

Authors and Reviewers. Two Sides of the Same Coin

Dr. Juan Martín Patiño

RAAOT Hand, Shoulder and Elbow surgery section editor.

Head of the Hand and Upper Limb Surgery Service. Orthopedics and Traumatology

Department. Hospital Militar Central "Cir My Cosme Argerich". Buenos Aires, Argentina



Authors and reviewers fulfill different roles, but both are the fundamental basis of scientific publications. Thinking, diagramming, collecting data, and writing a conscientious scientific paper on a topic of our interest is surely one of the most enriching experiences in our profession. Reporting our findings in an original study, disseminating a technique, and showing the findings of a literature review are some of the possibilities of sharing our knowledge with the medical community. Indexes and the Internet with its specialized search engines have contributed to reaching the entire planet. The satisfaction of the possibility that our experience can be useful to colleagues from any corner of the world is unique.

On the other hand, reviewing articles is a silent task, often unrecognized and sometimes underestimated, but, in turn, a pillar of modern publications. Despite its weaknesses, double-blind peer review is currently indispensable in the most serious and reliable scientific journals. Detailed and responsible reviews offer those who carry them out knowledge, updating, and the possibility of opening the mind to new ideas. The quality of the reviewers and their reviews is directly proportional to the prestige of the publication.¹

The reviewers evaluate according to the requirements of each journal, the quality and level of the presentation, and give feedback, suggest improvements, and recommend actions to the editor and authors.

In recent years, the AAOT Journal, like other international journals, has ensured its reviewers are recognized. Networks were created where reviews can be accredited, such as Publons,² but in addition, different programs have been proposed, such as the publication of interviews, certifications, credits, etc., in order to give visibility and recognition to reviewers and their activity.³⁻⁶

My experience as a reviewer and editor for publications such as the *AAOT Journal*, *International Orthopaedics*, and *Journal of Shoulder and Elbow Surgery*, has always been rewarding. This privilege has allowed me to connect with authors and editors from various countries and surgical schools, and to have first-hand comments on new research and projects. I believe that all this contributes to improving my training and professional performance. In addition, it has given me better tools for writing and researching.

As an example, due to his activity in the roles of author and reviewer, we can mention Dr. David Ring, currently a professor at Dell Medical School (Austin, Texas, USA) who was chosen as an Elite reviewer in 2020 by the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* for his commitment to peer review. At the same time, he is undoubtedly one of the most cited and prolific international authors (more than 800 publications in PubMed) on surgery of the elbow and hand, and mental and social health. He considers the activity of the reviewer as a "civic duty" and advises reviewers, among other things, to: "Get curious. Each study tells a story. (...) Most orthopedic research is done by volunteers that want to make a difference. Be generous and constructive in your assessments." and also to realize that "...the data and analysis are helpful to you and your patients."⁶

Dr. JUAN MARTÍN PATIÑO • drpatinojm@gmail.com  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9036-0442>

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I want to take this opportunity to thank the authors and reviewers on behalf of the editorial team for trusting and dedicating their time, effort, and knowledge to the AAOT Journal. On the other hand, we invite young and experienced specialists to join us in living this experience by participating in the editorial process.

The authors generate the information and knowledge, but ultimately their peers in the role of reviewers determine which studies appear in the literature. We know that this impacts and influences decisions about our patients in daily practice. For this reason, we emphasize the importance of having committed and distinguished reviewers. Writing and revising are complementary tasks.

Publishing makes the best reviewers, but reviewing scientific papers will undoubtedly make them better researchers.

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