PEER REVIEW WEEK 2019

Peer Review Week is a global event celebrating the important role that peer review plays in maintaining scientific quality. Peer review is essential to ensure the quality and integrity of scientific and scholarly research published in the RCPA journal *Pathology*.

To observe Peer Review Week 2019, we spoke with two RCPA Fellows who have made significant contributions to peer review for *Pathology*, Dr Christopher Dow and A/Prof Ruta Gupta.

“It’s the next best thing to actually being involved in novel research,” said Dr Dow. “The most rewarding part for me is to read, then subsequently recommend accepting, the really well thought out manuscripts, where a novel result is clearly and accurately presented with a balanced discussion.”

A/Prof Gupta explains that being involved with the peer-review process keeps her connected to the research community and for her this is the most rewarding aspect: “My experience with review of my own manuscripts has been quite positive and the reviewers have made suggestions that have strengthened the manuscripts. I hope to do the same for other researchers.” A/Prof Gupta also enjoys the insight peer-reviewing provides her, showing various approaches researchers are using to tackle similar problems.

While it can be challenging to find time to review, A/Prof Gupta enjoys the process and sees it as acknowledgement of the hard work of researchers: “I do not really see reviewing as a chore. It is a way of giving back to the reviewers who review my manuscripts or those of my students as well as to the clinician-scientist research community.”

Dr Dow approaches the initial read of a manuscript with a cup of coffee: “It helps get my head around any confusing areas and get as complete as possible a picture of the project described. Years ago, this would usually happen over an afternoon coffee at work, but now that first read is more often on the weekend, over a coffee at home or at the local cafe. I don’t know how our editors manage to find the time for their much larger commitment!”

The RCPA is proud of its journal *Pathology* and all articles published are peer reviewed by Editorial Board members, Fellows, academics and researchers who are experts in their field. In 2018 approximately 325 reviewers completed over 700 reviews for *Pathology*. During Peer Review Week, we extend gratitude to all of our reviewers who assist in maintaining the excellence of *Pathology*. Look for our Acknowledgement to Reviewers in the December issue of *Pathology* to see a full list of those who generously offer their time and expertise.

For more information on *Pathology*, contact the Editorial Office (Belinda Neill, Editorial Manager, 02 8356 5809, journal@rcpa.edu.au) or go to the website: [https://www.pathologyjournal.rcpa.edu.au/](https://www.pathologyjournal.rcpa.edu.au/).