

Reviewer information at *Nature Reviews*

Policy

In recognition of the time and expertise our reviewers provide to the editorial process, all *Nature Reviews* journals formally acknowledge their contribution to the external peer review of published articles. For manuscripts submitted from the 6th of January 2020 onwards, we will include a statement of thanks on all peer-reviewed content published in the *Nature Reviews* journals including on articles where reviewers choose to remain anonymous and we will leave the choice to be named solely to the reviewer. For manuscripts submitted prior to the 6th of January 2020, publication of the reviewer names and the statement is conditional on the authors opting in. For *Nature Reviews Materials* and *Nature Reviews Drugs Discovery*, names and statements will be included for all content reviewed after the 2nd of September 2020. We will NOT be publishing any of the submitted peer review comments nor add names of reviewers to the peer review reports sent to the authors.

Participation in this scheme is optional and does not affect any other interactions you may have with Springer Nature, including future manuscript submissions or reviews of other manuscripts. Please note that publication of your name may lead to you being contacted by journalists and other interested parties; you should not feel obliged to talk to them. If you are contacted by and choose to speak to the press, our confidentiality policy should always be observed and the confidential review process should not be discussed. Members of the press can be referred to [our peer review policy](#) or to our press office at press@nature.com.

Reviewer names will be displayed as outlined below:

If the reviewers wish to be named their names will appear in alphabetical order at the end of the paper in a statement:

'Nature Reviews [journal name] thanks [Name], [Name] and [Name] for their contribution to the peer review of this work.'

If any of the reviewers co-reviewed with an early-career researcher (ECR), a slightly modified statement will be used*:

'Nature Reviews [journal name] thanks [Name], who co-reviewed with [Name ECR]; [Name]; and [Name] for their contribution to the peer review of this work.'

Any reviewers that wish to remain anonymous will be acknowledged using a slightly modified statement:

'Nature Reviews [journal name] thanks [Name], [Name] and the other, anonymous, reviewer(s) for their contribution to the peer review of this work.'

If no reviewers agree to be named, we will still acknowledge their valuable service using the statement below:

'Nature Reviews [journal name] thanks the anonymous reviewers for their contribution to the peer review of this work.'

*Note that our ECR peer review initiative is currently rolled out on a few *Nature Reviews* journals.

FAQ

Why has Nature Reviews implemented this initiative?

We believe that the time and effort reviewers spend in commenting on their peers' research is a valuable and fundamental part of the publication process. We also recognise that reviewers do not often receive recognition for their contributions. With this initiative, we want to provide recognition for our reviewers by offering them the possibility to be individually acknowledged in the published article.

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What reviewer information is published?

For manuscripts submitted from the 6th of January 2020 onwards the names of reviewers who give their consent will be included in a note at the end of published articles. All other reviewers will be acknowledged anonymously. For manuscripts submitted prior to the 6th of January 2020, publication of the reviewer names and the statement is conditional on the authors agreeing to participate in this initiative.

What reviewer information is collected?

To more meaningfully assess the uptake of this trial, we will ask reviewers to voluntarily report their gender, country/region of affiliation and career stage. This information will only be used in an anonymised, aggregated manner and we will not share any individual data, although it will be available to internal editors and staff on an individual manuscript basis.

Can peer reviewers opt out?

Yes, reviewers can opt out of being named, in which case they will be recognised anonymously in the statement on the published article.

Can authors opt out?

We do not request author opt-in; the statement of acknowledgement is included as a note from the publisher. Author opt-in was available during the trial period, but is not available anymore for manuscripts submitted after the 6th of January 2020.

What if a reviewer chooses not to be named?

The choice of being mentioned in the published article lies with the reviewer; if they opt out of this initiative, we will respect their anonymity and will not publish their name.

When will reviewers be given this option?

Reviewers will be given this choice when submitting their comments on the manuscript. The option will be available on all versions of the manuscript a reviewer is asked to review and they will be able to change their decision at every version. However, it is worth noting that some manuscripts undergo only one round of review and so the reviewer should treat every round as their last opportunity to opt in.

How will the reviewer names be displayed?

If the reviewers wish to be named their names will appear in alphabetical order at the end of the paper in a statement:

'Nature Reviews [journal name] thanks [Name], [Name] and [Name] for their contribution to the peer review of this work.'

If any of the reviewers co-reviewed with an early-career researcher (ECR), a slightly modified statement will be used:

'Nature Reviews [journal name] thanks [Name], who co-reviewed with [Name ECR]; [Name]; and [Name] for their contribution to the peer review of this work.'

Any reviewers that wish to remain anonymous will be acknowledged using a slightly modified statement:

'Nature Reviews [journal name] thanks [Name], [Name] and [Name] the other anonymous reviewer(s), for their contribution to the peer review of this work.'

If no reviewers agree to be named, we will still acknowledge their valuable service using the statement below:

'Nature Reviews [journal name] thanks the anonymous reviewers for their contribution to the peer review of this work.'

We will NOT be publishing any of the submitted peer review comments nor add reviewer names to the peer review reports sent to the authors. Note that choosing to be named on a paper might lead to the identification of your report by the authors or other referees.