

Responding to peer review

- 1 Think of peer review, however critical it may be, as free consultancy.
- 2 In each review, first identify positive comments.
- 3 Seek to build on the positives: if a reviewer liked something, can you give them more of that?
- 4 Then identify negative comments and decide which you agree with.
- 5 For each of those you agree with, either redraft your paper or explain why you're not in a position to do so.
- 6 For each negative comment that you disagree with, take responsibility: how can you write your paper better so as to prevent the criticism recurring?
- 7 If there's a comment that's plain wrong, say so (respectfully) and provide evidence.
- 8 Ensure you respond to each and every point made by the reviewers.
- 9 Remain courteous throughout and express gratitude – even if through gritted teeth!

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Resources

Elizabeth Wager et al., *How to survive peer review* (Wiley, 2002)

Irene Hames, *Peer review and manuscript management in scientific journals* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2007)

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