

REPORT

The European Association of Science Editors (EASE) Turkish Regional Chapter (TRC) organized two online meetings at the “Peer Review Week 2020”.

The first one was a panel discussion on “Trust in Peer Review”, which was held on 23rd of September 2020 (Picture 1). The panel was organized and moderated by Cem UZUN who is the chair of the EASE-TRC, council member of EASE, journal selection committee member of the “Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) Turkish Academic Network and Information Center (ULAKBIM) TR-Index” and the previous editor of *Balkan Medical Journal*. The panellists were Cenk DEMIRDOVER (Editor of *Turkish Journal of Plastic Surgery*), Taner Kemal ERDAG (Editor of *Turkish Achieves of Otorhinolaryngology*), Gizem KAYAN (Editorial Development Manager at *AVES Publishing House*), Oguz KILINC (Editor of *Turkish Thoracic Journal*), Ali SAHIN (Publications Director at *AVES Publishing House*), Mustafa SECIL (Editor of *Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology*) and Orhan YILMAZ (Editor of *KBB-Forum, Turkish Journal of Geriatrics, ENT Case and Safran Medical Journal*). The technical assistance was provided by the *AVES Publishing House*.

Those subjects were discussed in addition to answering the questions from the participants:

- Tips for credible peer review and criteria to assess quality of peer review.
- Solutions for finding suitable reviewers. Are difficulties in finding suitable reviewers push journals to work with relatively less experienced reviewers? How should editors manage superficial reviews?
- Double blind, single blind or open peer review: which one works best? Experiences of panellists.
- How can editors secure the credibility of content that went through rapid peer review during the pandemic?
- How to increase the competence of reviewers and editors to provide a trustworthy peer review process?
- How does preprint publication effect the overall peer review process?
- Bias in peer review: how to approach “suggested reviewers”?
- What is the role of reviewers in detecting ethical misconduct? Suggestions to reviewers.

The number of registration to the panel was 734 and 412 people watched the live discussion online. The video of the panel has just uploaded into the EASE-TRC YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/piYNbnP2iKI>).

The second event was a webinar on “Peer review process and TR Index”, which was held on 24th of September 2020 by TUBITAK ULAKBIM. One of the members of the EASE-TRC, Sibel Tabanlıoğlu organized the webinar and it was lively broadcasted via TUBITAK ULAKBIM YouTube channel, which was simultaneously uploaded to its video list for further access (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvgsxTDIEiw>). The slides of the presentations will also be published at the events page of TR Index (<https://cabim.ulakbim.gov.tr/etkinlikler>).

Initially, Mehmet Mirat SATOGLU, the Chairman of ULAKBIM, spoke on the importance of peer review and gave information about their activities. The chair of the webinar was Ertugrul KILIC from *Istanbul Medipol University*. The speakers were Emine OZMETE from *Ankara University*, Canan ULUOGLU from *Gazi University*, Zeynel CEBECI from *Cukurova University* and Ali Ekber SAHIN from *Hacettepe University* (Figure 2). They presented those topics beside answering the questions of the participants:

- Peer review process
- Ethical evaluation of a manuscript
- Importance of statistical evaluation during peer review
- Influence of journal peer review process on selection for TR Index

About 500 participants watched the live broadcasting of the webinar and over 2100 people watched its record in 24 hours.

We, the EASE-TRC think that those two meetings on peer reviewing had great attention in Turkey and they were useful for answering the questions of the participants who were mainly editors or researchers serving as reviewers at scientific journals in Turkey or in the world. We would like to thank to the organizing committee of the “Peer Review Week 2020” (especially to Bahar MEHMANI) for their encouragement and support.

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