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A thank you to our peer reviewers

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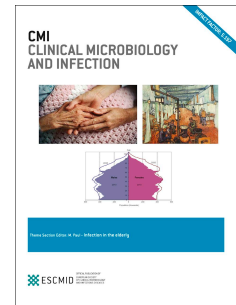
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### **A thank you to our peer reviewers**

We would like to thank our peer reviewers who take the time to submit thoughtful contributions to the CMI. We know how much time and effort goes into writing a good peer review, and we deeply value the input of reviewers who volunteer their time and expertise to provide essential feedback that ensures high quality of research published in each issue of the journal.

It is important to learn from our peer reviewers. Though it is not always easy to define a good peer review, we have interviewed three of our top peer reviewers who were given high grading by our editors and asked them to tell us what constitutes a good peer review. In order to put their advice in context, we have also asked them to tell us about themselves, including which stage of career they are at and what research or clinical work they are doing. The three reviewers are Dafna Yahav (Beilinson Hospital, Rabin Medical Center, Department of Medicine E, Tel-Aviv, Israel), Paul Loubet (APHP, Hopital Bichat-Claude Bernard Infectious Diseases, Paris, France) and Matthijs C. Brouwer (Department of Neurology, Center of Infection and Immunity Amsterdam, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

In response to what makes a good peer review, Dafna Yahav writes in her interview that a good peer review "starts with the consideration of the study's question in general – is it interesting, relevant and innovative (or at least not completely resolved), is it appropriate for the specific journal? The next step would be to consider whether the methods used are those most appropriate to answer this." Matthijs C. Brouwer explains in his interview that a good peer review "critically assesses the research question and whether the used methodology is adequate to answer the question. Sometimes the right question is asked but the used method insufficient to get the right answer. On the other hand well-performed studies may lack a relevant research question and are therefore not very informative from a clinical or scientific point of view. Whether the research question is answered positive or negative should not matter as long as the question is relevant and the right methods are used to answer it."

We also asked our reviewers what constitutes a bad peer review. Paul Loubet suggests that "a bad review may be due to a superficial reading of the article and to the fact of not taking into account the most recent data in the literature." In contrast, Dafna Yahav offers that a bad peer review "would be someone aiming only to decide whether a manuscript should be accepted or not." The complete interviews can be found on our website (see Supplementary material) and on the ESCMID Facebook page. We also shared a similar interview last year with three other peer reviewers. These interviews can be found in the Editorial Note: What can we learn from our peer reviewers (1).

We appreciate our peer reviewers for taking the time and effort necessary to provide insightful guidance, and we try to show our appreciation to our reviewers. Each year we send letters recognizing the efforts of our best reviewers. Peer reviewers who write a review within 2 weeks are granted a complimentary online one-year subscription to Clinical Microbiology

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