

WS 14: Building Strong Reviewers: Practical Skills for Effective Peer Review in Forensic Toxicology

Audience Knowledge: Basic

Workshop Chairs

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Abstract

The SOFT Publications Committee presents a half-day workshop on the practical aspects of participating in the peer review process. This workshop directly compliments the preceding half-day workshop offered by the Journal of Analytical Toxicology (JAT) Editors, who will focus on the publication pathway and editorial decision-making. Building on the foundation they establish; this session will shift from understanding the process to actively participating in it.

The workshop will provide an interactive and practice-oriented exploration of peer review. Attendees will gain hands-on experience evaluating manuscripts, identifying strengths and weaknesses, drafting constructive reviews, and understanding how reviewer input shapes editorial decisions. The content will reinforce the principles introduced by the JAT Editors while deepening participant engagement through applied exercises.

This session will empower both early-career professionals and seasoned practitioners to confidently and competently contribute to the peer review ecosystem, ultimately strengthening the rigor, transparency, and quality of forensic toxicology scholarship.

Speakers

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Workshop Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
08:00 AM - 08:15 AM	Welcome and Framing	Barkholtz
08:15 AM - 08:30 AM	What Makes a Strong Reviewer	Barkholtz
08:30 AM - 09:00 AM	Anatomy of a Review	Ciesielski
09:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Guided Small-Group Exercise: Reviewing a Mock Manuscript	Barkholtz, Ciesielski, Duvall, Midthun, Mulder, Gray
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Break	
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Developing Constructive Review Comments	Barkholtz, Ciesielski, Duvall, Midthun, Mulder, Gray
11:00 AM - 11:45 AM	Debrief and Panel Discussion with Publications Committee	Barkholtz, Ciesielski, Duvall, Midthun, Mulder, Gray
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Closing and Next Steps	Barkholtz