

# Peer Premier – Leveraging peer review so papers can stand on their own merits.

Professional and equitable peer review, without the journal impact factor.

## Our Mission:

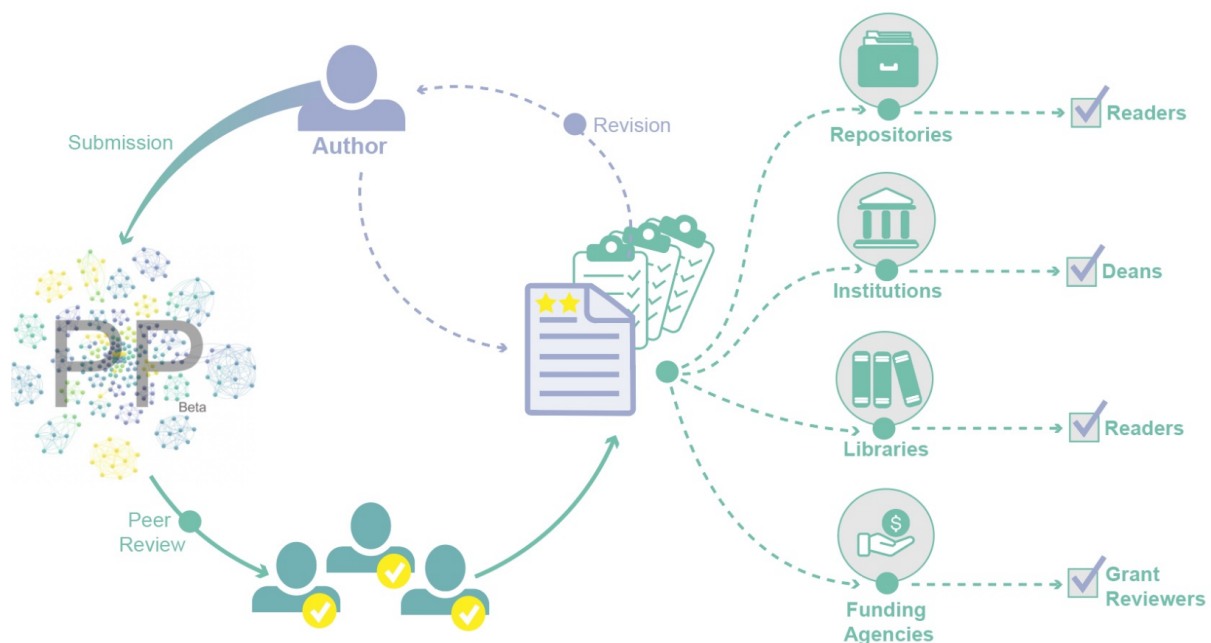
Remove biases and barriers in scientific publishing by legitimizing and standardizing the peer review process and transitioning the science author from paying publishers to paying peer reviewers.

## Our Vision:

Create an efficient and affordable peer review hub for academic authors.

## Goals and Implementation:

- Reduce biases from the peer review process by providing transparent, equitable and thorough peer review that is journal independent.
- Decrease time and cost for the dissemination of scientific findings by paying reviewers.
- Give authors control over the dissemination of their work by creating a portable peer review.
- Enhance the value and impact of a scientific paper by peer reviewing articles independently of journals and publishers.



# Peer Premier – An Efficient and Affordable Peer Review Hub for Academic Authors

Environmental Assessment: We have conducted dozens of surveys and interviews with all the stakeholders including scientists, librarians, funding agencies, media and more. The results are consistent: The current model is broken and not sustainable, but no one has come up with a better solution.

Standardized Rubric: We have generated an extensive reviewing rubric with over 35 questions to address every aspect of the manuscript, from the title to the results to the references. This provides for a comprehensive review by all 3 peer reviewers and is designed to reduce language barriers allowing for non-native English reviewers to participate in an English dominated field.

Peer Reviewer Compensation: Paying peer reviewers allows for better control over the review process, from timing to generating a comprehensive review. It also legitimizes the process, generating high quality peer reviews. We know this is controversial, but it shouldn't be, and we are not even close to paying the reviewers what they are worth. There is no incentive to provide "good" reviews, only honest opinions by experts in the field.

Getting the Word Out: This is a very novel process and naturally people are curious. We have had conducted several interviews with local and national media outlets and have received overwhelmingly positive support.

- Globe and Mail: [The peer-review process is in need of some scrutiny.](#)
- University of Guelph News: [Lower Costs, Faster Publishing Benefits of New Peer Review Service from UofG Scientists.](#)
- CBC: [Medical advances typically begin with a study. Now, universities are struggling to afford them.](#)

Incorporating: We are a for-profit business with every intention of becoming a B corp. This will allow us to hold on to our social mission (providing transparent and equitable peer review for everyone) while still allowing us to scale our business.

Generating Reviews: We have solicited numerous papers to put through our process covering a range of topics and assessments. Reviewers have never encountered such a rigorous review process but felt the end result and compensation were worth it. Authors have never received such a comprehensive review that incorporates details of where the reviewers came from while still being double blind. See below for an example of the Reviewers Report.

*"I can tell you that we are all exhausted from what has become an extremely inefficient, subjective, arbitrary, conflict-laden and not always competent publication process. I have gone through publications that involved 8 reviewers where a paper ended up getting rejected with a single reviewer objecting and 7 in favor of publication after almost 2 years of editorial indecision. I don't want to do this anymore. It takes the fun out of science for me."* [Anonymous author]

# Peer Premier – Next Steps and What we Need.

## Scientists

Imagine if your paper could have a professional review within a week or so and all you had to do is post the paper and its review on your libraries website where it would be indexed, discoverable and free to anybody who wanted access to it. Granting agencies would accept it, the hiring committee would accept it and your tenure and promotion committee would accept it. All the time required for formatting and sending it to different journals and waiting for the reviews would be freed up and the high costs of publishing open access would go back into your research. This may be scientific eutopia, but that is exactly what we are striving for. You've told us, and we know first-hand, how painful and expensive it is to publish in today's environment. So, join us to seek a better way to disseminate scientific research.

## Funding Agencies

Funding agencies are the agents of change when it comes to removing the biases of the journal impact factor from grant review. They are behind our vision 100% and have been very encouraging in our mission. We need funding agencies to continue to promote a journal-independent review process. From our environmental analysis we discovered that around 25% of grant applications have a preprint attached to them but that the grant reviewers often ignore this preprint. This is unfortunate as the preprint accurately reflects the latest data to come from the grant applicant. If the preprint came with a Peer Premier review, would the grant reviewer treat it any differently? We encourage funding agencies to instruct their grant reviewers to treat this peer-reviewed preprint (dare we say PeerPrint?) as they would a published paper.

## University Administrators

Several universities in Europe have already taken steps in removing journal impact factors from their assessment of applicants for faculty positions and tenure and promotion. We applaud this direction. What better way to evaluate a candidate than to have their peers provide quantitative and qualitative feedback on their research that is independent of the journal impact factor! The double-blind peer review process used by Peer Premier is one way that can generate an unbiased and clear assessment of the quality, novelty and relevance of the researcher's productivity without relying on the journal impact factor. We need Deans, Chairs and other administrators to acknowledge and accept that there are alternative ways to assess research output.

## Subject Experts

Journals might call these editors, but since we are not a journal and don't accept or reject any paper we want to distinguish their role from the more traditional journal-associated role. The role of the Subject Expert is to act as an intermediary between the authors and the reviewers and ensure that the reviews are in line with the subject material. The subject editors have the same vision as Peer Premier and abide by the rules and governance of Peer Premier, which is to reduce bias, be more transparent and provide an equitable, high quality review product. If you are interested in becoming a Subject Expert please contact us. We would love to have like-minded people join us to disseminate science that is high quality, unbiased and free.

**Manuscript Number****Title:**

Network Analysis (peer reviewer subject areas; created by vosviewer.com):

Sex determination, QTL, NOT Fish

315 Authors (Anonymized)

Level/rank of peer reviewers: Senior Research Fellow; Professor; Senior Lecturer

Reviewer Average	Coefficient of Variation (%)
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Quality:

Novelty:

Importance/Relevance:

Presentation/Clarity:

**Strong Points:** substantial effort and interesting biology described this manuscript makes a significant contribution to the field.: a beautiful illustration of how modern genomics can be applied to a non-model organism; a substantial piece of work that bring together multiple genetic techniques to explore a particular pattern of segregation and organelle partitioning within a species of nematodes.

**Weak Points:** While the authors are able to narrow down a list of candidates they do not discuss or list the annotated functions of these genes; I feel that many of the discussion points are out of sync with the results presented; Expansion of the discussion is needed to place these results within the broader literature and future applications.

The coefficient of variation is a reflection of reviewer cohesiveness. The closer the value to zero the more the agreement amongst reviewers.

Disclaimer: This report is the assessment by three independent reviewers using a double-blind review process. The comments and scores have not been altered in any way by Peer Premier. Quantitative and qualitative information provided in this report reflects the sole opinion of these reviewers based on their professional capacity at the time of review and for the specific version of the manuscript that was submitted to Peer Premier. Peer Premier is not responsible for these assessments. The scores and comments are intended to provide authors with high-quality feedback on their manuscript. Consequently, they should not be used to rank or compare reports that have been generated by different peer reviewers. It is Peer Premier's belief that the ultimate impact of the paper will be determined by the research community.

## Title

(1=Disagree - 10=Agree)

Accurately reflects the conclusions of the manuscript.

Is sufficiently detailed enough to get the point across.

Does not overstate the conclusions of the paper.

### Comments on the title.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Abstract

(1=Disagree - 10=Agree)

The abstract is clear and succinct.

The abstract draws accurate and meaningful conclusions.

The abstract accurately reflects the main points of the paper.

### Comments on the Abstract.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Material and Methods

(1=Mostly Incomplete - 10=Mostly Complete)

Description of the material and methods.

Sources of materials (references, manufacturer, etc).

Details that would allow replication of this study .

Ethics/animal approval with appropriate protocol identifiers have been included?

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

Comments on the Material and Methods.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Results

### Model

Please indicate if the source of the model is necessary for proper evaluation of the results or to reproduce the experiment.

Necessary?

R1

R2

R3

How well described?

Please indicate if the sex and age of the model is necessary for proper evaluation of the results or to reproduce the experiment.

R1

R2

R3

Please indicate if the number of replicates per experiment is necessary for proper evaluation of the results or to reproduce the experiment.

R1

R2

R3

## Model (cont'd)

	Necessary?	How well described?
<b>Please indicate if the strain or line description (eg. transgenic, mutant, reporter, etc) is necessary for proper evaluation of the results or to reproduce the experiment.</b>	R1	
	R2	
	R3	
<b>Please indicate if controls are necessary for proper evaluation of the results or to reproduce the experiment.</b>	R1	
	R2	
	R3	

**Based on the information above, rate your overall satisfaction with the description of the model used for this particular point?**

**Please provide comments on the model(s) used for this study (suitability, alternatives, etc).**

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Techniques

**Using the slider below, are the techniques (eg., Western blot, xenograph, luciferase reporter, X-ray, etc) appropriate to address the point in question? (1=Not appropriate - 10=very appropriate)**

**Please provide comments on the techniques and identify limitations and improvements.**

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Experimental Design (1=Disagree - 10=Agree)

**These are unique experiments, not duplicates of previous published experiments.**

**The results are new. That is they are not simply confirming known results.**

**The experimental design is adequate for the point the authors are trying to make.**

**Comments on the Experimental Design.**

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Novelty

**How novel are the models, techniques, technologies and experiments that the authors use to use address this point? (1=Existing Technology - 10=New Innovation)**

**How does this research build on existing research? (1=Does not advance - 10=Significantly advances)**

**Assess the overall novelty of the manuscript based on the methods and the results obtained. (1=Lacks novelty - 10=Very novel)**

**Comments on the novelty and potential innovation.**

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Statistics

Rate your overall satisfaction with the statistics for this manuscript. (1=Dissatisfied - 10=Satisfied)

Rate your overall satisfaction with the number of biological replicates. (1=Dissatisfied - 10=Satisfied)

Is the data supported by the appropriate statistics?

R1 R2 R3

Statistics are not required.

I am unable to accurately evaluate the statistics used.

Replicates not provided when they should be.

Multiple reps provided but not statistically evaluated.

No statistics were included when they should have been.

Some statistics included or stats included but of the wrong type or stats included but indication of the statistic that were used or the parameters of the stats not included.

Statistics are included and may be of the right type but information is missing.

Statistics are included, of the right type with appropriate information included.

Other

Comment on the statistics.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Controls (1=None of the time - 10=All of the time)

Are negative controls provided?

Are positive controls provided?

Are the controls used appropriate?

Do the authors justify their use of controls?

Comment on the controls.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Evidence (1=Poor - 10=Excellent)

What is your overall evaluation of the readability of the data presented? (clear labels, units, , font size, etc)

What is your overall evaluation of the organization of the data?

What is your overall evaluation of the quality of the data presented?

What is your overall evaluation of the presentation of the data?

Evaluation is...? (1=missing - 10=complete)

## Evidence Cont'd

Please provide specific comments about each of the points that the authors are trying to make. For example you may agree with their conclusions about some experiments, but not others, so please elaborate.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Depth

Your overall satisfaction with the number of experiments or approaches used to address their topic (1=Very Dissatisfied - 10=Very Satisfied)

Please provide specific comments about each of the points that the authors are trying to make regarding the depth of the research. For example, some questions may be fully addressed, but other questions may only have preliminary data, so please elaborate.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Importance and Relevance

Rate the overall importance of the research to the main objective of the paper. (1=Not Important - 10=Very Important)

## Importance and Relevance Cont'd

Rate the overall importance of the research to the specific field of study. (1=not important - 10=very important)

Rate the overall importance of the research to the scientific field in general. (1=not important - 10=very important)

Please provide specific comments regarding importance and relevance. For example, some experiments may be more important than others, so please elaborate.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Concerns

Do you have any concerns about this manuscript that have not been addressed with the previous questions? (1=Major Concerns - 10=No Concerns)

Please provide specific comments regarding any concerns you may have.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3



## Discussion (1=Disagree - 10=Agree)

The discussion avoids unnecessarily repeating the results.

The main conclusions are justified by the results presented.

The discussion puts the results into context with the current understanding in the field.

Limitations have been discussed.

Authors acknowledge obvious unanswered questions.

Please provide comments or concerns you may have regarding the discussion.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## References (1=Disagree - 10=Agree)

Authors include the most up to date and relevant (primary research) references.

The references are sufficiently extensive.

Please provide comments or concerns you may have regarding the references.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

Peer Premier Certified

# Major and Minor Points

## Strong Points of the paper.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Weak Points of the paper.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Major Points of concern not addressed above.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

## Minor Points of concern not addressed above.

Reviewer #1

Reviewer #2

Reviewer #3

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