

FAQ: REVIEWER INFORMATION AT NATURE COMMUNICATIONS

Why has *Nature Communications* implemented this trial?

We believe that the time and effort reviewers spend in commenting on their peers' research is a valuable and fundamental part of the publication process. We also recognise that reviewers do not often receive recognition for their contributions. With this trial, we want to provide recognition for our reviewers by offering them the possibility to be individually acknowledged in the published article.

What reviewer information is published?

The names of reviewers who give their consent will be included in a note at the end of published articles. All other reviewers will be acknowledged anonymously.

What reviewer information is collected?

In order to more meaningfully assess the impact and level of uptake of this trial, we will ask reviewers to voluntarily report on their gender, country of affiliation and career stage. This information will only be used in an anonymised, aggregated manner and we will not share any individual data, though it will be available to internal editors and staff on an individual manuscript basis.

Are you the first to do this?

No, a number of journals already recognise individual reviewer contributions, such as our sister journal *Nature*, which has been acknowledging reviewer contributions since March 2016.

Can peer reviewers opt out?

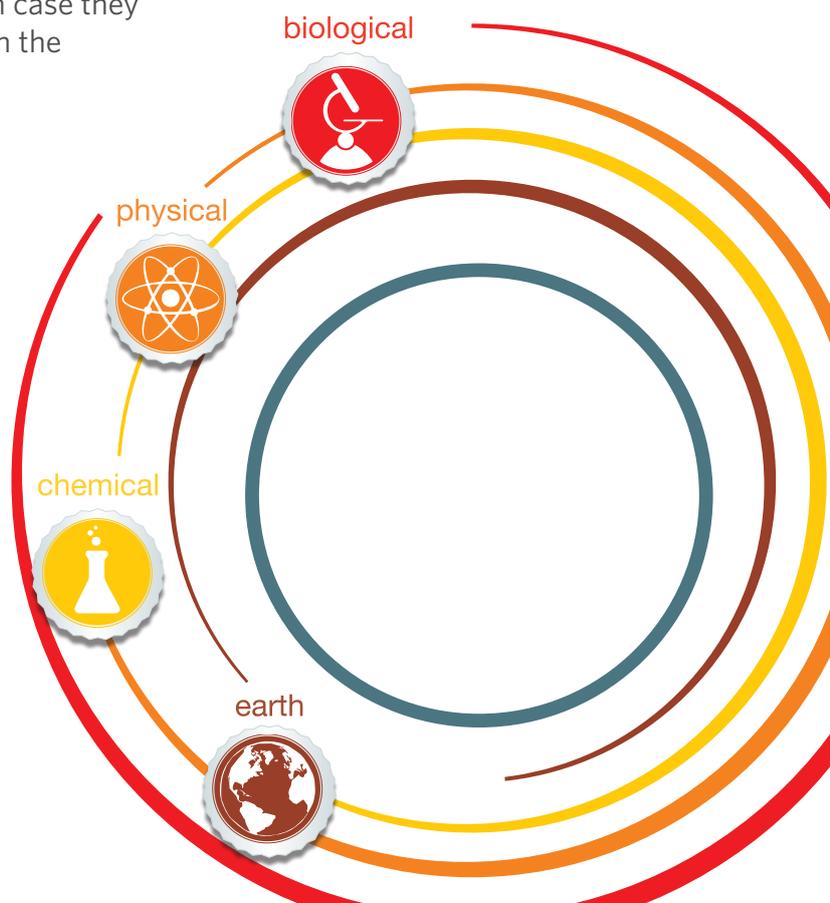
Yes, reviewers can opt out of being named, in which case they will be recognised anonymously in the statement on the published article.

Can authors opt out?

We do not request author opt-in; the statement of acknowledgement is included as a note from the publisher.

What if a reviewer chooses not to be named?

The choice of being mentioned in the published article lies with the reviewer; if they opt out of this trial, we will respect their anonymity and not publish their name.



When will reviewers be given this option?

Reviewers will be given this choice when submitting their comments on a manuscript. The option will be available on all versions of a manuscript a reviewer is asked to review and they will be able to change their decision at every version. However, it is worth noting that some manuscripts undergo only one round of review and so the reviewer should treat every round as their last opportunity to opt in.

How will the reviewer names be displayed?

If the reviewers wish to be named their names will appear in alphabetical order at the end of the paper in a statement:

- *Nature Communications* thanks [Name], [Name] and [Name] for their contribution to the peer review of this work.

Any reviewers that wish to remain anonymous will be acknowledged using a slightly modified statement:

- *Nature Communications* thanks [Name], [Name] and the other, anonymous, reviewer(s) for their contribution to the peer review of this work.

If no reviewers agree to be named, we will still acknowledge their valuable service using the statement below:

- *Nature Communications* thanks the anonymous reviewers for their contribution to the peer review of this work.

How does this trial integrate with transparent peer review?

Publishing reviewer names promotes transparency of the peer review process, in particular when the reviewer reports are published. We encourage reviewers to sign their reports, which will be published if the authors choose, thus providing full credit to the reviewer for their comments. If a reviewer chooses not to sign their report and opts into being named in the published article, we will respect their confidentiality and will not link their report to their name.

However, it is important to note that should all reviewers of a paper choose to be named in the article and all but one sign their reports, the ambiguity of which report is from which reviewer is removed and all reviewers will be attributable to their reports.

Will you share the results of the trial publicly?

We will evaluate the results of the trial by monitoring parameters such as reviewer opt-out rates and anonymised demographic information, and are planning to report back to the community within a year.