

Acknowledging and Thanking Our Peer Reviewers

JAY SIWEK, MD, *Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, District of Columbia*

Although some editors, authors, and readers have questioned the value of peer review,¹ I have no doubt that it improves the articles we publish in *American Family Physician (AFP)*. Our reviewers regularly point out ways to enhance the presentation of information, mention important details to add, and occasionally discover errors that might otherwise mislead readers if not identified.

Reviewers have been part of the fabric of science for decades, yet their work is largely unsung. Most reviewers volunteer their time, working behind the scenes to contribute to the common good. At *AFP*, we send manuscripts to three external reviewers—two content experts (who may be subspecialists or family physicians) and a family physician representative—to help ensure relevance for our readers. In addition, two family physician medical editors review each manuscript. So, authors generally receive comments from five reviewers, and they

must address each comment during their revision and resubmission. Anyone seeing the before-and-after papers would readily attest that even good manuscripts are improved because of this process.

To assist our reviewers, we have created an online Reviewers' Guide and developed a set of resources.² The American Academy of Family Physicians has authorized continuing medical education credit for members who serve as peer reviewers for *AFP*, at three prescribed credits per manuscript, limited to 30 credits per three-year reelection cycle.

For various reasons, it has been a while since we have formally recognized our reviewers in print. Going forward, we plan to give credit to these contributors to excellence regularly, as their names remain anonymous throughout the review process. We will also start archiving each year's thank-you list on our website,² in case any reviewers need documentation of their work for credentialing or other purposes.³⁻⁷

If you are interested in becoming a reviewer for *AFP*, please visit our Reviewers' Guide (<http://www.aafp.org/journals/afp/reviewers/guide.html>) and complete a

American Family Physician's Peer Reviewers for 2015

Jennifer Abeles, DO	Anne S. Boyd, MD, FAAFP, FACSM	Sarah Z. Cole, DO	Edward R. Feller, MD
Stoney A. Abercrombie, MD	Melissa K. Bradner, MD	Nancy Collop, MD	David A. Fiellin, MD
Fredrick M. Abrahamian, MD	John Brancato, MD	Kurt Cook, MD*	Jennifer Frank, MD
Curtis N. Adams, MD	Mary M. Bridgeman, PharmD	Julia Craner, PhD	Joel E. Gallant, MD, MPH
Stephen M. Adams, MD	Haywood L. Brown, MD	Paul Crawford, MD	Frederick B. Gaupp, MD, FAAFP
Kehinde Adekola, MD	John L. Brusck, MD	Paul Dassow, MD	Christopher D. Gelston, MD
Ross Albert, MD, PhD	Edward Buchanan, MD	Amanda Davis, MD	F. John Gennari, MD
Chelley K. Alexander, MD	Christopher W. Bunt, MD	Ian H. de Boer, MD, MS	Julie P. Gentile, MD
Maria Alkureishi, MD	William M. Burke, MD	Craig Derkay, MD	Peter Gerbino, MD
Jennifer Amengual, MD	Erwin T. Cabacungan, MD, MPH	Lara Devgan, MD, MPH	Rahel Ghebre, MD, MS
Shilpa H. Amin, MD, MBSc	James F. Calvert, MD	Gretchen Dickson, MD, MBA	Pierre Giglio, MD
Eric L. Anderson, MD*	Pamela A. Camosy, MD	Jill Dietz, MD	Jason P. Gilleran, MD
Tamika Auguste, MD	Elisabeth M. Carr, MD*	Joel Dimsdale, MD	Deborah Glassman, MD
I. Cori Baill, MD	Kitty Carter-Wicker, MD	Christopher Discolo, MD	Allan M. Goldstein, MD
Robert A. Baldor, MD	Sarah L. Cartwright, MD*	John Dorsch, MD	David Goldstein, MD
Thomas Ball, MD	Anil Chacko, PhD	Leigh Eck, MD	Jocelyn Gravlee, MD
David B. Banach, MD, MPH, MS	Kwan-Leung Chan, MD, FRCP	E. J. Edelman, MD	Aaron D. Greenblatt, MD
Jimmy Belotte, MD	Richard Chan, MBBS, FRCP, FRCPC	Jama G. Edwards, MD	Shamai Grossman, MD
Carol J. Bennett, MD	Arjun B. Chatterjee, MD, MS	David R. Ellington, MD	Mary J. Groves, MD, FAAFP
Jeffrey S. Berman, MD	Craig J. Chaya, MD	John W. Ely, MD	Karen E. Hall, MD
Rajib K. Bhattacharya, MD	Ping-Hsin Chen, PhD	Sean C. Engel, MD	Jaesu Han, MD
Amit Bhavsar, MD*	John Chico, MD	Kehinde Eniola, MD*	Natasha Harrison, MD, MPP
Matt T. Bianchi, MD, PhD	Marc A. Childress, MD	Julia Fashner, MD	Sally Haskell, MD
Brett Bilbrey, MD	Mei Chung, PhD, MPH	Kristopher Fayock, MD	Peggy B. Hasley, MD
Michael A. Bloch, MD, MS	Katherine Cocker, DO	Gene Feder, MD	James Haynes, MD*
Mark J. Bolland, PhD	Aaron A. Cohen-Gadol, MD, MSc	Thomas Fekete, MD	Gregory W. Heath, DHSc, MPH

continues

reviewer profile, or e-mail us at afpjournal@aafp.org. We rate the quality of each review we receive and reward those who do a good job by inviting them to do more reviews! We usually send two to four requests a year—hopefully a manageable number. Serving as a reviewer can sharpen your writing and critical analysis skills; seeing weaknesses in others’ work helps sensitize you to what to avoid in your own writing and can help carve a path to successful authorship.

Recently, *AFP* contributing editor Jennifer L. Middleton, MD, MPH, wrote about the value of peer review for the *AFP* Community Blog during the first-ever Peer Review Week, created by a group of science organizations with the goal of supporting and improving the peer review process.⁸ She expressed her appreciation for all of our reviewers, and now it is time to do that again by name, in print and online. So, on behalf of the entire editorial team at *AFP*, many thanks to all of our wonderful reviewers!

EDITOR’S NOTE: Dr. Siwek is editor of *AFP*.

Address correspondence to Jay Siwek, MD, at siwekj@georgetown.edu. Reprints are not available from the author.

Author disclosure: No relevant financial affiliations.

REFERENCES

1. Smith R. Peer review: a flawed process at the heart of science and journals. *J R Soc Med*. 2006;99(4):178-182.
2. *American Family Physician*. Reviewers’ Guide. <http://www.aafp.org/journals/afp/reviewers/guide.html>. Accessed January 4, 2016.
3. Merriman JA. Peer reviewers help *AFP* maintain the highest quality. *Am Fam Physician*. 2011;83(11):1245.
4. Merriman JA. Thank you to the peer reviewers who help ensure the quality of *AFP*. *Am Fam Physician*. 2009;80(9):930.
5. Merriman JA. Peer review process ensures accuracy and quality of *AFP*. *Am Fam Physician*. 2008;77(7):891.
6. Merriman JA. Peer reviewers help ensure *AFP* quality. *Am Fam Physician*. 2007;75(6):785-786.
7. Merriman JA. Peer review ensures continued *AFP* quality. *Am Fam Physician*. 2006;73(5):751-752.
8. Middleton JL. *American Family Physician* Community Blog. Peer review benefits journals, readers, and reviewers #peerrevwk15. September 28, 2015. <http://afpjournal.blogspot.com/2015/09/peer-review-benefits-journals-readers.html>. Accessed January 4, 2016. ■

American Family Physician’s Peer Reviewers for 2015 (continued)

Nikhil Hemady, MD	Shlomo Mandel, MD, MPH	Jordan M. Prutkin, MD, MHS	Bruce Sigsbee, MD, FAAN
David A. Hill, MD	Katherine Margo, MD	J. Todd Purves, MD	Vijay Singh, MD, MPH, MS
Michael F. Holick, MD	Janelle M. Marra, DO	Lee Radosh, MD	Dustin K. Smith, DO
Joyce C. Hollander-Rodriguez, MD	Caroline B. Marshall, MD	Melanie Raffoul, MD	Matthew Snyder, DO
Richard Holloway, PhD	Dan Merenstein, MD	Anita Rajasekhar, MD	Lisa Soldat, MD
Robert Hudak, MD	John Messmer, MD*	Kalyanakrishnan Ramakrishnan, MD	Paul Stein, MD*
Rose Anne Illes, PhD	Jennifer Middleton, MD, MPH*	Archana Ramaswamy, MD	J. Herbert Stevenson, MD
Susumu Inoue, MD	William M. Miles, MD	Andrea Rapkin, MD	Joshua Storey, DO*
Allan S. Jaffe, MD	Suzanne Minor, MD	Gary A. Ratkin, MD	Eliza L. Sutton, MD
Paula James, MD, FRCPC	Jonathan Morrow, MD, PhD	Gail Reid, MD	Michelle Szczepanik, MD
Beverly K. Johnson, MD	Darlene Moyer, MD	Matthew Rensberry, MD	Jeanette Tetrault, MD, FACP
Richard Josephson, MD	David G. Mutch, MD	Caitlyn M. Rerucha, MD	Seema Tirilapur, BSc, MBChB
Leila Kahwati, MD, MPH	Amanda Myers, MD	J. Marc Rhoads, MD	Aley E. Tohamy, MD
Erin Kavanaugh, MD	Kundandeep Nagi, MD	Robert Rich, MD	Richard P. Usatine, MD
Chris Keenan, MD, MPH	Arwa Nasir, MD	James M. Roberts, MD	Belinda A. Vail, MD
Robert B. Kelly, MD, MS	Konrad C. Nau, MD	Alan L. Robin, MD	Richard W. Waguespack, MD
Niharika Khanna, MD	Eddie Needham, MD, FAAFP	Phillip Rodgers, MD	Harneet Walia, MD
Jennifer Kim, MD	David Newman-Toker, MD, PhD	Michelle A. Roett, MD, MPH, FAAFP*	Terri Warren, RN, ANP
Jonathan M. Kline, PharmD	Alan G. Nyitray, PhD	Jacqueline M. Ruplinger, MD	Barry D. Weiss, MD
Charles Kodner, MD	Toshimasa Okabe, MD	Matthew Rutman, MD	Dennis Wen, MD
Milind J. Kothari, DO	David Orsinelli, MD	Mandakini Sathir, MD	Erin Westfall, DO*
Tony Kuo, MD, MSHS	Alex Ortega-Loayza, MD	Robert B. Saper, MD, MPH	Randall K. Wexler, MD
Kelly Latimer, MD, MPH, FAAFP	Pasquale Palumbo, MD	Margot Savoy, MD	Tammy Wichman, MD
Kim Edward LeBlanc, MD, PhD	Sandesh Parajuli, MBBS	Gregory Sawin, MD, MPH	Tongyu C. Wikramanayake, PhD
Andrew G. Lee, MD	Andrew Pasternak, MD	Andrew J. Saxon, MD	Jason Wilbur, MD
Daniel Lee, MD	Dinesh Patel, MD, FACS	Andreas Schmid, MD	Robert Wilfahrt, MD
Alexander K.C. Leung, MD, MBBS	Anu Paul, MBBS	Kamaljit Sethi, MD	Joanne Wilkinson, MD
Glenn Levine, MD	David Peck, MD	Ashish Shah, MD	Mozella Williams, MD*
Lawrence A. Liebscher, MD	James Phalen, MD	Alan Shahtaji, DO*	David Winchester, MD
Kenneth W. Lin, MD, MPH	Heather R. Pickett, DO	Howard Sharp, MD	Johnnie Yates, MD
Richard S. Lucidi, MD, FACOG	Craig E. Pollack, MD	Victoria J. Sharp, MD, MBA	Benjamin Zaniello, MD*
John Maa, MD	Donald Pompan, MD	Daniel Shoskes, MD	
Sohil Makwana, MD, MPH	Jacquelyn M. Powers, MD	Jagdish Shukla, MD	
John Malaty, MD*	David Z. Prince, MD	Randa Sifri, MD	

* Person completed more than one review in 2015.