



Peer Review 2017

FOR almost a century peer review has been the primary method for assessing the scientific literature. Despite valid criticisms of the process, peer review has endured primarily because no preferable alternative has been proposed. The premise of peer review is that qualified experts evaluate the merits of a submitted manuscript, recommend revisions that may improve the quality of the paper, and offer an opinion about whether it deserves publication. Editors must then analyze the reviewer recommendations and make a final decision.

Authors expect and deserve thorough and expert evaluation of their manuscripts, which becomes the duty of a peer reviewer. In addition, the reviewer must suppress personal biases and offer objective comments. The commitment is time-consuming, uncompensated and performed in anonymity. Why, then, do experts agree to serve as peer reviewers?

Most reviewers are also authors and realize that the scientific publishing community relies upon their participation. They understand the process and benefit in reverse when their own papers are reviewed. The overarching mission of *The Journal of Urology*® is to publish information that translates into improved clinical care for the patients who entrust their lives and health to their physicians. Reviewers share this mission. Although they have a commitment to science and ensuring the quality of the medical literature, the primary motivation to devote time and effort to reviewing manuscripts is a desire to improve patient care.

Knowledge of how many of our colleagues contribute to *The Journal* as peer reviewers creates some reluctance to designate and acknowledge specific individuals. For every one mentioned, many who deserve recognition are not included. Their reward is the gratitude of editors, authors, readers and, most importantly, patients.

Nicholas G. Cost, MD—Pediatric Urology

Dr. Cost currently serves as assistant professor in the Department of Surgery, Division of Urology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, Colorado. His primary clinical and research efforts are in the areas of pediatric urology and urological oncology. Dr. Cost completed his internship, residency and clinical fellowship in urological oncology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, Texas; his research fellowship in cancer biology at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and his clinical fellowship in pediatric urology at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio.



Christopher P. Filson, MD, MS—Oncology: Kidney and Bladder

A member of the AUA, Society of Urologic Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology and Academy Health, Dr. Filson is assistant professor of urology, assistant residency program director and interim residency program site director at Emory University School of Medicine; assistant professor at Atlanta Veterans Administration Medical Center and a physician member at Winship Cancer Center in Atlanta, Georgia. He completed his internship, residency and health services research fellowship at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, followed by a urological oncology fellowship at UCLA in Los Angeles, California. Dr. Filson also serves as a reviewer of AUA white papers and guidelines.



Matthias Dominijus Hofer, MD, PhD—Reconstruction, Trauma

Dr. Hofer is assistant professor of urology at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. He received his MD from the University of Ulm, Ulm, Germany where he completed his internship following training at The Adelaide and Meath Hospital in Dublin, Ireland and the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh, Great Britain. Dr. Hofer received his fellowship training in reconstruction, trauma and prosthetics at the Department of Urology, University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, Texas. He is an active member of the AUA, Society of Genitourinary Reconstructive Surgeons and Society for Basic Urologic Research.



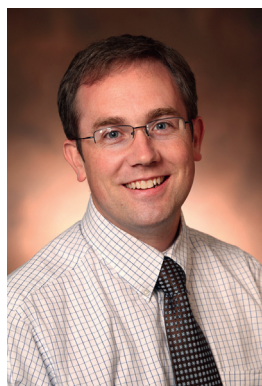
H. Henry Lai, MD—Incontinence, Urodynamics/Neurourology

Dr. Lai completed his fellowship in neurourology, urodynamics and female urology at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He currently serves as associate professor of surgery (tenured) and director of research in the division of urologic surgery, and associate professor of anesthesiology in the department of anesthesiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. In addition to being an active member of the AUA and Society of Urodynamics, Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery (SUFU), Dr. Lai serves as an abstract reviewer for the AUA and SUFU annual meetings.



Brock O'Neil—Oncology: Prostate

Dr. O'Neil is assistant professor of urologic surgical oncology at the University of Utah/Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah. He received his MD at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry in New York, completed his internship and residency at the University of Utah, and was a fellow in urological oncology and



health services research at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. O'Neil is an active member in the AUA, Society of Urologic Oncology and Academy Health. He also serves as seminar editor for *Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations*.

Best Reviewers in 2017

BPH; Calculi; Infection/Inflammation; Sexual Function/Infertility: Benjamin Breyer, Sean Elliott, Bradley Erickson, Ricardo Gonzalez, Jay Sandlow and Lee Zhao

Female Urology; Incontinence; Urodynamics/Neurourology: Gregory Bales, Jacques Corcos, Kai Dallas, Chris Payne and Steve Weissbart

Oncology: Kidney, Testis and Bladder: Karim Chamie, Hiten Patel, Nirmish Singla, Mark Tyson, Chris Weight and Henry Woo

Oncology: Prostate: Bhimal Bindhi, Brian Lane, J. Kellogg Parsons, Jonathan Pinthus, Jeffrey Tosoian, Quoc-Dien Trinh and Christopher Wallis

Pediatrics: Angela Arlen, Earl Cheng, Jon Ellison, Kate Kraft, Armando Lorenzo, Craig Peters and Konrad Szymanski

Nearly 2,500 manuscripts are submitted each year to *The Journal of Urology*, which speaks to the number of individuals interested in advancing the field through publication of new information. Each paper is given careful and complete consideration before a decision about suitability for publication is made. This process relies upon the dedication and expertise of many individuals which at the pinnacle includes a board of the editor, associate editors, section editors, assistant editors and a feature editor. The assistant editors are crucial in that they help identify qualified reviewers, evaluate carefully the content of submitted manuscripts and help adjudicate final decisions. This process requires devotion of considerable time and effort in order to provide the respect and deliberation authors deserve, and what is needed to ensure publication of the highest quality and most relevant articles.

The terms of service for 6 outstanding assistant editors were completed in December 2017, and their service to The Journal will be recognized at an awards reception during the annual meeting of the American Urological Association in San Francisco. Each has provided a valuable service not only to *The Journal of Urology*, but to the entire urology community of individuals who treat patients and to the patients themselves. My job as editor is made vastly easier through the work and involvement of such talented individuals, and this

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