

Special Issue: Gonorrhoea: tackling the global epidemic in the era of rising antimicrobial resistance

Meet the Editors

Jason J. Ong

Who you are and what you do?

I am an academic sexual health physician. I have joint appointments at Monash University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the University of Bristol. My main areas of interest are in economic evaluations, measuring health preferences and infectious disease modelling to improve sexual health among key populations in a variety of settings including low- and middle-income countries.

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

Papers with a clearly defined research question and detailed, replicable methodology that has potential to impact policies or spur new research.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Incoherent papers that are poorly structured, difficult to follow what was actually done, and with no clear discussion of how it contributes to our current understanding of the topic.

Advice for authors

Utilise the relevant ‘best practice’ guidelines (e.g. PRISMA for systematic reviews, CHEERS for economic evaluations, CONSORT for randomised controlled trials, STROBE for observational studies, COREQ for qualitative studies) to ensure that all relevant information is included in your manuscript. As you go through the sometimes arduous gauntlet of the peer-review process, turn every critique into an opportunity to refine your research or even spur new ideas for future work.



Jason J. Ong

Teodora Wi

Who you are and what you do?

I am a medical officer on sexually transmitted infections at the World Health Organization. I am the focal point for developing WHO STI guidelines and for controlling and mitigating antimicrobial resistance in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*. I support countries to develop national programmes to prevent and control STIs.

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

A paper that can contribute to promoting health, informing interventions and policies and providing solutions to challenges in public health. A paper with clear objectives and methods and with relevant findings.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

A paper that is confusing and not relevant.

Advice for authors

Keep in mind that not all can write well, but it is very important to share research findings and outcomes and contribute to science. Have a clear objective. Develop an outline. Use simple and short sentences for clarity. Be focused and be persistent.



Teodora Wi

Gwenda Hughes

Who you are and what you do?

I am head of national STI Surveillance at Public Health England and an Honorary Professor at University College London. My research has focused on understanding the determinants of STIs including antimicrobial resistant gonorrhoea and sexually transmitted enteric pathogens.

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

A topic of public health importance, novelty, a clearly presented rationale for the study, an appropriate study design and clear and concise writing.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Absence of any of the above!

Advice for authors

Make sure you know what the ‘story’ of your paper is – What is the problem? What did you do to address it? What were your findings and their implications? Then draft an outline with a bullet point for each paragraph summarising how you will cover this, before you start writing the detail.



Gwenda Hughes

Deborah A. Williamson

Who you are and what you do?

I am Deputy Director of the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory at the Doherty Institute, and an Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Melbourne. My research group at the Doherty Institute focuses on the application of genomic technologies to public health, with a strong focus on antimicrobial-resistant pathogens.

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

- Robust and reproducible methods and results.
- Novelty of research and applicability to the target journal.
- A clear discussion that synthesises and translates the results.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

- Opaque methods.
- Over-reaching results and discussion.
- Sloppy language, spelling and grammar.

Advice for authors

- Tell a compelling story!
- Don't ever cherry pick results – the reviewers and editors will see through it.



Deborah A. Williamson

Philippe Mayaud

Who you are and what you do?

I am a Professor of Infectious Diseases & Reproductive Health at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), and the Head of Programme of HIV Epidemiology & Interventions at the Medical Research Council/Uganda Virus Research Institute & LSHTM Research in Uganda Unit, based in Entebbe. I am a clinical epidemiologist focusing on STI and HIV epidemiology and intervention research.

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

As an editor and potential reader: an exciting/novel/interesting idea with an appealing title and abstract with sufficiently detailed results! As a methodologist: a clear linkage between the research idea, the objectives and the study design and methodology (this is what we teach to our students!).

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Lack of novelty, clarity and organisation.

Advice for authors

Make sure your results respond clearly to your objectives/research idea – once you have written them as clearly as possible, start doing your tables and figures in some logical order and write a little commentary for each of them; check against existing literature whether a) it has been done elsewhere (for possible comparison); or b) you have a really novel angle. Think through the practical and evidenced implications of your research (not just the need for ‘more research is required’). Intro/rationale and discussion sections can be started as bullet points to be fleshed out to accommodate the story!



Philippe Mayaud

Eric P. F. Chow

Who you are and what you do?

I am an epidemiologist and biostatistician with considerable expertise in sexual health research. I have joint appointments at Monash University and Alfred Health in Melbourne, Australia. My research focuses on transmission dynamics, sexual behaviours, prevention, health promotion and health program evaluation.

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

- Papers should be clear, well-structured and concise.
- Clearly identify the aim and objective of the research.
- Results should be presented in a scientific way.
- Tables and figures should be self-explanatory.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

- Poorly written and poorly structured papers.
- Inappropriate methodology and statistical analysis.
- Poor or incorrect interpretation of the data.
- Duplicate publications.

Advice for authors

- Proofread the manuscript as many times as possible before submission.
- Read the ‘Author Instructions’ section and ensure your manuscript meets the journal requirement.
- Ensure the data and terminology is consistent throughout the manuscript.



Eric P. F. Chow