methods
 - Results
 - Implications of what was found
 - Conclusion
 - Keywords



Abstract (cont)

- There should be no major discrepancies between the body of the paper and the Abstract!
- The most important features of each section should be the focus of the Abstract
- There are word count limits to the Abstract for each type of manuscript--should not be overly lengthy



Thank you for your time and
participation



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