OPEN PEER REVIEW

Open Peer Review (OPR)

As a new feature for progressing towards transparency, we decided to open a new window for all of our editors as well as authors titled "**Open Peer Review**". We hope by this new facility, our reviewers will be more motivated and authors will be more satisfied with the review process. We believe that publishing our peer review reports could make a transparent and clear environment for all our efforts within a journal, but not all reviewers tend to publish their comments.

What is "Open Peer Review" process?

An "Open Peer Review" process is making the details of all review process (including reviewers, associate editors, and EICs comments) as "Public" as it is agreed by EIC, Authors, and reviewers.

Advantages of "Open Peer Review" process

- More transparency, constructiveness and tactful comments of the peer review process: leads to an increase in the quality of reviews
- More motivations for all involved roles in the review process
- Authors' satisfactions from the review process: Increases honesty between authors and reviewers
- Education of both authors and new students
- Prevents reviewers from following their individual agendas and leading to the detection of reviewers' conflicts of interests

You can find out more at:
https://sites.kowsarpub.com/kowsar/knowledgebase/category/tree.html#opr.html

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Peer Review Report for "Scientific Publishing in Biomedicine: How to Write a Cover Letter?"

Author(s): Zahra Bahadoran, Parvin Mirmiran, Khosrow Kashfi, Asghar Ghasemi

Review Timeline:

Submit Date: 13 Apr 2021
Revised Date: 29 May 2021
Accepted Date: 12 Jun 2021

Revision (0)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) — 8 May 2021

Dear AE,
I read the manuscript entitled “Scientific publishing in Biomedicine: How to write a cover letter?”. The manuscript requires some considerations as follows:
1. In the abstract, the following sentence is too long: “Spending enough time to draft an informative, comprehensive, and concise cover letter is quite worthwhile since a poorly drafted one would not persuade the editor that the submitted work is fit for publication and may lead to an immediate rejection”.
2. In consecutive sentences that refer to similar reference)s(, do not repeat the reference number and bring it only at the end of the relevant content. For example:
- Page 5, 3rd paragraph: Reference number (14).
- Page 6, 1st paragraph: Reference number (15).
- Page 6, 2nd paragraph: Reference number (8, 17).
3. Page 7, 2nd paragraph: "reviews’ comments" correct as "reviewers’ comments"
4. It is suggested that the do's and don'ts be presented as separate lists.
Best Regards

REFEREE: Reviewer | **Revision** (0) — 17 May 2021

Dear AE,

This manuscript provides a practical guide for writing a cover letter of a scientific medical paper.
- The manuscript is well written. However, the sample for a cover letter (Figure 1) does not contain all items of Box 1, in particular those of the second paragraph.
- Authors may complete the present letter, or may change its title for an appropriate research agenda suitable to include items of second paragraph of Box 1.
Best regards

REFEREE: Associate Editor | **Revision** (0) 17 May 2021

Dear EIC,
The manuscript is clearly written and the practical tips are well presented. Nevertheless, the reviewers have suggested a couple of minor corrections that need to be made before publication.
Best regards

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision** (0) 17 May 2021

Dear Authors,
Based on reviewers' comments the manuscript needs revision before it can be accepted for publication.
Thanks.

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Reply to Reviewers

Ideally, the reviewing process can significantly improve the submitted manuscripts by allowing the authors to take into account the advice of reviewers. Author(s) must reply to all reviewers' comments in a separate Word file, point by point. A "**Reply to Reviewers**" document is submitted along with revised manuscript during submission of revised files, summarizing the changes that the authors made in response to the reviewers' comments. The responses to reviewers' comments specifies how the authors addressed each comment the reviewers made.

You can read the authors' responses to the reviewers' comments in the next page.

Reviwer#1

1. Comment: In the abstract, the following sentence is too long: “Spending enough time to draft an informative, comprehensive, and concise cover letter is quite worthwhile since a poorly drafted one would not persuade the editor that the submitted work is fit for publication and may lead to an immediate rejection”.

Response: *Agreed and corrected (P2, lines 8-11).*

2. Comment: In consecutive sentences that refer to similar reference(s), do not repeat the reference number and bring it only at the end of the relevant content. For example:

- Page 5, 3rd paragraph: Reference number (14).

- Page 6, 1st paragraph: Reference number (15).

- Page 6, 2nd paragraph: Reference number (8, 17).

Response: *Agreed and done (P6, lines 102-107; P6&7, lines 112-116; P7, lines 121-129).*

3. Comments: Page 7, 2nd paragraph: "reviews’ comments" correct as "reviewers’ comments"

Response: *Agreed and done (P8, line 144).*

4. Comments: It is suggested that the do's and don'ts be presented as separate lists.

Response: *Agreed and done (P11&12, lines 194-214).*

Reviwer#2

1. **Comment:** The sample for a cover letter (Figure 1) does not contain all items of Box 1, in particular those of the second paragraph. Authors may complete the present letter, or may change its title for an appropriate research agenda suitable to include items of second paragraph of Box 1.
   Response: *Agreed and corrected accordingly to figure 1.*

OPEN PEER REVIEW

Revision (1)

Here, you can see the **Reviewers**, **Associate Editors** and **EICs'** comments from the beginning to the end of the revision process.

REFEREE: EIC | **Revision (1)** 12 Jun 2021

Dear Authors,
The manuscript has been revised according to the suggestions and comments of the reviewers.
Thanks.