

Am J Health Behav Annual Report 2006

Yearly, I evaluate Am J Health Behav reviewers for their response time and quality of reviews. Moreover, persons who have not been responsive, repeatedly late, or have chosen not to continue to review manuscripts are removed as reviewers.

In 2006, for a variety of reasons, 44 persons are no longer reviewing for the journal. Specifically, the persons removed were: the African Editor, 3 editorial board members, 38 review board members and 2 persons resigned due to retirement. However, they were replaced with approximately 66 new reviewers. Many of the new reviewers were removed for their failure to not respond to their first review.

In addition, I reconfigured the Editorial page of the Am J Health Behav beginning with the January/February 2007 issue. I moved 16 review board members from the back cover to the editorial board on the front cover. The move was based on response time and quality of reviews. There were many deserving but I could only move 16.

Interestingly, a decade ago, most of the submissions were tobacco, sex, and HIV/AIDS. Today, the submissions are concerned with physical activity, obesity, nutrition, and tobacco.

Here are some facts for 2006 through Dec 31.

1. Received 341 manuscripts for review; accepted 69
2. 20% acceptance rate; 80% rejection rate
3. 436 persons review for the journal
4. 18.5 days was the average response rate from date of receipt to providing initial report
5. 42 reviewers averaged beyond the 21-day deadline (the most egregious and repeat offenders were removed as reviewers)
6. 232 reviewers averaged 21 days or less
7. 72 reviewers average less than 10 days
8. 7 reviewers averaged 1 day!
9. If you'd like to know your response rate for 2006, send me an email.

It is important that everyone understand that the journal takes pride in providing a quick turn-a-round time. So, please make every effort to respond as quickly as possible.

As always, I applaud ALL reviewers for your hard work and dedication for reviewing is the most thankless service that professionals provided. However, if it were not for persons like you, journals would not survive. Again, I cannot thank you enough.

Hope you have a great and prosperous new year.