

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 "[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:

[Peer Review](#)



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Peer Review Report for "Botulinum Toxin in Focus: Applications, Challenges, and Future Directions"

Author(s): Soheila Aminzadeh, Maryam Shirani

Review Timeline:

Submit Date:	13 Sep 2025
Revised Date:	13 Oct 2025
Accepted Date:	19 Oct 2025

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

22 Sep 2025

1. Rewrite the Opening for Impact

Current: "Botulinum toxins (BoNTs) are mostly made by Clostridium botulinum..."

Suggested:

"Few substances embody medical duality as starkly as botulinum toxin, a molecule capable of killing with a single nanogram, yet trusted by millions to smooth wrinkles, silence migraines, and restore function. Once feared as a bioweapon, BoNT now stands as a pillar of modern therapeutics. But with great power comes great responsibility, and risk."

2. Sharpen the Editorial Voice Add a clear thesis or stance. Example:

"This editorial argues that while BoNT's clinical expansion is remarkable, its dual-use

nature demands stricter oversight, smarter delivery systems, and global coordination to prevent misuse without stifling innovation.”

3. Tighten Redundant Sections

- Lines 37–41 repeat the “duality” idea already introduced in lines 17–28. Condense or reframe as a transition to future directions.
- Avoid passive constructions: e.g., “are mostly made by” → “primarily produced by”

4. Add a “Call to Action” or Forward-Looking Conclusion Instead of ending with a vague hope for “more effective, safer” products, propose concrete steps:

“To harness BoNT’s full potential while minimizing risk, we urge: (1) standardized global surveillance for antibody development, (2) investment in targeted delivery platforms to reduce off-target effects, and (3) ethical frameworks for emerging psychiatric and oncological applications.”

5. Consider Audience Is this for clinicians? Researchers? Policymakers? General public? Adjust tone accordingly. Currently, it’s too technical for lay readers but too broad for specialists.

REFeree : Reviewer

27 Sep 2025

Dear Editor,

The review of the letter titled "Botulinum Toxin in Focus: Applications, Challenges, and Future Directions" is as follows:

The text is unsuitable for publication in its current format. It lacks new scientific information and the necessary detail for a peer-reviewed journal. The authors should revise the letter to include novel findings and expand upon the medical applications of botulinum toxin, or alternatively, reframe it as a review article.

REFeree : Associate Editor

1 Oct 2025

minor revision

REFeree : EIC

1 Oct 2025

Our impression is that the above-mentioned manuscript could become suitable for publication in JJNPP. However, the criticism from the referees requires that we defer a final decision until you have considered their remarks and revised your manuscript accordingly.

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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.

Subject: Submission of Revised Letter: “Botulinum Toxin in Focus: Applications, Challenges, and Future Directions”

Dear Editor,

We appreciate the thoughtful comments from Reviewer 0 and Reviewer 1 regarding our submission. We have carefully revised our letter to address all concerns, enhancing its scientific depth, editorial clarity, and relevance to the journal’s audience.

In response to Reviewer 0:

Opening for Impact: We rewrote the opening paragraph to highlight BoNT’s dual nature and clinical significance immediately:

“Few substances embody medical duality as starkly as botulinum toxin, a molecule capable of killing with a single nanogram, yet trusted by millions to smooth wrinkles, silence migraines, and restore function. Once feared as a bioweapon, BoNT now stands as a pillar of modern therapeutics. But with great power comes great responsibility, and risk.”

Editorial Voice and Thesis: We added a clear thesis emphasizing the dual-use nature of BoNT and the need for global oversight:

“This editorial argues that while BoNT’s clinical expansion is remarkable, its dual-use nature demands stricter oversight, smarter delivery systems, and global coordination to prevent misuse without stifling innovation.”

Redundant Sections and Passive Voice: We condensed repetitive discussion of BoNT’s duality and converted all passive constructions to active voice. For example, “are mostly made by” was revised to “*Clostridium botulinum* primarily produces,” and similar changes were applied throughout the manuscript.

Call to Action / Forward-Looking Conclusion: The conclusion now provides actionable recommendations:

“To harness BoNT’s full potential while minimizing risk, we urge: (1) standardized global surveillance for antibody development, (2) investment in targeted delivery platforms to reduce off-target effects, and (3) the establishment of ethical frameworks for emerging psychiatric and oncological applications.”

Audience Considerations: We adjusted the tone to target clinicians, researchers, and policy-makers, balancing technical depth with accessibility for a professional audience.

In response to Reviewer 1, we have expanded the letter to include recent and emerging medical applications of BoNT (neurology, psychiatry, oncology, pain management), highlighted novel research directions (nanocarriers, engineered variants, antibody surveillance), and enhanced the letter’s analytical depth and scientific context, thus providing more scientific information and context appropriate for a peer-reviewed journal.

We believe these revisions substantially improve the manuscript’s novelty, clarity, and relevance. We hope the revised version meets the journal’s standards and are grateful for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Revision (1)

REFEREE : Associate Editor

19 Oct 2025

The Ms can be accepted in its current revision

REFEREE : EIC

19 Oct 2025

I am pleased to inform you that this editorial article has been accepted for publication in JJNPP.