

CCTS Forum
Scientific Publications Panel
Discussion

January 9, 2019

JANUARY 2019



CCTS FORUM

Mastering Peer Review: Insights from the Editors

WEDNESDAY, January 9
4:00–5:30 PM

What does it take to **publish your findings** in a leading peer-reviewed biomedical journal?

If one of your 2019 resolutions is to see your research make it into publication, do not miss this special CCTS Forum. Joined by a multidisciplinary panel of Editors-in-Chief, we will explore best practices and what aspiring authors need to consider as they prepare articles for peer review. With rejection rates as high as 90% among certain high-impact journals and major changes on the horizon to address data sharing and reproducibility, even well-established science writers will benefit from this discussion.

SPEAKER/MODERATOR



CCTS Director of Genomic Medicine **Bruce R. Korf, MD, PhD**, UAB Chief Genomic Officer, and Editor-in-Chief, *American Journal of Human Genetics*

PANEL PARTICIPANTS



Kirby I. Bland, MD, Chair Emeritus, UAB Department of Surgery, and Editor-in-Chief, *American Journal of Surgery*



Sadis Matalon, PhD, Vice Chair and Director, UAB Division of Molecular and Translational Biomedicine, and Editor-in-Chief, *Physiological Reviews*



Daphne S. Cain, PhD, Associate Dean for Administrative Services and Professor, University of Alabama School of Social Work, and Editor-in-Chief, *Best Practices in Mental Health*



Jean-Francois Pittet, MD, Director, UAB Organ Injury and Trauma Research, and Editor-in-Chief, *Anesthesia and Analgesia*



John D. England, MD, Chair, Dept. of Neurology, LSU Health School of Medicine, and Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of the Neurological Sciences*



Alice E. Smith, PhD, PE, Joe W. Forehand/ Accenture Distinguished Professor, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, Auburn University, and Editor-in-Chief, *INFORMS Journal on Computing*



Pittman Center for Advanced Medical Studies (PCAMS)
1924 7th Avenue South

hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served

Sharpening Your Science, Improving Human Health, Addressing Disparities in the Deep South

AJHG

The American Journal of Human Genetics

Volume 103
Number 4

October 4, 2018

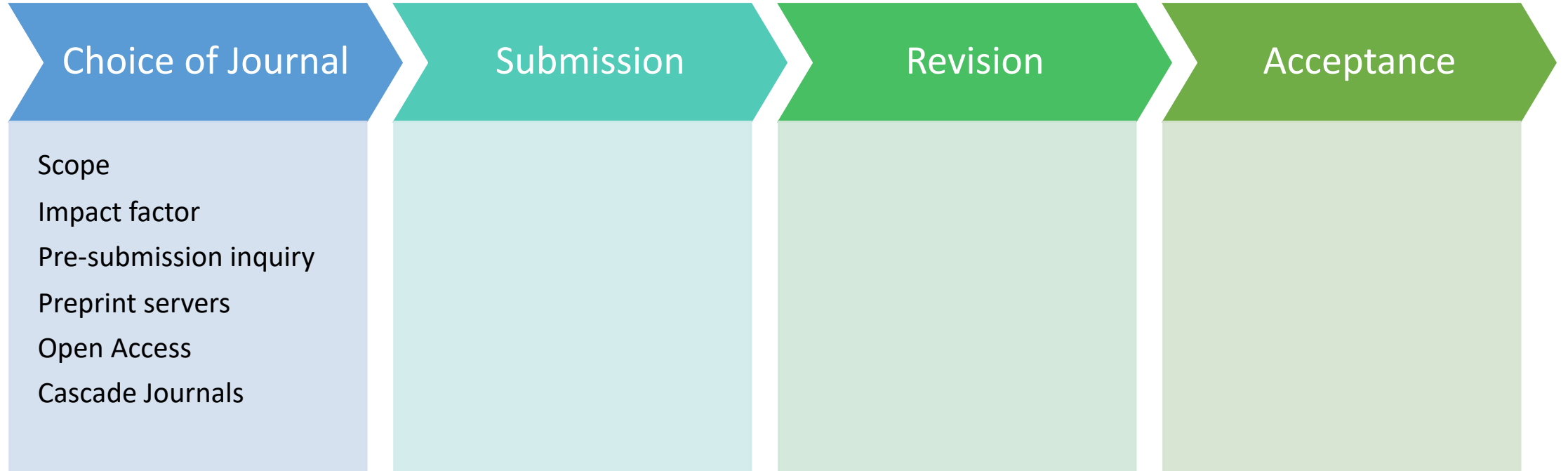
www.ajhg.org

 **ASHG**
American Society of Human Genetics

CellPress
Published by Cell Press for The American Society of Human Genetics

AJHG Society Journal Model

- Access for Society members
- Society members pay nothing to publish
- Subscription access to institutions
- All articles are open six months after publication
- Author option to pay for open access at publication
- Editorial office
 - Editor
 - Deputy Editor
 - Scientific Editor
 - Editorial Assistant
- Board of Associate Editors
- Published by Cell Press
- ASHG benefits from revenues but does not determine editorial content



Types of Journals

- Society (AJHG)
- For profit (Nature Genetics, Neuron, Cell)
- Academic press (HMG, Genome Research)
- Open access (PLoS Genetics)

What are the editors looking for?

- A paper that tells a story
- That is within the scope of the journal
- That is supported by the data presented
- That is succinct and well written
- That is without overblown conclusions

Impact Factor

Calculating the Impact Factor ▼

No of article citations in 2014
(to articles published in 2012+2013)

Number of articles published in 2012+2013

= IF of 2014

Journal received 1500 citations in 2014
(to 350 articles published in 2012 +
400 articles published in 2013)

**350 articles published in 2012 +
400 articles published in 2013
in total 750 articles published during 2012+2013**

= IF is 2 (2014)



<http://explore.cogentoa.com/knowledge-base/things-you-might-not-know-about-impact-factor>

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Non-invasive measurement of mRNA decay reveals translation initiation as the major determinant of mRNA stability

Leon Y. Chan, Christopher F. Mugler, Stephanie Heinrich, Pascal Vallotton, Karsten Weis

bioRxiv 214775; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/214775> [New Results](#)

Loss of function, missense, and intronic variants in NOTCH1 confer different risks for left ventricular outflow tract obstructive heart defects in two European cohorts

Emmi Helle, Aldo Cordova-Palomera, Tiina Ojala, Priyanka Saha, Praneetha Potiny, Stefan Gustafsson, Erik Ingelsson, Michael Bamshad, Deborah Nickerson, Jessica X. Chong, University of Washington Center for Mendelian Geno, Euan Ashley, James R. Priest

bioRxiv 215301; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/215301> [New Results](#)

vqt: An R package for Mean-Variance QTL Mapping

Robert W. Corty, William Valdar

bioRxiv 149377; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/149377> [New Results](#)

Population Differentiation at the HLA Genes

Debora Y. C. Brandt, Jonatas Cesar, Jerome Goudet, Diogo Meyer

bioRxiv 214668; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/214668> [New Results](#)

Diallel analysis reveals Mx I-dependent and Mx I-independent effects on response to influenza A virus in mice

Paul L. Maurizio, Martin T. Ferris, Gregory R. Keele, Darla R. Miller, Ginger D. Shaw, Alan C. Whitmore, Ande West, Clayton R. Morrison, Kelsey E. Noll, Kenneth S. Plante, Adam S. Cockrell, David W. Threadgill, Fernando Pardo-Manuel de Villena, Ralph S. Baric, Mark T. Heise, William Valdar

bioRxiv 214205; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/214205> [New Results](#)

A common allele in FGF21 associated with preference for sugar consumption lowers body fat in the lower body and increases blood pressure

Timothy M. Frayling, Robin Beaumont, Samuel E. Jones, Hanieh Yaghoobkar, Marcus A. Tuke, Katherine S. Ruth, Francesco Casanova, Ben West, Jonathan Locke, Seth Sharp, Yinjie Jie, William D. Thompson, Jamie W. Harrison, Cecilia M. Lindgren, Niels Garup, Anna Murray, Rachel M. Freathy, Michael N. Weedon, Jessica Tyrrell, Andrew R. Wood

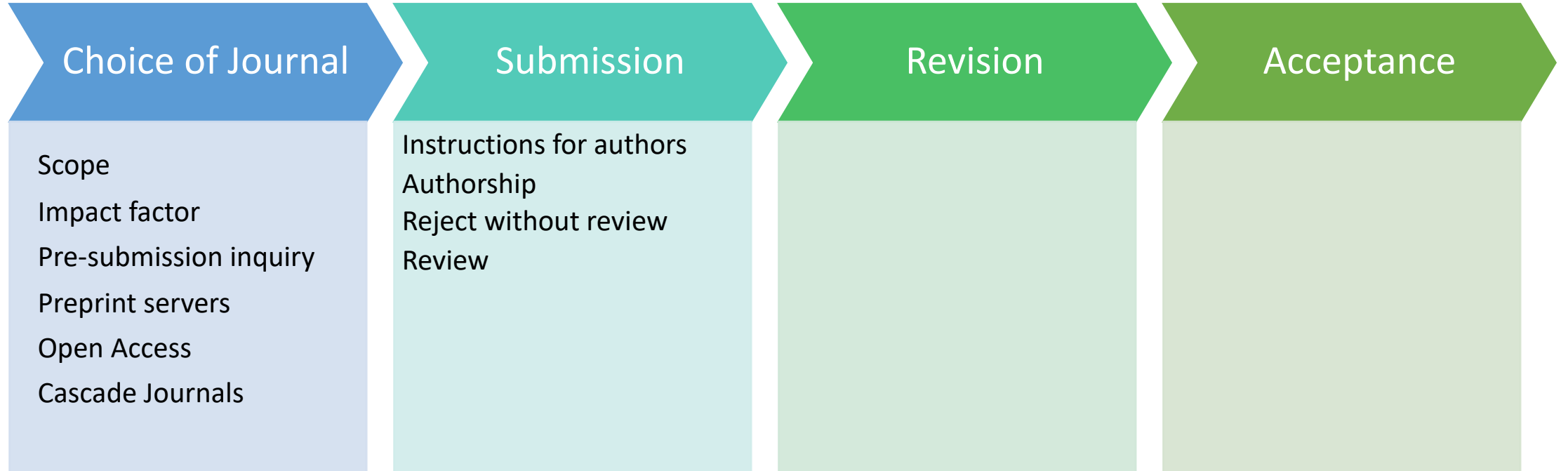
Subject Areas

All Articles

- Animal Behavior and Cognition
- Biochemistry
- Bioengineering
- Bioinformatics
- Biophysics
- Cancer Biology
- Cell Biology
- Clinical Trials
- Developmental Biology
- Ecology
- Epidemiology
- Evolutionary Biology
- Genetics**
- Genomics
- Immunology
- Microbiology
- Molecular Biology
- Neuroscience
- Paleontology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology and Toxicology
- Physiology
- Plant Biology
- Scientific Communication and Education
- Synthetic Biology
- Systems Biology
- Zoology

A photograph of a multi-tiered waterfall cascading over mossy rocks in a lush forest. The water flows from the top of the frame down through several levels of rock ledges, creating a soft, blurred effect. The surrounding environment is filled with green foliage and moss, suggesting a moist, shaded forest setting. The waterfall is the central focus, with the water appearing as a series of white, frothy streams against the dark, wet rocks.

Cascade
Publishing

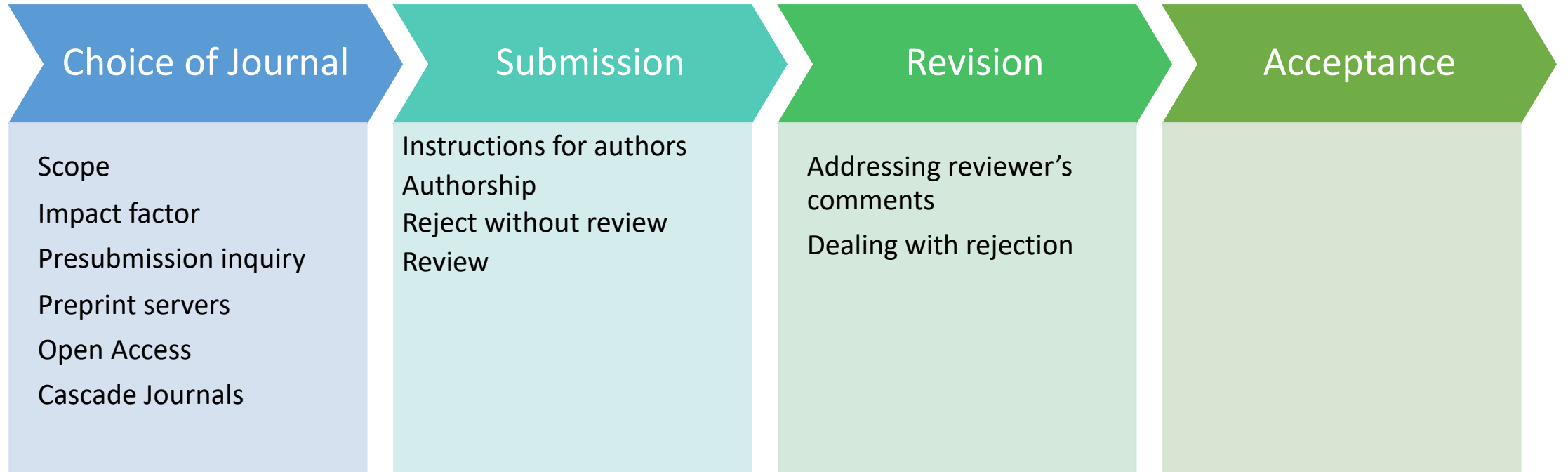


Reasons for Reject without Review

- Out of scope
- Poorly written
- Insufficient evidence

Tips for Reviewers

- Respond to request promptly (even if the answer is no)
- If you can't do it, suggest someone else
- Don't comment on acceptance or rejection in comments to authors
- Be sure that your comments to editor are consistent with comments to author
- Don't rehash the paper in the review
- Don't rewrite the paper for the author
- Be specific in your comments and be sure they are consistent with your recommendations



After Review

- Politely address reviewers' suggestions
- You don't have to agree with all suggestions, but explain your thinking
- Split reviews
- Challenging a decision

