

Meet the Editors

Julia Brotherton

Who you are and what you do?

I am a public health physician and epidemiologist with particular expertise in vaccination and screening. I am the Medical Director of Population Health at VCS Foundation in Melbourne, Australia, a non-government organisation committed to cervical cancer prevention and control for more than 50 years, and an Honorary Principal Fellow at the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne. I am a member of the WHO Director General's Expert Advisory Group on Cervical Cancer Elimination and love to work in the intersection between research and policy to inform best public health practice.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

A paper that flows logically, uses references appropriately, and puts the findings clearly into context whether or not you as a reader know the details of that particular field.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Over-interpretation of data and grandiose statements. Papers that don't acknowledge the fundamental tenets of study design and analysis. If there is an important limitation in your methods, acknowledge it clearly and explain how it impacts on the interpretation of your work rather than hoping the reviewers and readers won't notice it!

Advice for authors

- Work out what the key message(s) of your paper is before you start writing.
- Always make your tables and figures standalone – if they are taken out of the paper, someone should still be able to interpret them.
- Ask a colleague who doesn't work in your subject area to proofread your paper before submission.



Julia Brotherton

Charlotte Gaydos

Who you are and what you do?

I am a Professor in the Infectious Disease Division, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA. I have been evaluating diagnostic tests for STIs for over 40 years. I have performed research in designing NAAT assays for STIs and participated in many FDA clinical trials for STIs. I am the former Director of the International STI Research Laboratory and have authored >540 research articles. I am the former P.I. of the NIH Center for the development of POC diagnostics for STDs.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

When I see a paper that can clearly answer a research question or reports a new finding related to sexual health and public health that needs to be transmitted to and shared with scientists.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

When I review a paper with no clear research question, confusing methods or poor statistical analysis, or is poorly written, especially in the discussion of the findings.

Advice for authors

- Clearly know and state what the research question is and what your findings demonstrate.
- Take advice and edits from co-authors; they can improve the paper.
- Follow instructions for authors.
- Be concise and accurate in reporting your findings.
- Think carefully about the discussion and report why your findings are important, compared to other similar findings.



Charlotte Gaydos

Jami Leichter

Who you are and what you do?

I am the Deputy Associate Director for Science in the Division of STD Prevention at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control Prevention in Atlanta, USA. My research has focused on socio-behavioural issues, health care access and policies in STDs and sexual health.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

Novel and interesting studies on an important topic. Something that adds to scientific knowledge.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Papers and analyses that are disorganised without a focal point. Papers that have vague methods or a discussion section that is not related to the actual study findings.

Advice for authors

- A paper should have logical flow from beginning to end and a focal point.
- For each section of the paper, authors should return to their study objectives and make sure the section addresses them.
- Clear and consistent language throughout a paper is really helpful.
- Don't overstate your findings.



Jami Leichter