A Scalable Solution for Transparent Peer Review

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1 Wiley

2 Publons

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There has been increased demand for more openness in the peer review process in recent years, as researchers and publishers strive to bring greater transparency to the research and publication process.

In September 2018, Wiley launched a collaborative initiative to pilot a transparent peer review workflow, in collaboration with Publons and ScholarOne (both part of Clarivate Analytics). The first journal to take part was *Clinical Genetics*.

- Authors have the option to choose transparent peer review on submission to the journal.

- By "transparent peer review" we mean if an article is published, the peer reviewers' reports also accompany publication

- If reviewers wish to disclose their names they are free to do so, but this is an optional step
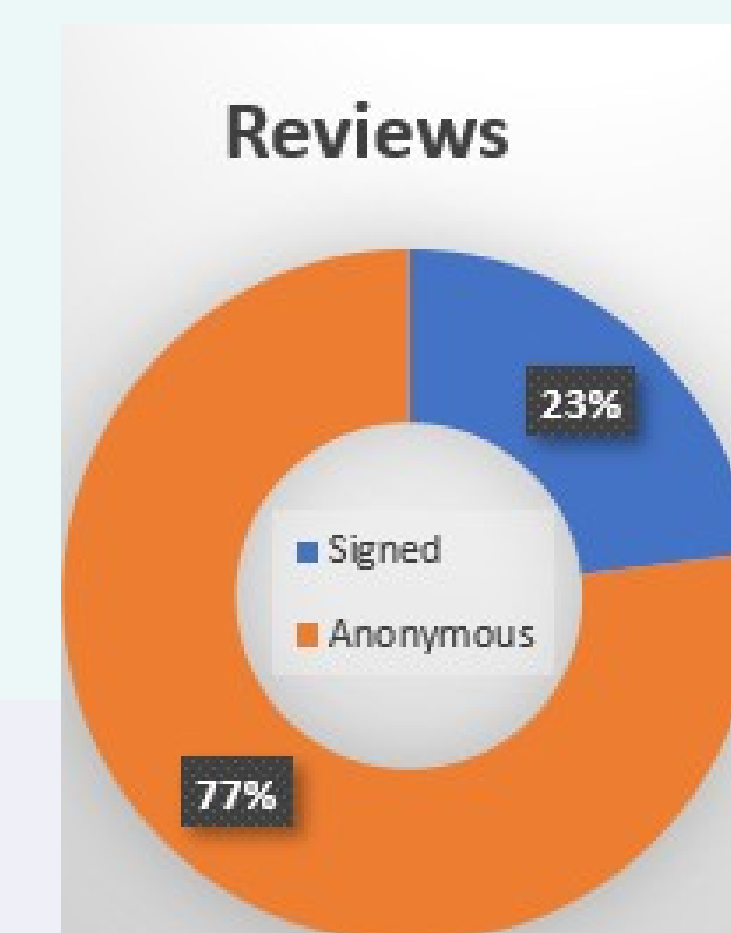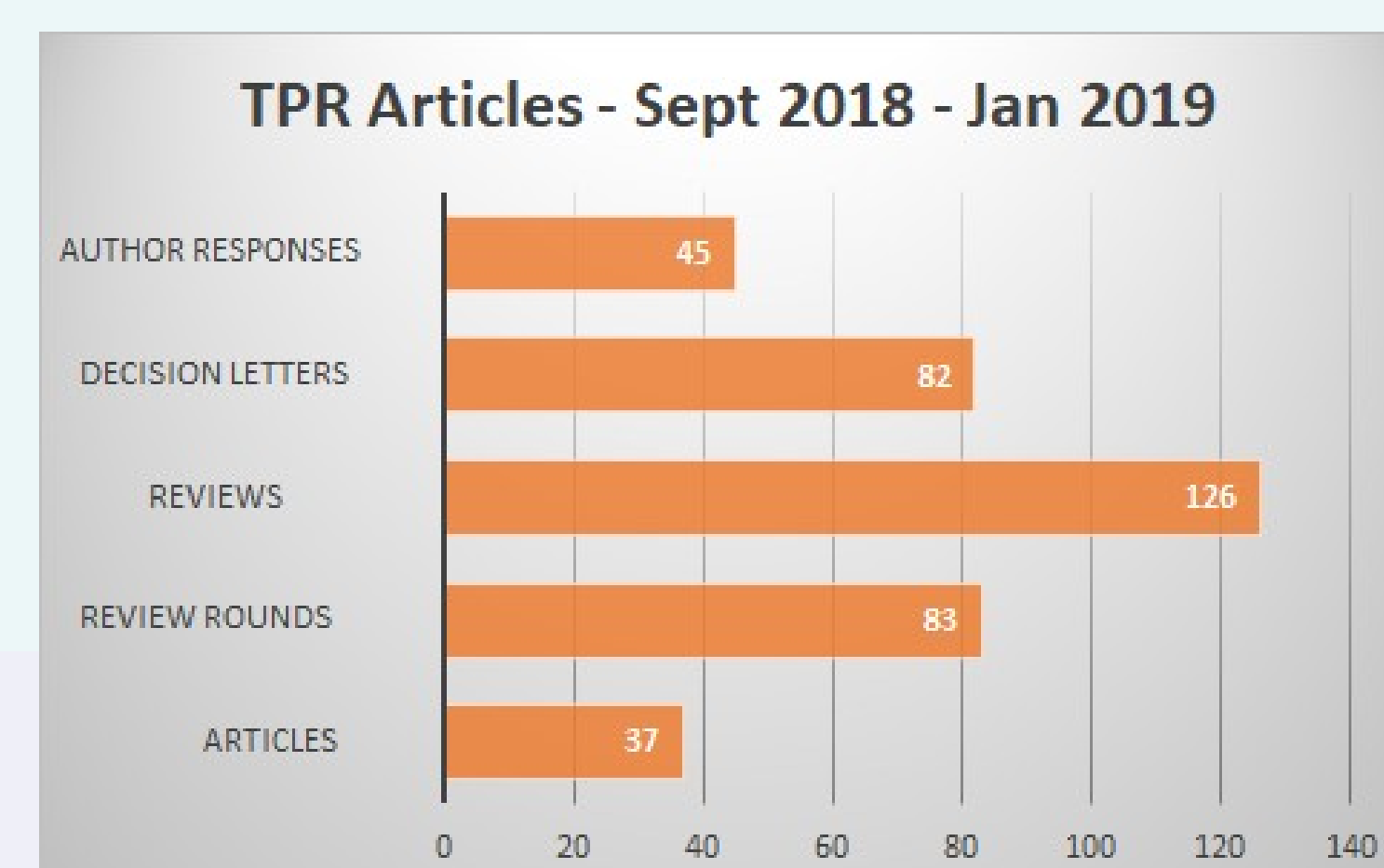
Benefits

- Increased accountability for the peer review process
- Recognition for the work that editors and peer reviewers do
- Fully compatible with the emerging open research agenda
- Other elements of the "peer review history" readily available

"From my perspective as an author and as an editor, I firmly believe that the editorial process should be transparent. Publishing the accompanying peer review history of a paper adds real value to the peer review process and illustrates how the process of publishing research works." **Reiner A Veitia, Professor of Genetics at Paris Diderot University, Paris, France and Editor-in-Chief of the journal** *Clinical Genetics*

Results

Month	Total number original submissions	Number agreeing to TPR	Percentage agreeing to TPR
August	75	67	89%
September	75	69	89%
October	90	73	81%
November	96	69	58%
December	101	72	71%
January	91	67	74%
Total	528	417	77%

TPR Articles - Sept 2018 - Jan 2019

Category	Value
AUTHOR RESPONSES	45
DECISION LETTERS	82
REVIEWS	126
REVIEW ROUNDS	83
ARTICLES	37

Reviews

- Signed 23%
- Anonymous 77%

"While this sounds like a radical idea, and in certain respects it is, it's a first step in the direction of real open science." - **Paul Kirschner, Distinguished University Professor at the Open University of the Netherlands and Visiting Professor of Education at the University of Oulu, Finland and Editor-in-Chief of the** *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*

What's Next

It is vital that any initiative has the capability to scale and be compatible with different peer review models, across diverse subject disciplines and publisher workflows. To learn more, in January 2019, a further ten journals joined the pilot.

Table 1. Journals participating in the next phase of the transparent peer review pilot

Journal	Existing peer review model	Discipline
Diabetes, Obesity & Metabolism	Single-blind	Endocrinology
European Journal of Immunology	Transparent	Immunology
European Journal of Neuroscience	Transparent plus reviewer identities	Neuroscience
Hematological Oncology	Single-blind	Oncology
Journal of Advanced Nursing	Double-blind	Nursing
Journal of Computer Assisted Learning	Double-blind	Information technology
Journal of Experimental Zoology Part B	Single-blind	Developmental evolution
Molecular Oral Microbiology	Single-blind	Oral microbiology
Traffic	Transparent	Cell biology
Wind Energy	Single-blind	Wind power technology

TPR – Workflow diagram

ScholarOne
Enable opt ins → Set up data transfer → Accepted articles

Editor comments/ troubleshooting

Publons
Publons collects data required → Publons creates review content page → Publons registers DOIs for peer review objects → Review content published on Publons

Wiley Online Library
Article DOI → Publons links to review page at article level → Article published on publisher site

DOI feed

Clarivate Analytics

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