

Meet the Editors

Megan Lim

Who you are and what you do?

I'm the head of Young People's Health Research at the Burnet Institute in Melbourne, Australia. I have worked in sexual health research for 15 years. My main area of interest is young adults use of digital technologies and how this can affect their sexual health.

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

Clear writing with well organised thoughts. Balanced and relevant literature review. Results presented simply and accurately. A clear aim.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Conclusions that aren't supported by results. Insufficient description of methodologies. A lot of simple errors in formatting and writing. Prejudicial language and terminology.

Advice for authors

Think about the story you are trying to communicate with this paper; make sure your background, aims, methods, results, and conclusion all tell this story in a logical structure flow. If you haven't got a lot of experience in writing journal articles, make sure you get advice from someone who does.



Megan Lim

Ian Simms

Who you are and what you do?

I'm an infectious disease epidemiologist and work for Public Health England. I've spent most of my career working in the field of sexual health and have published on many of the field's

high-profile topics. Looking at the other editor profiles *Sexual Health* has published, I realise that my career pathway has been different to that of my colleagues. Initially I studied arts. I have a music degree and a performance diploma from Trinity College, London. It was a wonderful experience and also gave me the skills to write as a scientist.

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

A manuscript that grabs your attention, engages you in the story the authors are telling, shows you the significance of their work, makes you think and want to read right to the end of the discussion. It's easy to say, difficult to achieve, but something to which we all aspire.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Like everyone who submits their work to a peer review journal, I am no stranger to rejection. There are many reasons why it could happen. Perhaps it doesn't fit with the aims of the journal, maybe the ideas behind the work and the significance of the findings weren't communicated effectively, or it could be that there was a problem with the methodology. As an editor I try to offer guidance on how authors can improve their manuscripts. As an author, I take a deep breath, learn as much as I can, revise the presentation and only then re-submit, probably to another journal.

Advice for authors

Although it can be a bruising experience, I really enjoy creating manuscripts with colleagues for submission to peer review journals. It's a great way to strengthen your team, clarify ideas you want to communicate to the scientific community, and gain greater insight into the future direction of your work. And it's fantastic when you all see the paper published.



Ian Simms

Lei Zhang

Who you are and what you do?

I am a professor in Public Health and Epidemiology from the China–Australia Joint Research Center for Infectious Diseases, Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU), China, which is an institute that fosters a strong collaboration between XJTU and Monash University, Australia. My research mainly focuses on HIV/STI epidemiology, mathematical modelling, medical applications of artificial intelligence methods and health economics.

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

A paper with an interesting innovation in ideas or methods is always a delight for acceptance. In addition, clear language expression and a smooth flow of logic are definitely pluses.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Studies that merely repeat other studies' findings often encounter the fate of rejection. Poor and inconsistent language expression, lack of logical thinking and obvious flaws in figures and tables are fast tracks to rejection as well.

Advice for authors

Authors should always polish their ideas, make a story complete by checking all steps and guidelines are followed in a logical manner. A good manuscript will benefit from repeat discussion and edits among the co-authors.



Lei Zhang