

## **Sharing discoveries with the world: The role of the scientific editor**

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Peer-reviewed journals are arguably the single most important avenue for sharing scientific research with the broader community. Researchers, reviewers, and editors work in tandem to produce, curate, and disseminate important scientific findings; however, while the role of the scientific researcher may be readily apparent to the lay audience, that of the reviewer and the editor may be less so.

### **How does an editor assess the suitability of a reviewer?**

KYLE LEGATE: This depends on what you are asking the reviewer for. If you are asking for an assessment of how the manuscript fits into the field as a whole and the depth of contribution the work makes to advance our knowledge, a reviewer who has extensive experience and knowledge in the field is advantageous since they have a panoramic view of their subject area. If specialized technical aspects of the work need to be assessed, a more junior reviewer may be a better choice since they have recent hands-on experience. In both cases, the reviewers need to have a publication record that suits the topic of the manuscript. A well-calibrated reviewer is also an advantage; that is, a person who has reviewed for us in the past or published works of comparable impact.