Peer reviewing
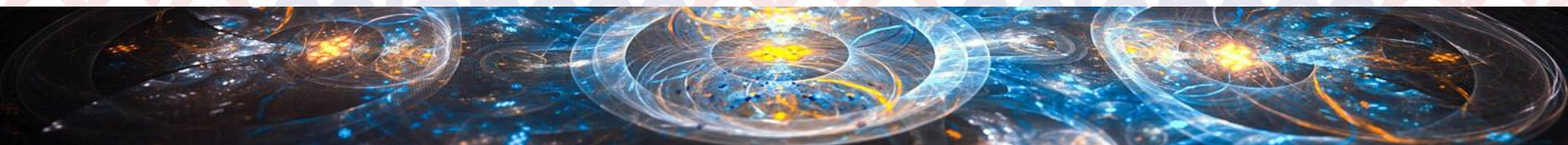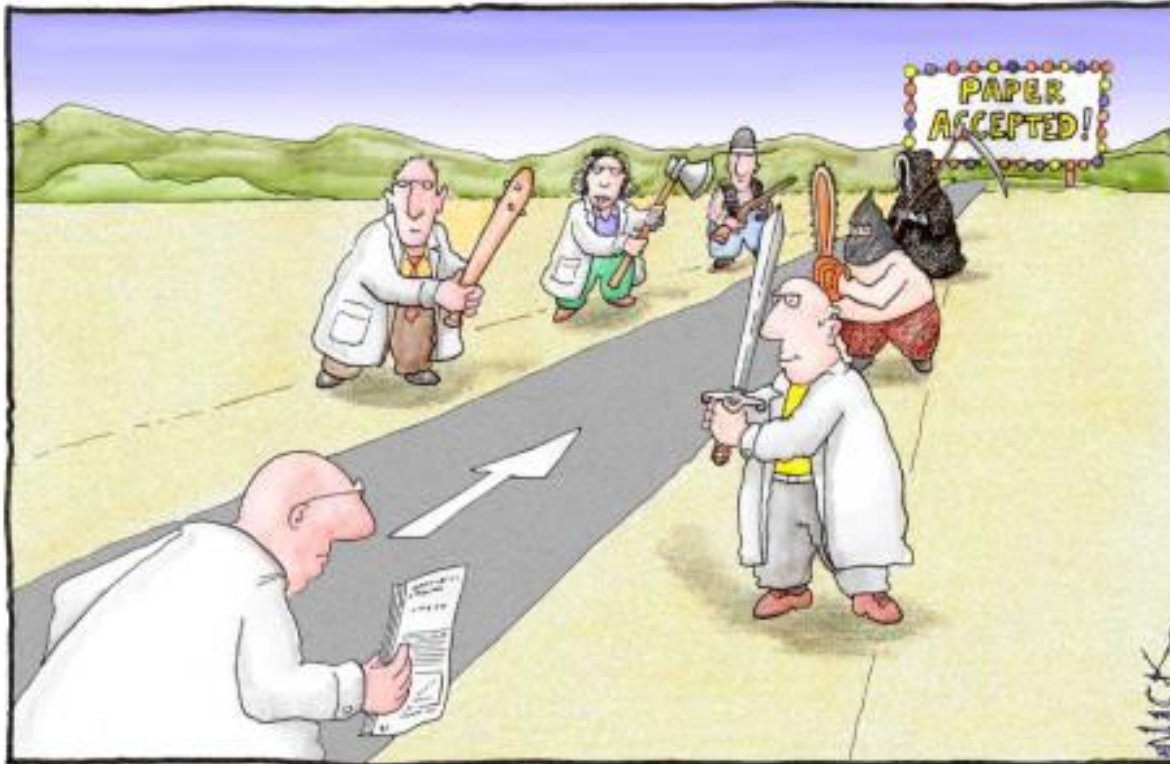
Anne Ruimy, Senior Publisher, EDP Sciences
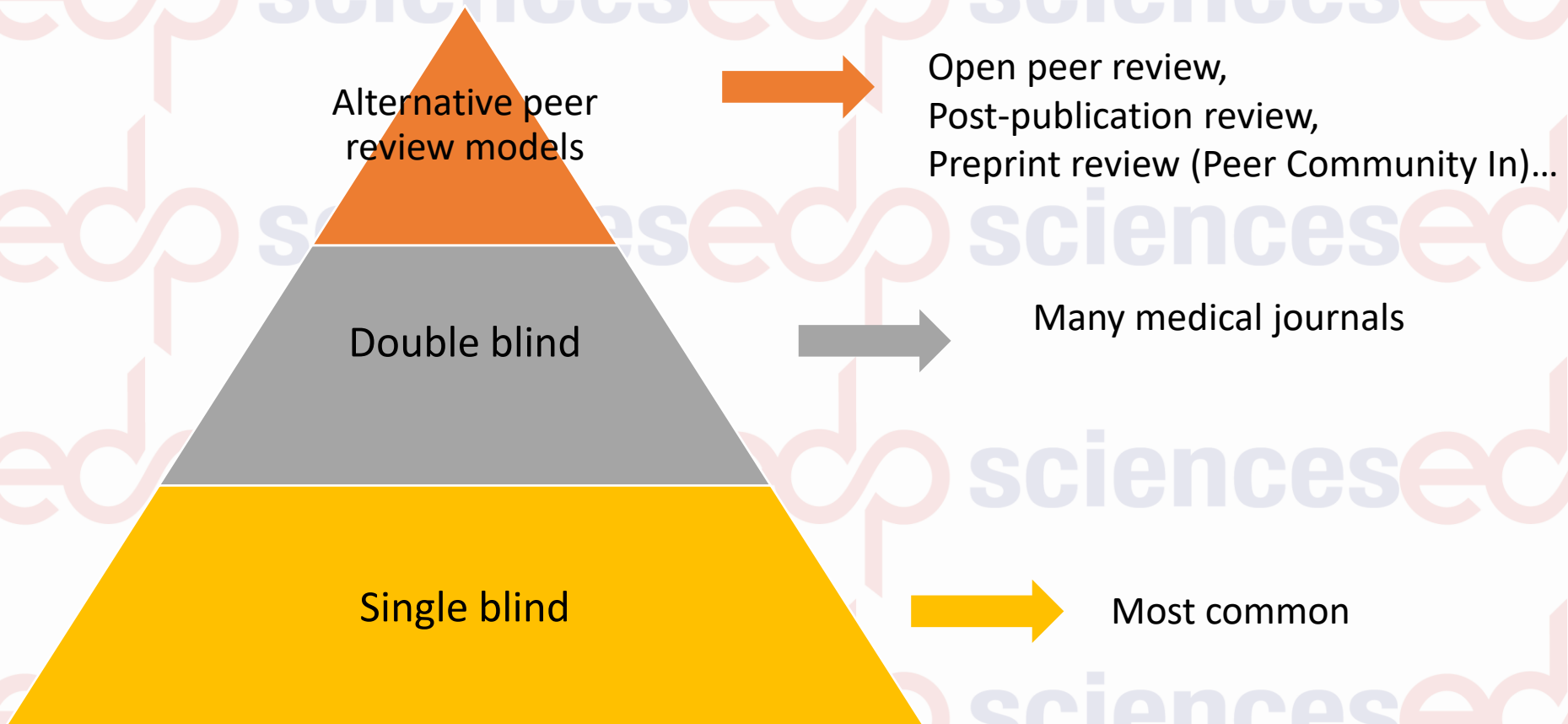
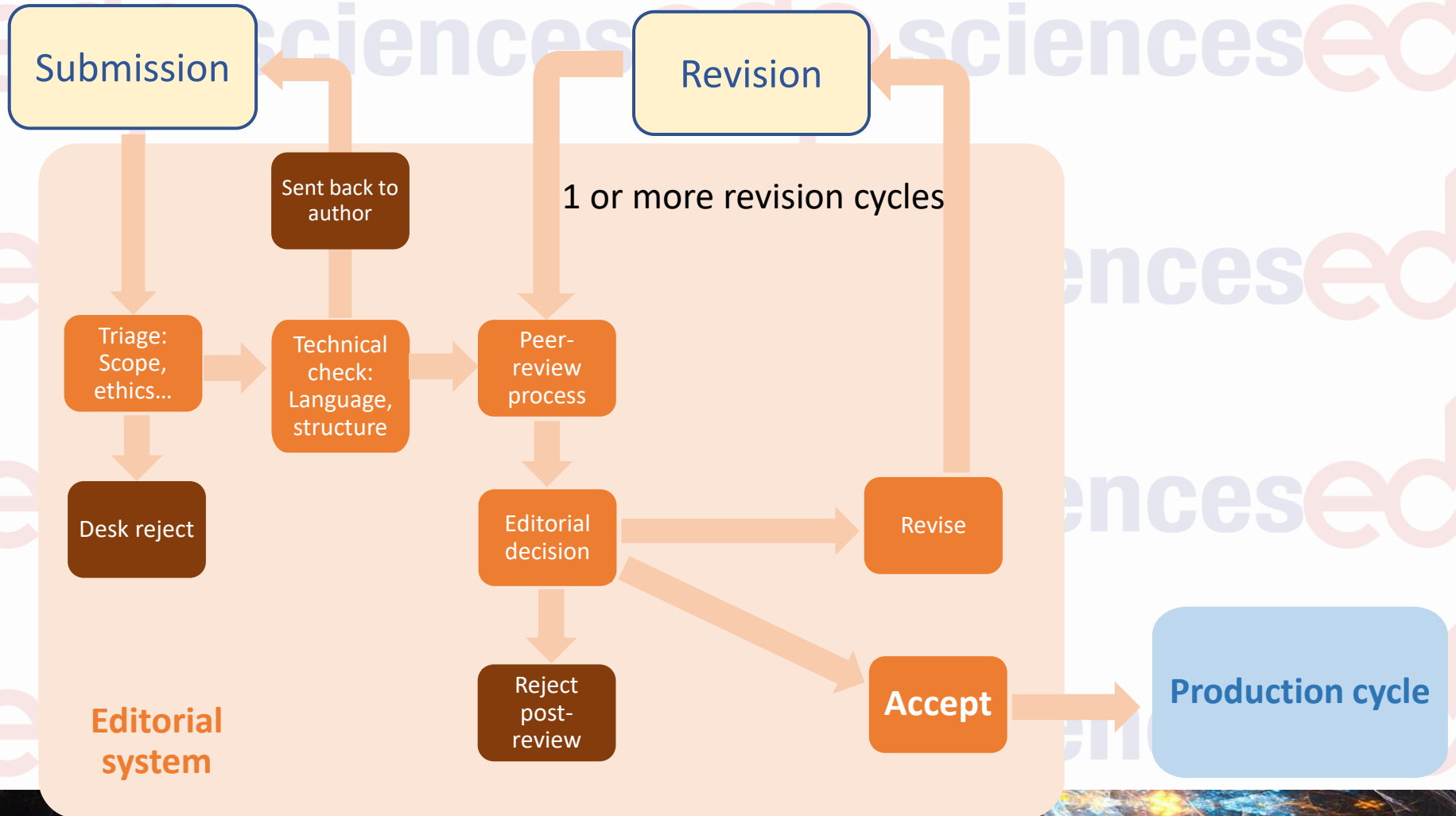# Introduction to peer review

Nick D Kim, strange-matter.net

Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

Peer review models

Alternative peer review models → Open peer review,
Post-publication review,
Preprint review (Peer Community In)…

Double blind → Many medical journals

Single blind → Most common

Standard peer review process

Why should you peer review?

- As an author, you need peer reviewers. If you are invited to act as a reviewer, give time back!

- Keep up with developments in your field and learn new things

- You can get "reviewer credits" for completing reviewer reports (WoS reviewer recognition service, ORCID)

- Editors may rate reviewers => Opportunity to join editorial board in future.

- It's OK to be a reviewer even as a young researcher

Peer review ethics

As an author:

You may be asked to suggest (or oppose) reviewers.

- Suggest reviewers outside of own institution/country

- provide institutional email addresses.

- **Fake reviewers: don't do it!**

As a reviewer:

- **Don't ask authors to cite your articles if not absolutely relevant!**

- **Respect the confidentiality of the peer review process!**

- **Inform the Editor of any conflict of interest!**

Peer review etiquette

- Read the invitation email including abstract. Respond to invitation asap, even if it is to decline the invitation

- Check journal aims & scope. If possible read instructions to authors

- If declining an invitation, provide a reason. If possible suggest another reviewer(s).

- You can ask to be removed from the reviewer database if there is a genuine reason

- If accepting an invitation, submit your report on time (check deadlines, read reminders)

Reading tips

- Focus on title, abstract, introduction (general->specific), conclusion if any (specific->general)

- Look for the objectives of the study (research question)

- Have the objectives been met?

- Look at the figures, tables (number, clarity, comprehensiveness)

- Don't look at the English language in detail (a general comment is OK)

Reviewing tips

- The peer review has different objectives depending on the article type (review, research article, data article), journal audience (generalist, specialist).

- It is OK to focus on certain aspects of the paper only (e.g. statistics). Indicate this.

- Provide a *detailed* report, annotated article and/or feedback form.

- It is not the reviewer's role to copy- or language-edit the paper. It is OK to recommend language editing even if English is not your first language.

- Communicate in a polite, scientific, constructive manner, even in "confidential comments to Editors"!

- You may or may not be asked to review a revised version. Read the response to reviewers. The author has the right to disagree with your suggestion and justify their decision.

- Read the questionnaire provided, if any (yes/no, Likert scale…)

Reviewing tips

Ideal structure of a peer review report

1. Short summary of the paper

2. General comments

3. Specific comments

4. General recommendation (accept, revise, reject)

Complete your report (1/3)

1. General recommendation (Accept, Revise, Reject)

Recommendation and Comments for Manuscript Number aacus220043R1

uman localization strategy for identifying talkers fixed in auditory space

Revision Number 1
Steven van de Par   (Reviewer 1)

Recommendation: No Recommendation ▼

No Recommendation
Acceptable Without Revision
Minor Revision
Major Revision
Reject

Cancel   Save & Submit Later   Uploa   oof & Print

Editor sees this and makes their own decision

Complete your report (2/3)

2. Reviewer comments. Enter your comments in box and/or attached document

Reviewer Comments to Author

Author and Editor see this

Reviewer Confidential Comments to Editor

Only Editor sees this (in theory!)

Complete your report (3/3)

3. Manuscript rating questions

Only Editor sees this

General overview - The paper presents an interesting and/or original topic.
General overview - The aim and main results of the study are clearly identified.
General overview - The presentation is pedagogical, notably in terms of figures.
General overview - The bibliography is consistent
General overview - Original and referenced works are clearly identified as such.
General overview - The paper is pleasant to read.
General overview - Should the English writing of the manuscript be improved?
Abstract – The abstract represents adequately and comprehensively the entire article
Introduction - The problem is clearly stated.
Introduction - The work is well motivated.
Introduction - The reader wants to know more.
Method - Relevant orders of magnitude are clearly identified.
Method - Key scientific processes and mechanisms are clearly identified.
Method - The method used is appropriate.
Results - Theoretical, numerical and experimental results are clearly identified.
Results - A proper treatment of experimental uncertainties has been carried out.
Results - Figures are of a high standard and figure captions contain sufficient detail.
Discussion - Theoretical results are tested against numerical results and/or experiments.
Discussion - The agreement between theory and experiment is discussed honestly and transparently.
Body of text – Well structured with headings.
Body of text – The mathematical formulations are well presented.
Body of text – There are sufficient explanations in plain English of mathematical formulations.
Conclusion – The main results are clearly stated.
Conclusion - Some perspectives are given.
Statements: Ethical statements are present