

Recognition for peer review

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Peer Review Strategy & Innovation

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Project with Celia Carver, Astrid Pfenning, Lynn Brandon,
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Survey of reviewer preferences for rewards/recognition

- 400,000 reviewers of BMC, Springer & SpringerOpen journals thanked (Feb 2015)
- Thank you sent via email, with discount Springer token and link to online survey
- 5067 responses received (1.3% response rate)
- One open-ended question on reviewer rewards (1453 responses, 0.4%)
- Other surveys: Publishing Research Consortium (May 2015), Wiley (July 2015), Taylor & Francis (2015)

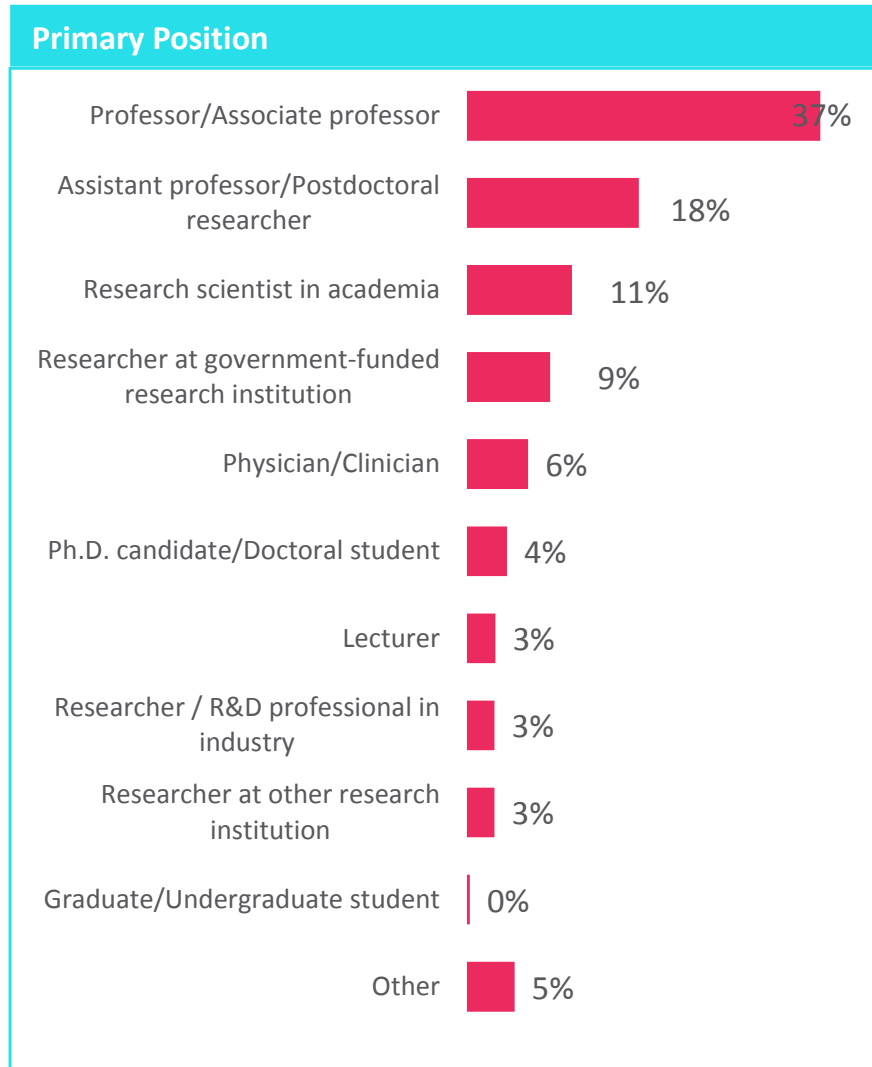


We surveyed 5,000+ reviewers in 2015 and discovered...

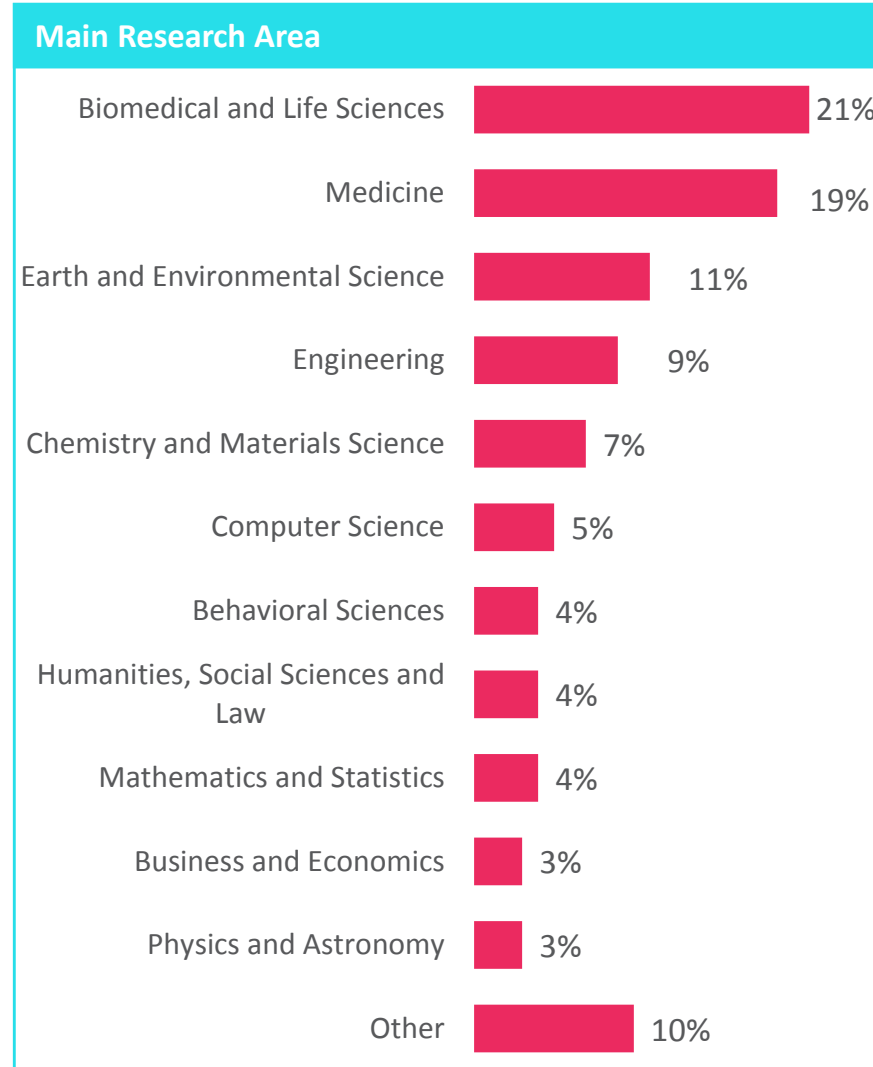


December 15, 2015 by Celia Carver

Who is reviewing?

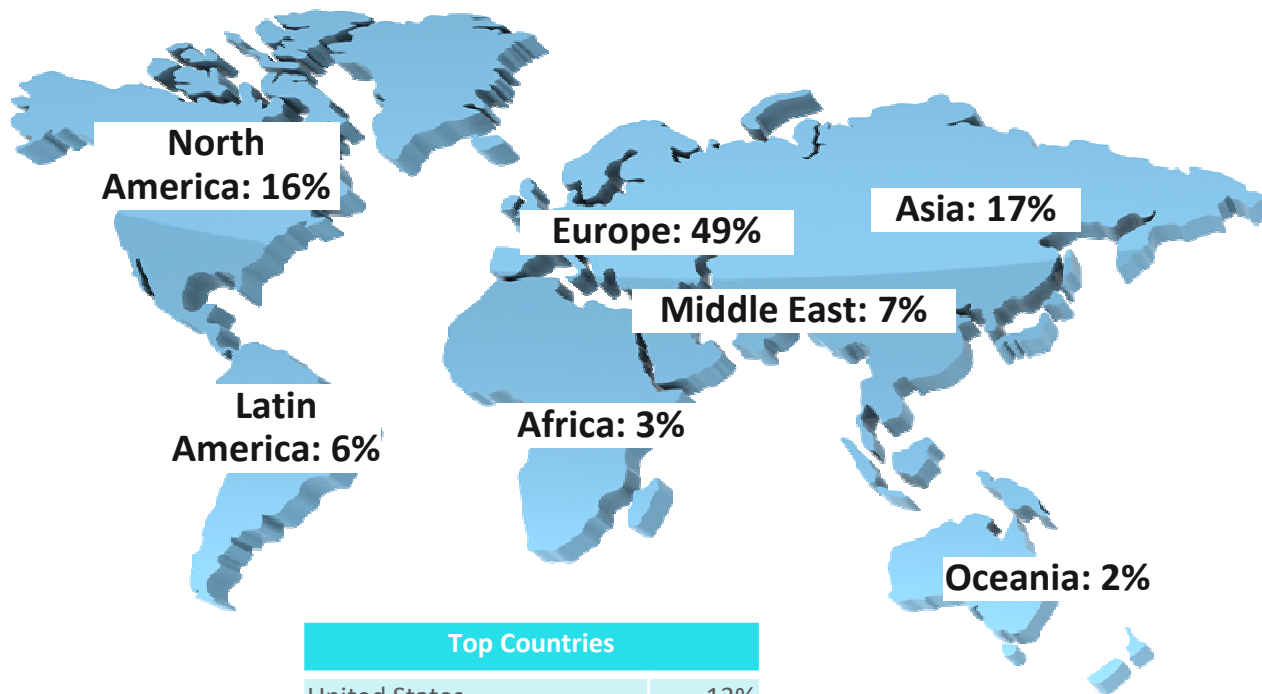


Peer Reviewer Reward Survey: 5,085 responses to this question.

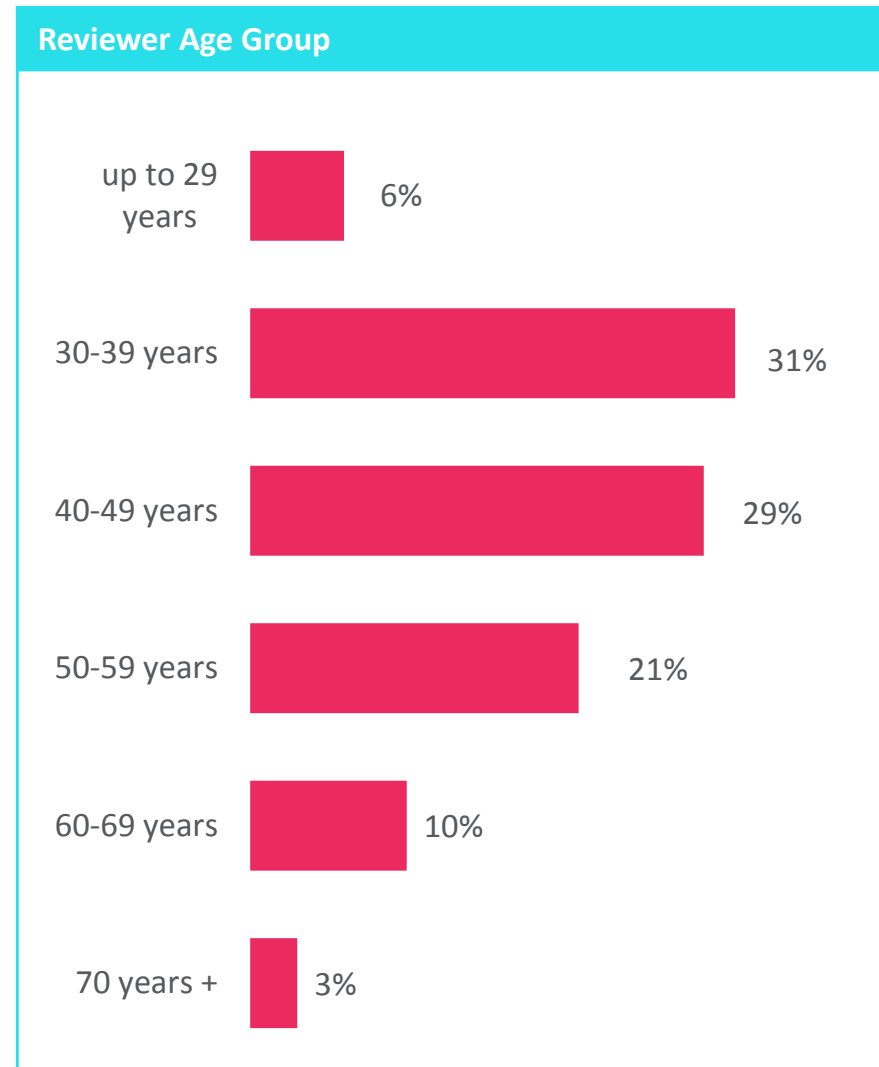


Peer Reviewer Reward Survey: 5,121 responses to this question.

Age and geographic distribution of responding reviewers



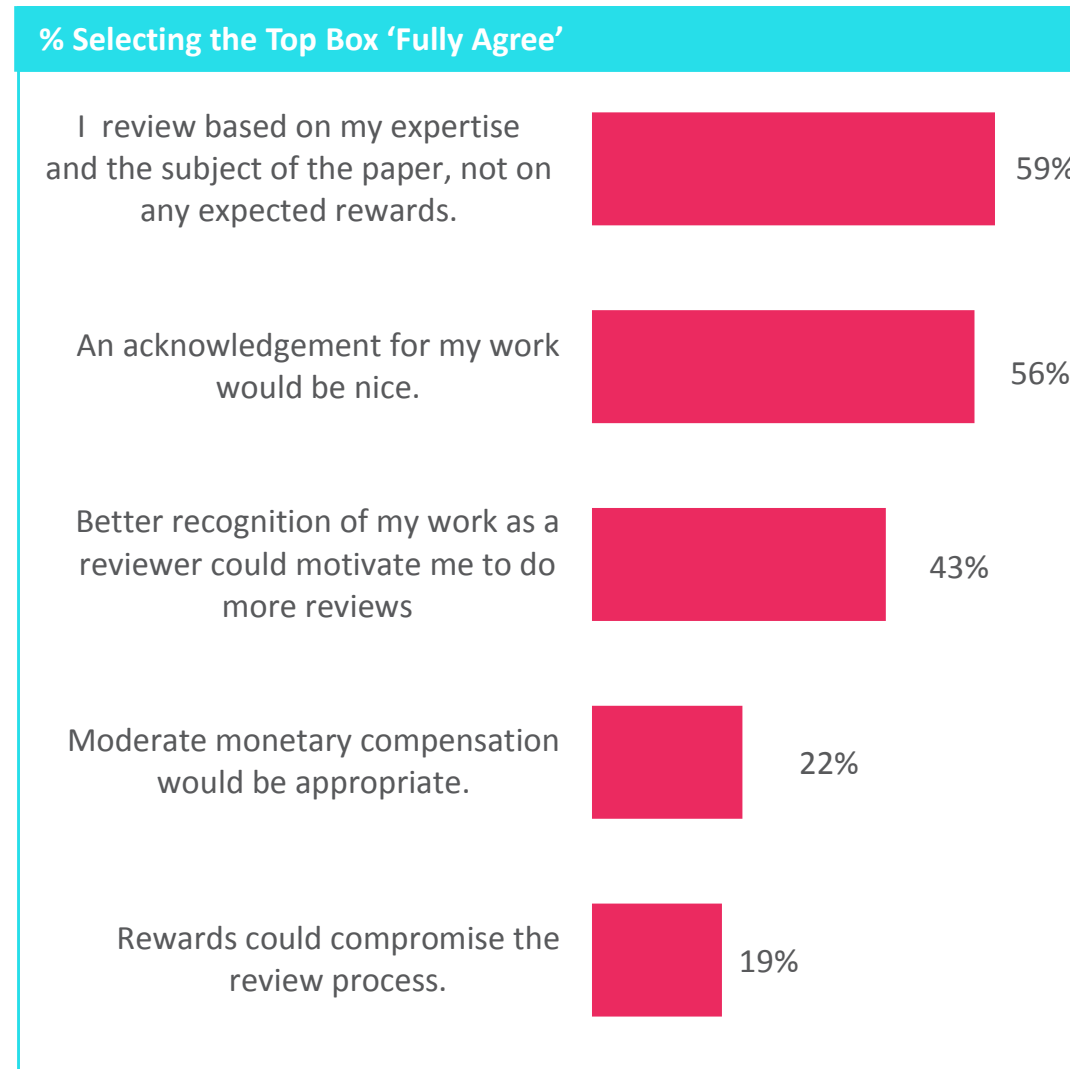
Top Countries	
United States	13%
Italy	10%
India	9%
Germany	7%
Spain	6%
UK	4%
France	4%



Peer Reviewer Reward Survey: 5,110 responses to this question.

What do responding reviewers think?

“What do you think about rewarding reviewers for their work? Please indicate your agreement with the following statements”

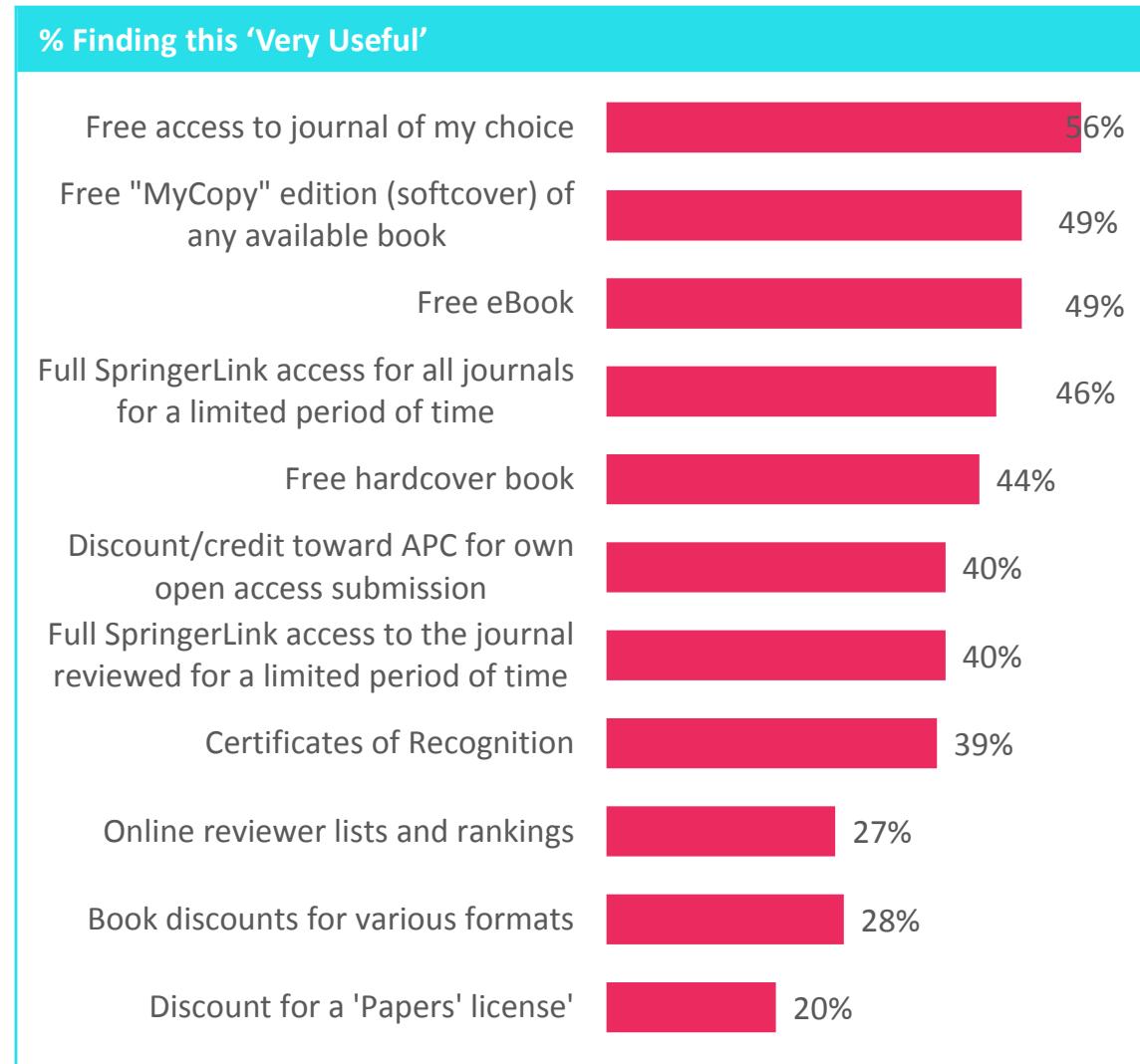


← younger reviewers

Scale from 1 'fully agree' to 5 'fully disagree'
Peer Reviewer Reward Survey: 5,380 responses to this question.

What would reviewers like?

“How useful would you find the following rewards for reviewing?”

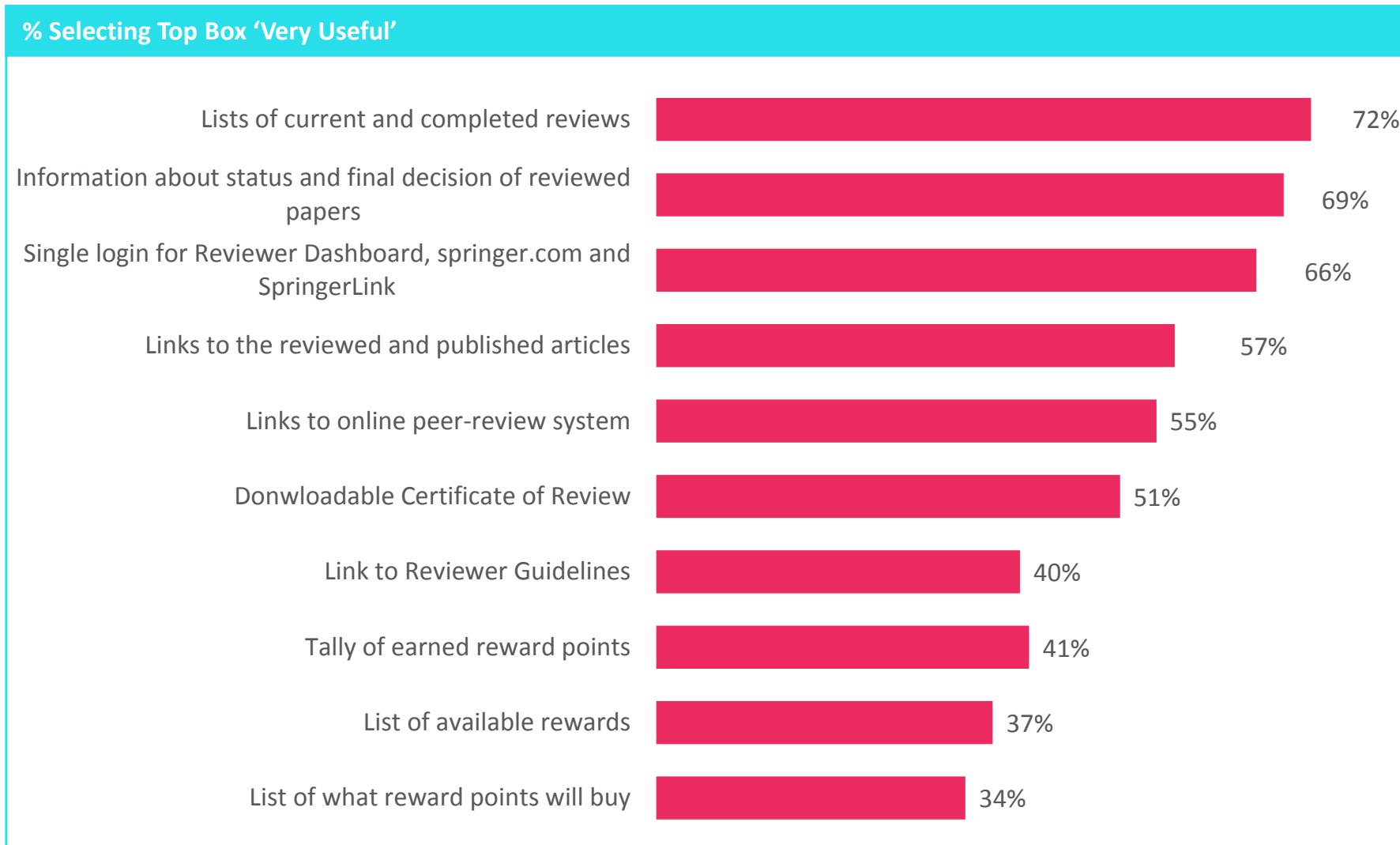


younger reviewers

Scale from 1 'very useful' to 5 'not useful at all'

Peer Reviewer Reward Survey: 5,239 responses to this question.

Features of reviewer dashboard



Scale from 1 'very useful' to 5 'not useful at all'
Peer Reviewer Reward Survey: 4,227 responses to this question.

Any further comments regarding reviewer rewards?

“It's becoming increasingly difficult to get qualified scientists to commit the time and effort to do manuscript reviews, and more recognition may help. As a Reviewer, a modest reward system and the ability to easily track the contributions that I have made would likely be motivational.”

(Associate Editor, Researcher in Industry, Agricultural Biotechnology, United States)

“1. I do not seek monetary rewards, reviewing should be part of research. 2. Access to (reviewed) journal would be most helpful (institutions cannot subscribe to all publications). 3. Discounts are less attractive since publications costs are largely funded anyway. 4. A reviewer's score/certificate would be useful only if it also recognized by funding organizations.”
(Research Scientist Academia, Physics and Astronomy, Austria)

“I find very important to have a certificate of reviewing that I could attach to my CV”
(Ph.D. Candidate, Biomedical and Life Sciences, Spain)

“Overall this is clearly a conflict of interest and should not be done. As an editor-in-chief, it concerns me and we don't have problems getting reviewers ...”
(Editor-in-Chief, Professor, Biomedical and Life Sciences, United States)

“Some reward/acknowledgement should be implemented!!”

(Assistant Professor, Chemistry and Materials Science, Sweden)

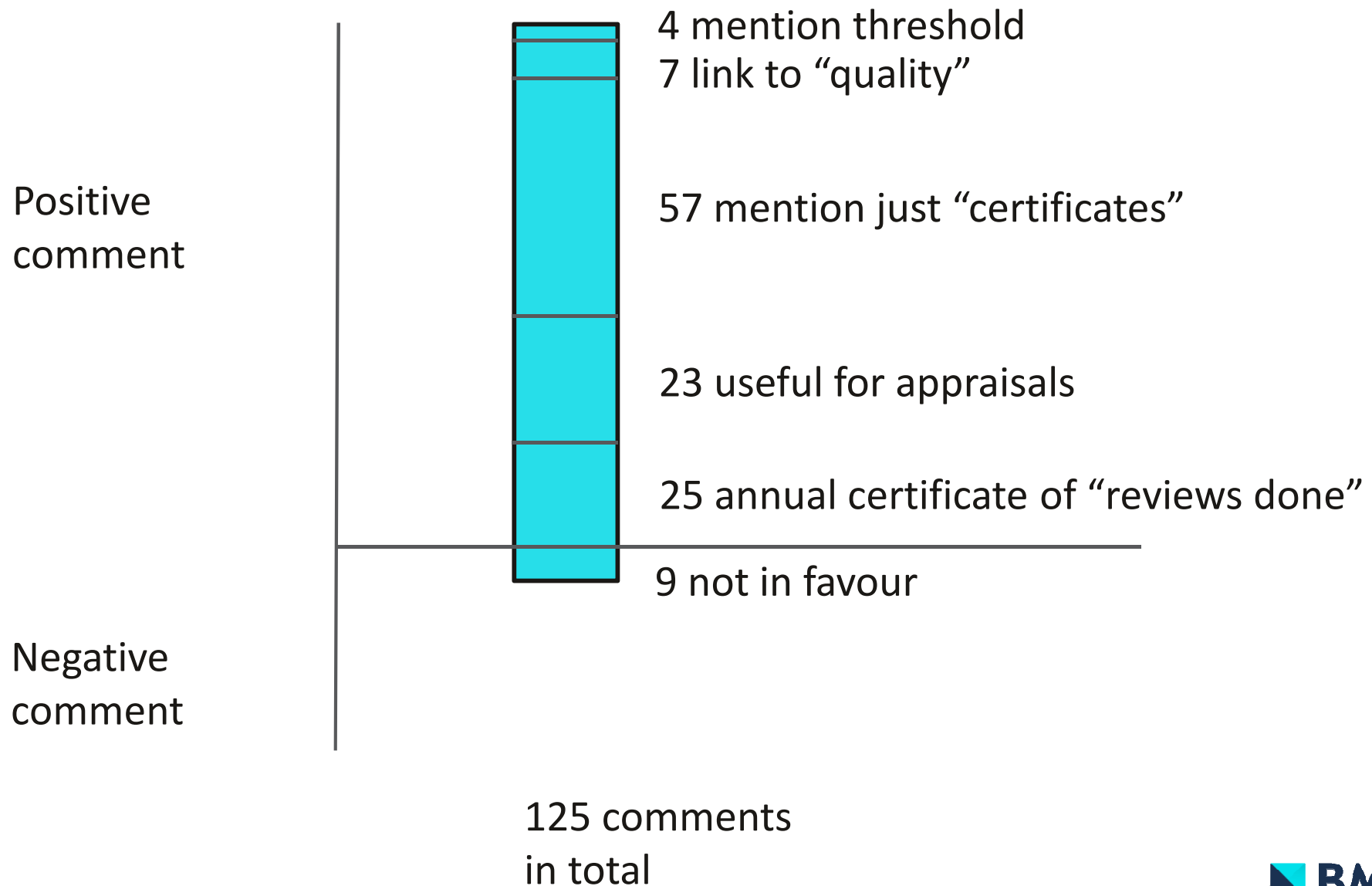
“Quality of review should be accounted somehow. We are receiving many bad reviews given by very bad reviewers. ... The number of reviews given can increase but the quality may decrease substantially if persons begin to give reviews only to gain rewards.”
(Professor, Engineering, Brazil)

“Don't turn the review process into a competition.”
(Assistant Professor, Mathematics and Statistics, Germany)

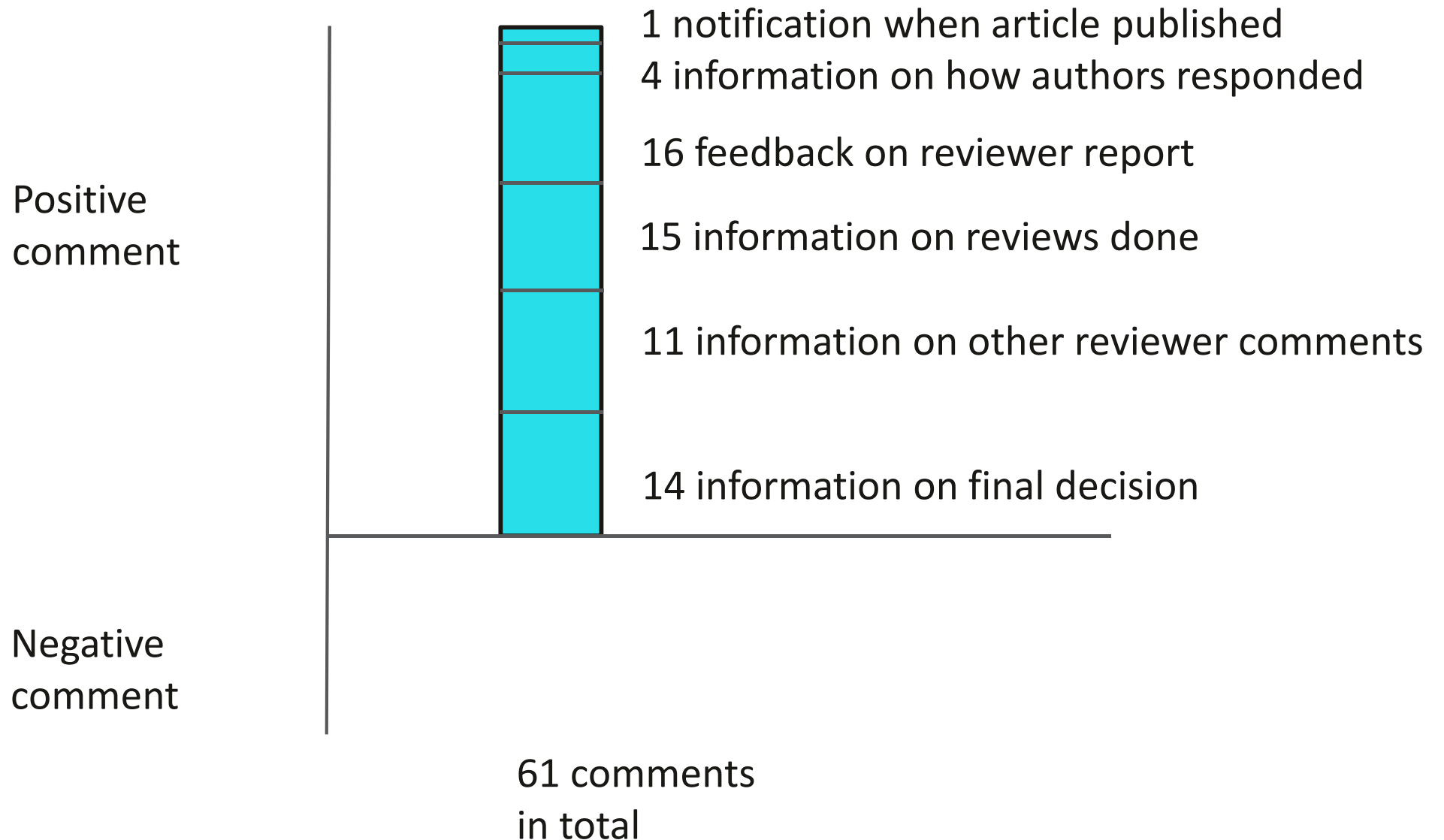
Themes raised from open-ended question

1	Certificates
2	Recognition/acknowledgement/thank you
3	Reviewer rankings
4	Rewards (monetary and non-monetary) – linked to speed/quality/volume
5	Discounts/waivers/access
6	CME credits
7	Training/mentoring/guidelines
8	Feedback/information on review process

Qualitative themes on certificates



Qualitative themes on “information”



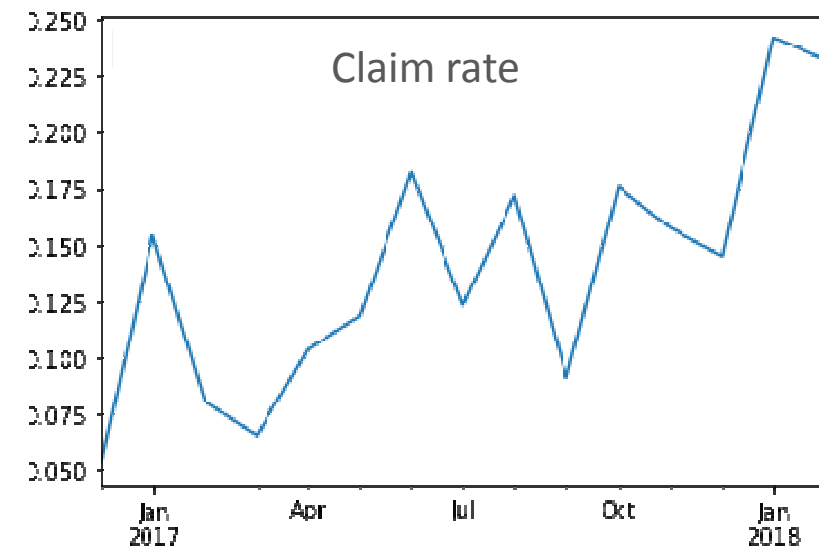
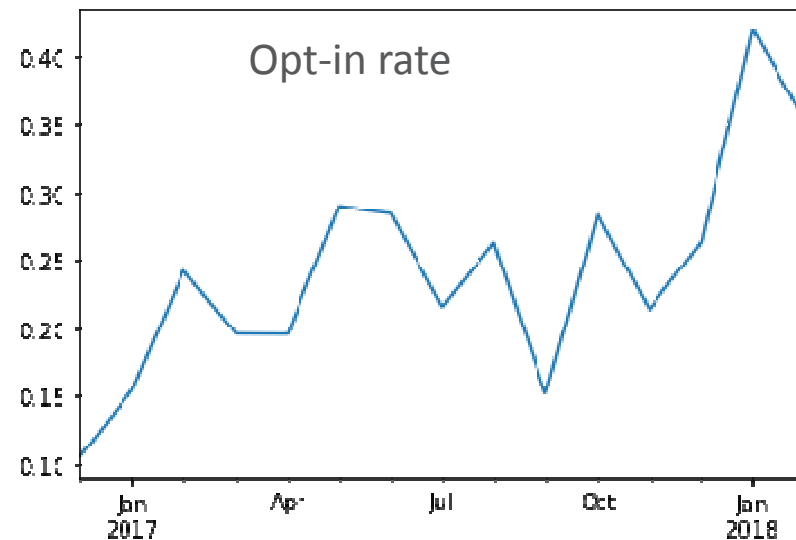
What are we doing?

- Reviewer acknowledgements, thank yous and certificates
- Support for training (via blogs, “how to” review specific articles, and training courses)
- Journal pilots with Publons
- Collaboration with Crossref (make BMC open peer reviews citable and discoverable)
- Reviewer discounts from APC for journals in *BMC series*
- Springer initiative for Editors to nominate exceptional reviewers
- Charity initiative *Environmental Earth Sciences* donates a household water filter for each peer review completed, in partnership with “Filter of Hope”
- *Nature* reviewer accreditation trial (allows authors to publically acknowledge and thank reviewers of their study by name at the end of the paper with reviewer permission).
- Springer Nature initiative with Blockchain, Digital Science, ORCID and Katalysis

Publons pilot with *Genome Biology*

- Opt-in rates increasing over time
- Reviewers increasingly claiming reviews
- Reviewers who opt-in return report faster

Genome Biology



Summary and future directions

- Initial findings consistent with other surveys
- Further data analysis – by geographic location, age range, subject area
- Explore qualitative data further
- Analyse Publons pilot initiative in more detail
- But reviewer *choice* of rewards/recognition is key
- Can we act collaboratively – Publishers, Institutions, Funders – to recognise peer reviewers?

Thank you

Springer Author and Partner Marketing & Services team

Celia Carver, Astrid Pfenning, Lynn Brandon, Janet Slobodien, Springer, Sara Ho, Thijs van Vlijmen & Prashanth Mahagaonkar.

PEERE peer reviewers for constructive comments

The story behind the image



Chien Shiung Wu (1912–1997)

Chien Shiung Wu was a Chinese American experimental physicist best known for conducting The Wu experiment that bears her name. This experiment showed that the conservation of parity was violated by a weak interaction and it was possible to distinguish between a mirrored variation of the world and the mirror image of the current world. This discovery earned Wu the Wolf Prize in Physics in 1978.