

Title: The Art and Science of Peer Review: Capacity building for Peer Reviewers

Scientific publication is a broad subject covering journal articles, conference abstracts and other scholarly writing. It generally follows five main phases: 1) Conceptualisation and preparation of a draft, 2) Review of the draft and its improvement, 3) Submission of final manuscript/abstract/report, 4) Peer review of final manuscript/abstract/report, 5) Publication.

During each of the above stages/phases, supervisors, mentors, peer reviewers and academic editors are expected to critically appraise the different scientific outputs to ensure that they are technically sound and contribute to the body of knowledge. This is commonly referred to as peer review.

Many scientific journals and conference organisers frequently cite peer review as the key rate limiting step that prolongs the publication process and turnaround time. Similarly, poorly written manuscripts, conference abstracts and other scientific outputs represent a missed opportunity for supervisors and co-authors to critical appraisal and suggest improvements to scientific outputs before they are submitted to journals, publishers, or conference organisers.

Challenges with the peer review process mainly arise from having few peer reviewers available (few public health experts are willing to commit time to do peer review which is largely voluntary and free of charge) and limited knowledge of and or skills in peer review among the willing volunteers. Yet quality peer review is critical for scientific publication. Peer review provides a great opportunity for scientists to contribute to the research community by providing constructive feedback that can improve the quality of scientific publications.

The Journal of Interventional Epidemiology and Public Health (JIEPH) also known as the AFENET journal in partnership with TEPHINET, has organized this workshop on “The art of peer review: Capacity building for Peer Reviewers”.

Workshop Aim: To provide participants with essential skills and knowledge to excel in the role of a peer reviewer of journal manuscripts and conference abstracts. By focusing on the art and craft of peer reviewing, this workshop will equip participants with the tools to conduct rigorous and constructive reviews that will contribute to the advancement of scholarly research and publication quality.

Learning Objective: The workshop will equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel as a peer reviewer. Focusing on developing reviewing skills, how to write a good review report, and cultivating ethical and fair review practices.

Participants will:

- Gain a better understanding of the peer review process and its significance.
- Improve their skills in critical evaluation and providing constructive feedback.
- Have increased awareness of ethical considerations and adherence to best practices in peer reviewing.
- Enhance their communication and writing skills for effective reviewer-author and reviewer-editor interactions.
- Tips on how to conduct a quick quality peer review
- Be part of a robust network of peers and mentors in the academic community.

Target audience: Conference participants interested in becoming peer reviewers or improving their peer review skills.

Duration: Full Day

Facilitators/Sponsor: The Journal of Interventional Epidemiology and Public Health (JIEPH) and TEPHINET