

The JPET Editorial Fellowship Program: Tips and Tricks for Future Fellows

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In 2023, JPET began a new editorial fellowship program pairing JPET Associate Editors with post-doctoral fellows or junior faculty interested in learning more about the editorial process through a year-long fellowship program. The editorial fellows were mentored by JPET Associate Editors on many aspects of journal stewardship with specific training on performing high quality scientific reviews of submitted JPET manuscripts. The fellows and mentors met monthly to discuss these reviews as well as the field of editorial review more broadly. In addition, the entire cohort of fellows met quarterly with JPET leaders for training and discussion on additional aspects of the publication process including the development of special sections, authorship of JPET Viewpoints articles, and operation of a society journal. The fellows produced special projects encompassing three topic areas: a checklist for thorough scientific review, an overview of the current landscape of editorial fellowships in similar disciplines, and guidelines for future participants in the editorial fellowship program. Here, we discuss some of these tips and tricks for future JPET editorial fellows.

Preparation for the fellowship can be divided into two phases: before initiation of the fellowship and during the fellowship. Before the fellowship, fellows would greatly benefit from researching the Associate Editors and their various expertise, backgrounds, and research interests, aiding in the selection of an optimal mentor. We also advise that the fellows thoroughly review JPET's expectations and editorial standards, as well as familiarize themselves with the literature regarding best practices for scientific review. During the fellowship, we recommend fellows allot sufficient time to prepare for meetings with their mentors as well as meeting the required review deadlines for JPET review.

Overall, the JPET editorial fellows indicated the notable gap in training was served by creation of this fellowship. There was also a perceived improvement in peer review quality following direct one-on-one mentorship from the JPET Associate Editors. Further, feedback from the 10 editorial fellows will be incorporated into the fellowship program for the upcoming year.

