

# Publishing Scientific Papers: Reviewer Perspective

Publishing Scientific Papers:  
Why don't they love me?

# Overall problems

- Poor writing
- Lack of organization
- Excessive commercialization
- Use of code names
- Insufficient detail to reproduce
- Wrong journal

# Abstract

- Too long
- Not enough detail
- No conclusion
- Includes acronyms

# Introduction

- Way too long- do not use your thesis literature review
- Does not include pertinent literature
- Cites minor sources as primary backing for statements
- Failure to cite anything prior to 1990
- Does not conclude with a statement of purpose

# Materials and Methods

- Insufficient detail
- Refers to methods that are not generally available (if so- provide more detail)
- Fails to lay out experiment design- replication
- Fails to include statistical analysis- but mentions it in results

# Results and Discussion

- Extremely detailed discussion of results that fails to take advantage of well planned tables/figures.
- Think about the reader- interpret do not just report
- Failure to tie results in with previous work in the area
- Mentioning stats without including in the methods
- Overstatement of value of results- for example- “This is the first time this has been reported”

# Conclusions

- Should be a concise statement of what your work showed- not a summary
- Bringing in new ideas or even citing papers- not good
- Make sure the data support the conclusions



# Literature

- Please check to be sure all are cited
- Complete citations- particularly if they are old, from conferences or international in nature

# Tables/Figures

- Think about the reader!!
- Significant numbers (just because Excel gives you 0.000001 % is no reason to use it)
- Organization- use to support discussion
- Titles-should explain the table/figure clearly
- On multiple figures- use the same axis scale so that figures can be compared
- Footnotes – should be clear

So what do you do if they do not  
love your work?

# Resubmittal

- Read comments carefully
- Do not dismiss reviewer
- The reviewer may have comment that is off-base- that means you failed to write clearly
- Think about the journal- did you choose wisely?
- Do not give up!!

# Conclusions

- Language- do not be afraid to have paper edited
- Read carefully before submittal
- Choose the proper venue
- Respond to reviewer comments in detail
- Do not give up on our work- it is not completed until it is published