Post-publication discussion at PubMed

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CENDI
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Milestones

• Developed in response to scientific community interest

• Cornerstones:
  – Authors of publications in PubMed only
  – No anonymous accounts & no pseudonyms
  – Rating of comments but not of publications
  – Post-comment moderation only
  – Creative Commons license

• Staged, evaluated piloting
PubMed Commons Working Group

- Christopher Lee, Ph.D. (NCBI BOSC Member) Chairperson
  - Professor, Dept of Chemistry & Biochemistry, UCLA

- Lisa Bero, B.Sc., Ph.D.
  - Professor, Dept of Clinical Pharmacy, Institute for Health Policy Studies, UCSF

- Lane Rasberry, B.Sc.
  - Wikipedian-in-Residence, Consumer Reports, NY

- Ida Sim, M.D., Ph.D.
  - Professor, School of Medicine, UCSF

- Robert Tibshirani, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D.
  - Professor, Dept of Statistics, Stanford

- Gary Ward, B.Sc., Ph.D.
  - Professor, Dept of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, U of Vermont

- David Lipman, M.D. (NCBI) (Executive Secretary)
Development and use

• Pilot began 22 October 2013; comments visible to the public from 19 December 2013

• Sustainable infrastructure that minimizes potentially harmful use of the forum

• Quality of the comments is high – use of the Commons is low

Members

8445 members

2706 comments
Scientific contribution of comments

• Discussion of future research
• Interpretation of results, including implications of replications and refutations
• Generalizability and application of research results
• Enriching and updating the scientific record by author and community curation
Discuss ongoing studies & approaches

Conditional genome engineering in Toxoplasma gondii uncovers alternative invasion mechanisms

Nature Methods 2013

Notes further areas of interest, complementary approach to help validate conclusions

Author replies Provides information for preprint, notes that proposed experiment doesn’t work in this parasite
Provide access to full data & code

IB4-binding sensory neurons in the adult rat express a novel 3' UTR-extended isoform of CaMK4 that is associated with its localization to axons

*J Comp Neurol* 2014
Infrastructure: Managing poor comments

• Most poor comments are made by a small number of members

• Persistent or extensive breach of commenting guidelines leads to suspension of membership

• Pattern of poor commenting is identified by moderation and ratings

• Commenter score reflects poor commenting and is used to minimize prominence
Key strategies

• Improving the profile of good comments –
  • Reducing the visibility of poor ones

• Now encouraging authors to respond to comments on their work
  • Just under 10% reply to comments

• Pilot program for journal clubs: 6 approved – more applying
CREBP Journal Club

Bond University, Australia

CREBP Journal Club member since December 2014

Paul Glasziou serves as guarantor for this Journal Club.

The Centre for Research in Evidence-Based Practice (CREBP) focuses on better understanding, and more intelligently and efficiently closing, the gaps between best available evidence and current clinical practice. It is part of the School of Health and Medical Sciences at Bond University, on the Gold Coast in Australia. CREBP's journal club is held in person every fortnight, addressing either a clinical or methodological topic. Staff, students and visiting researchers participate. The outcomes of the group discussion are posted online.

Learn more & connect with us

Visit the CREBP Journal Club webpage.

Contact the CREBP Journal Club using this web form.

Read our PubMed Commons comments.
Other than the journal club setting, how often does a paper get read critically from beginning to end by 10-12 informed readers who then discuss it at length as a group?

This kind of collective discussion is a great way to surface the strengths and weaknesses of a study and to identify connections to other work.

Professor Gary Ward
University of Vermont