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**JVRD Peer Review Webinar
Question and Answers**

***Q: I previously emailed my wish to review papers for JVRD, however, I haven’t received an official confirmation from the journal. What is the next step?***

A: Thank you for expressing interest in reviewing papers for JVRD. Your name has been added to the system, along with any areas of expertise and specific keywords you provided. You can login to the SAGE Track system and update your account with new or additional details, such as keywords, to help the editorial team find that best match. To access SageTrack visit: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jvrd>.

When seeking reviewers, the editorial board will use the contact information found on the ASRS website. Please review and update your member profile to ensure the best email is listed. This will help facilitate selecting you for a review.

***Q: Do you have some examples of the review process for a paper that was ultimately accepted, or another rejected, for JVRD?***

A: A paper is rejected when a subject isn’t suitable, it lacks something new or important, or is poorly written. One of these factors may lead to an article being rejected without peer review.

When an article goes through the review process, a rejection will contain the reasons for the rejection. For instance, “This article contained an insufficient number of cases to prove the hypothesis,” or “The hypothesis could not be proven,” etc.

On the other side of the coin, although rare, there are papers that are accepted right out of the box with a few small changes. For example, a well-done case report that is well referenced and has great illustrations and describes something unusual and interesting might be accepted after an editorial review or one additional review.

The vast majority of papers that will ultimately be accepted – probably 98 percent – will require a minor or major revision. The difference between those is subjective. A minor revision is a few comments, maybe a little change is needed. A request for a major revision is saying something along the lines of, “We need six-month follow up data on these patients, not three,” or “We need statistic testing,” etc. If you are asked to give a minor or major revision as an author, you have a worthy submission. As a reviewer it means you are moving the ball forward.

There are multiple reviewers involved in the process. Don’t take offense if you’ve recommended a “reject” and receive an email from JVRD offering the author the chance to do a major revision. It doesn’t mean that your initial opinion wasn’t valued. It just means that the consensus of the other two or three reviews was something different than your own immediate decision. Again, you will be included in all communication to the author in a blinded fashion.

***Q: What is the typical expected turnaround time for a review?***

A: From the point of invitation, we ask that your review be completed within two weeks. Two reviewers need to complete reviews within two weeks, and then the associate editor will look not only at the article, but also the two reviews and submit a recommendation to Dr. D’Amico. On average, the process takes about three to six weeks total. The goal is to keep the entire review process under a month.

In an ideal world, you will acknowledge the invitation immediately by accepting or declining to review. If you say yes, please complete your review promptly within the two-week time frame. If you say no, please suggest alternate reviewers. Maybe you have a younger physician in your group who would like some academic light shined on them. Alternate suggestions are appreciated.

***Q: What is the average time from initial submission to publication for JVRD?***

A: Authors want to see their valuable work published as promptly as possible, and the editorial board does everything to encourage reviewers to complete their reviews. If Dr. D’Amico sees an article has taken a long time to go through the peer review process, he makes every effort to move it along.

Once articles have been accepted, gone through peer review, and completed the production process of copyediting, typesetting, and proofs, they are published OnlineFirst, which means they are fully citable at that time. An article could be put in an issue right away or it could be delayed depending on the table of contents for upcoming issues (i.e. a special issue or themed issue), so final publication time can vary. Dr. D’Amico and the editorial team do what they can to get articles out as soon as possible. The Society and SAGE strive for exemplary time to publication.

***Q: Do you know when JVRD articles will become available on PubMed?***

A: PubMed indexing is a top priority for JVRD and all necessary steps are being taken to attain this. In the meantime, authors who receive government funding for their articles are invited to submit accepted manuscripts directly to PubMed Central.

***Q: On average, how many articles are offered to a reviewer in a month?***

A: Most people review an article every three to four months. The editorial team tries to spread the workload. Even with the need for specific expertise and a limited reviewer pool, it is rare for a reviewer to be asked to review more than every couple of months.