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**Ben Mudrak, PhD**

Product Manager

Editorial Services, Global Journals Development


American Chemical Society

# Diversifying Peer Review – One Year of ACS Reviewer Lab

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LOGIN | SITE MAP



中文 | 日本語



**ACS  
REVIEWER  
LAB™**



Peer-review training for scientific  
researchers

ACS Reviewer Lab™ is a free peer-review training course. Designed by ACS Editors, leading scientific researchers, and ACS Publications staff, this course provides real-life guidance on how to navigate tricky ethical situations, identify core criteria for evaluating manuscripts, and write a first-rate review. All you need to get started is an ACS ID.

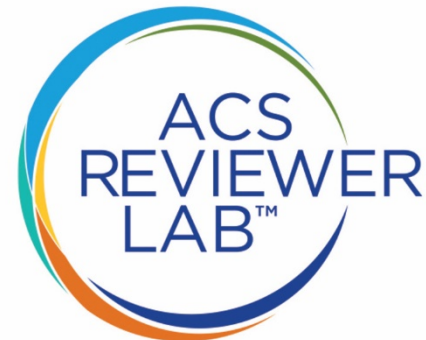
START HERE

What advice  
do you have  
for peer  
reviewers?  
  
Nathan Easton, Ph.D.

Tell us about  
your experience  
as a reviewer  
  
William Tolman, Ph.D.

Why are peer  
reviewers so  
important?  
  
Peter Uzance, Ph.D.

MASTER PEER REVIEW WITH 6 INTERACTIVE MODULES



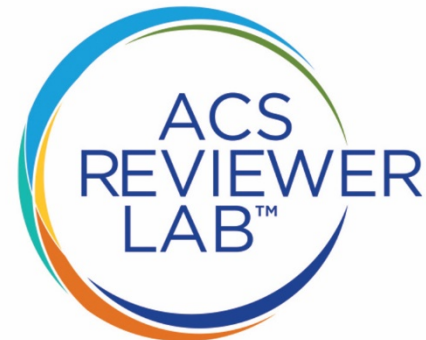
# Limits of current peer review training

Of the 50+ top research institutions we informally canvassed, only one has a course in Peer Review (Northwestern University)

Most scientists learn to perform peer review from trial-and-error and/or informal discussions with mentors

This was not taught in my graduate education...

I wish I had had this [course] when I was a graduate student.



# What is ACS Reviewer Lab?

- Online course with six interactive modules covering every step of the peer review process
- Content informed by ACS Editors-in-Chief, authors, and early career researchers
- Effective pedagogical tool, with exercises and a rigorous final exam



## 1. INTRODUCTION TO PEER REVIEW

What is peer review? Learn the basics of peer review and the critical role it plays in scientific publication.



## 2. ETHICS IN PEER REVIEW

Learn how to deal with difficult ethical issues, potential conflicts of interest, and personal biases in the peer review process.



## 3. PREPARING FOR REVIEW

Every journal is unique, and the scientific literature is constantly evolving. Preparation before evaluating a manuscript will result in a more thorough review.



## 4. ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE AND TECHNICAL QUALITY

Evaluating scientific soundness and potential impact is a key function of the reviewer. Learn how to effectively gauge impact and rate technical quality.



## 5. ASSESSING PRESENTATION AND READINESS FOR PUBLICATION

Presentation is key. Use these tools to evaluate manuscript presentation and identify potential issues related to safety and data.



## 6. WRITING YOUR REVIEW

What makes a good review? Learn how to write a quality review and convey your ideas with clarity.

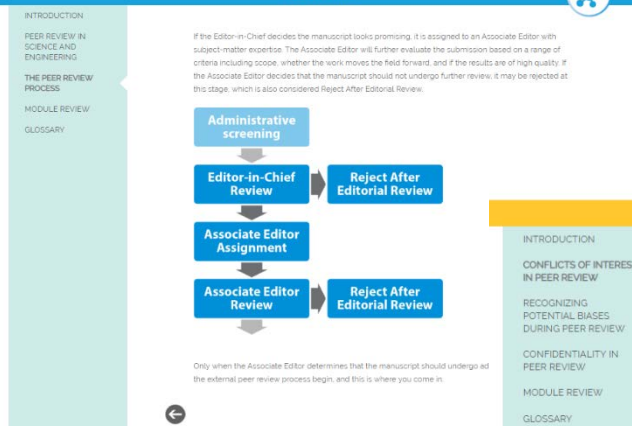
# Sneak peek



1

## INTRODUCTION TO PEER REVIEW

100% COMPLETE



2

## ETHICS IN PEER REVIEW

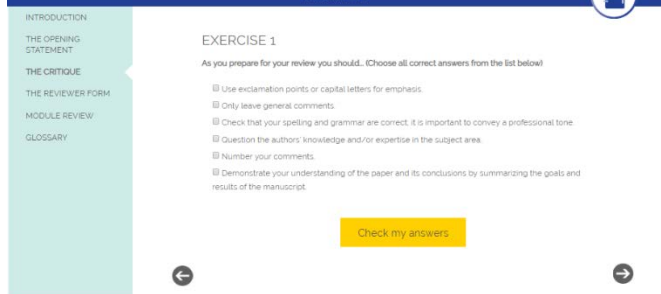
100% COMPLETE



6

## WRITING YOUR REVIEW

100% COMPLETE



2

SUMMARY MODULE

ACS REVIEWER LAB

### Ethics in Peer Review

**BEING AN IMPARTIAL REVIEWER IS ESSENTIAL, BUT IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO NAVIGATE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND OTHER ETHICAL ISSUES. REVIEWERS MUST BE AWARE OF POTENTIAL CHALLENGES TO REMAIN UNBIASED AS THEY EVALUATE A MANUSCRIPT AND OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK, AND RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST THAT SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE EDITOR OR MAY EVEN PREVENT THEM FROM SERVING AS A REVIEWER FOR THAT MANUSCRIPT.**

**HAVING A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF POTENTIAL ETHICAL ISSUES IS CRITICAL TO PROVIDING THE AUTHORS WITH A FAIR AND OBJECTIVE EVALUATION OF THEIR MANUSCRIPT.**

**"Conflict Of Interest"**  
A conflict of interest occurs when you have a connection to the authors or their work that could interfere with your ability to remain objective while evaluating the manuscript.

**Potential Conflicts Of Interests**

- Close personal or professional relationships with the authors
- Involved or observed negative interactions with the authors
- Professional or financial gains you may experience upon publication of the work
- Competing research projects you may be pursuing that would be negatively impacted by publication of the work

**Conflicts Of Interest List Of DOs And DON'Ts:**

**DO** let the Editor know of any potential conflicts of interest by emailing the editorial office or disclosing the information in the Comments to the Editor box.

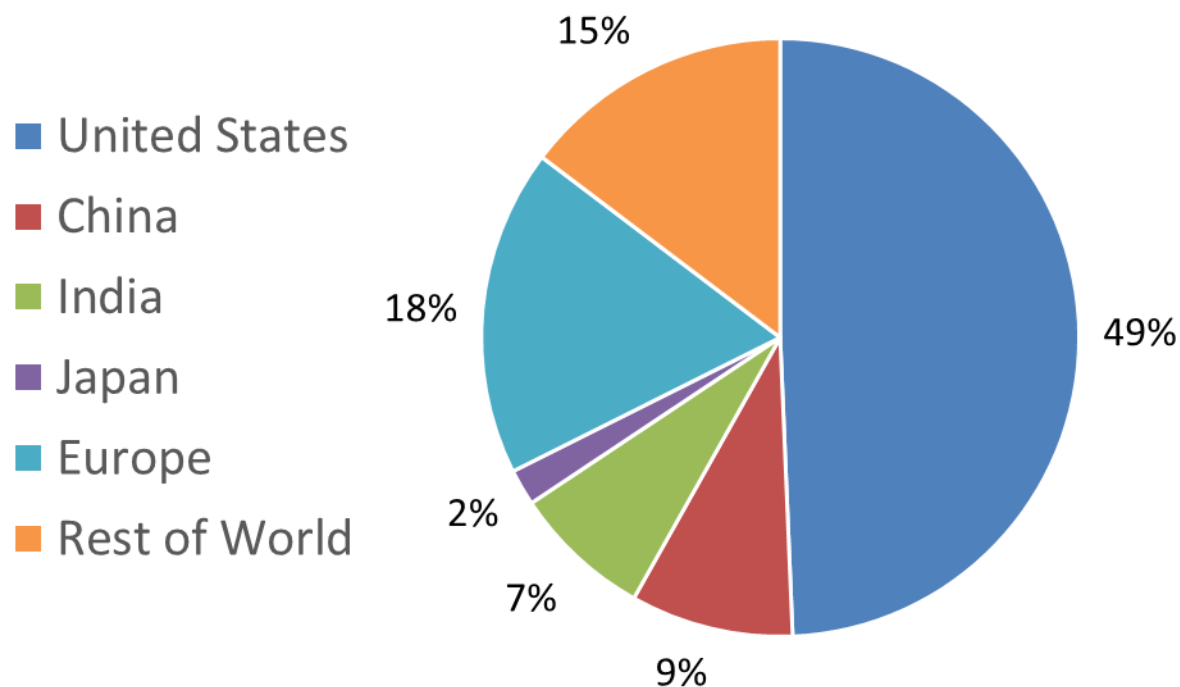
**DO NOT** use any of the results or novel approaches reported in the manuscript you are reviewing in your own research until the manuscript is published.

**DO NOT** serve as a peer reviewer if your relationship to the author prevents you from providing an objective and unbiased review.

**DO NOT** agree to review a manuscript if you think things like "I cannot imagine that this manuscript can be good if it came from the particular person (or institution)" or "I know this work will be great since it came from this particular person (or institution)."

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# Geographical distribution



All-time breakdown of ACS Reviewer Lab users by country/region



# China and Japan

Time spent in course:



**Increased 50%** for Chinese participants



**Doubled** for Japanese participants

Median attempts to pass final exam:

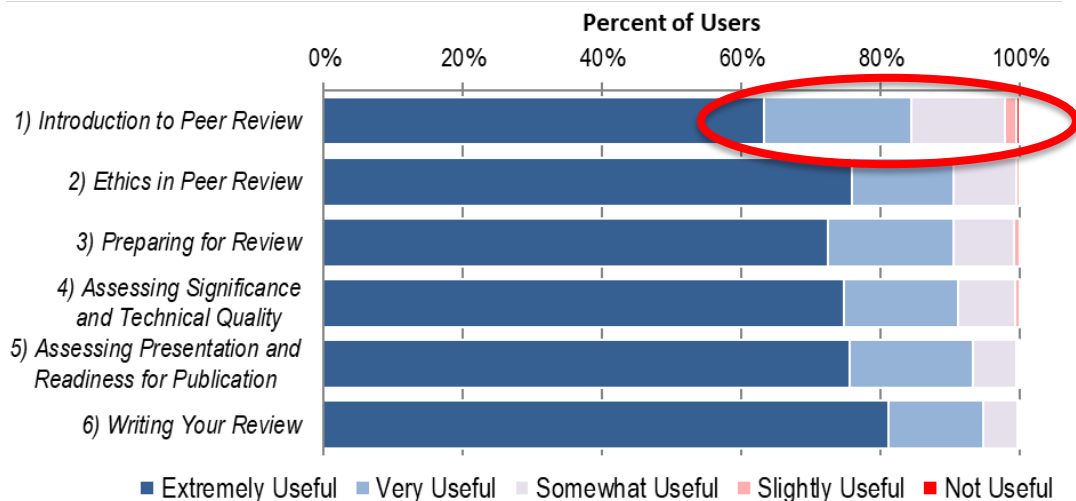


**3x higher** for Chinese participants

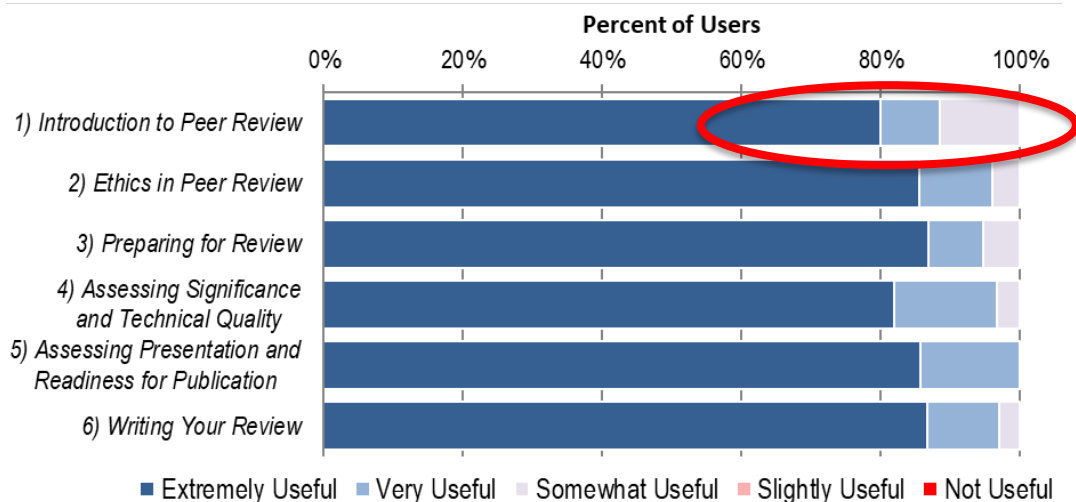


**2x higher** for Japanese participants

# Feedback from our Users



All users

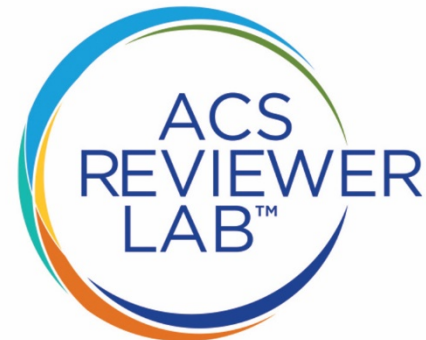


Users in China





# New translations



As of last week, ACS Reviewer Lab is now available in Chinese and Japanese

登录 | 网站地图



## 面向科研人员的同行审稿培训

ACS 审稿人实验室™ 是一个免费的同行审稿培训课程。本课程由 ACS 期刊编辑、顶尖的科研人员和 ACS 出版人员设计，为解决棘手的问题，确定稿件质量核心标准以及撰写高质量审稿报告，提供实操性准则。您需要的仅仅是注册一个 ACS ID。

[从这里开始](#)

What advice do you have for peer reviewers?



Tell us about your experience as a reviewer



Why are peer reviewers so important?



通过 6 个互动模块来掌握同行审稿

ログイン | サイトマップ



## 科学研究者向け査読トレーニング

ACS Reviewer Lab™ は、無料の査読トレーニングコースです。ACS 編集者、一流の科学研究者、ACS Publications のスタッフによってデザインされたこのコースは、判断しにくい倫理的状況に對し、原稿評価の主な基準を確立し、第一級の査読を行う方法について、現実的なアドバイスを提供します。ACS ID があればコースを始めることができます。

[ここからスタート](#)

What advice do you have for peer reviewers?



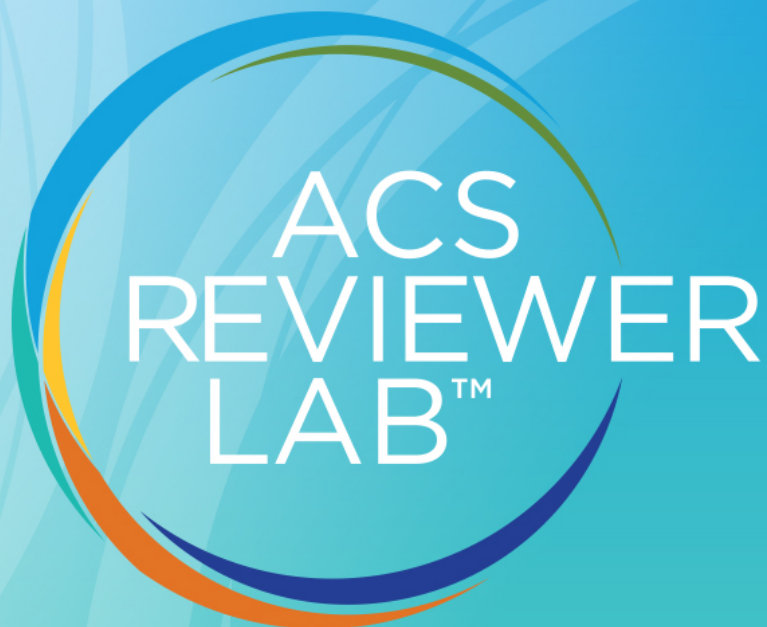
Tell us about your experience as a reviewer



Why are peer reviewers so important?



# Thank You!



Something new in  
peer-review education.



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