Course Title: GHS Peer Review in Neuroscience Training Course

Organizer/Lecturer: Matthias Grieder, PhD

Course dates and time: Tuesday 19/09/2023 08:30 – 12:30
Tuesday 26/09/2023 08:30 – 12:30
Tuesday 17/10/2023 08:30 – 12:30

Location: Conference room LG 1 | 309, Laborgebäude, UPD,
Bolligenstrasse 111, 3000 Bern

Registration/Contact: Students at the University of Bern register using KSL.
External attendees register to
Matthias Grieder, PhD, matthias.grieder@unibe.ch

Course description:

The peer-review process is an essential pillar of quality control in the system of publishing our academic research outcome. With increasing expertise in the particular research field we are working in, we are more frequently facing the peer-review process as an author, yet also as a reviewer. To prepare and train upcoming authors and reviewers, this course offers the opportunity to review manuscript examples of different quality as well as receive possible reviewer's inquiries for own or exemplary manuscripts.

Target audience: GHS PhD-students

Learning outcomes:

- Introduction into the basic principles of peer-review in Neuroscience journals and papers:
    - o Able to differentiate and describe the different reviewing concepts (e.g. open/blind)
    - o Able to explain the implications of reviewers' recommendation options, conditions, and consequences
- Rules for reviewers:
    - o Able to circumscribe the basic principles of how to review a manuscript time efficiently and qualitatively/scientifically sound
    - o Become familiar with the reviewer's task by performing a group exercise where all students review the same article
- Rules for authors:
    - o Become familiar with the language used to respond successfully to reviewers' concerns
    - o Become familiar with responding to reviewers' concerns by performing a group exercise where all students respond to the same reviewer's comments
- Exercises include both reviewing a manuscript as well as responding to the peers' inquiries:

- Prior to the course, participants are asked to select a model article (provided by the lecturer) or to prepare an own manuscript that will be reviewed by their course peers.
- Acquire first experience in the role of a reviewer by the first homework assignment, which requires the students to review one of the peers' manuscripts
- The second homework assignment requires the participants to provide point-to-point responses to their peers' comments.

Registration deadline: 31/08/2023

Grading: Pass or fail. Full participation in the course and submission of two homework assignments (essays) are required.

Capacity: 16

ECTS: The GHS grants 1.5 ECTS. Preparation or selection of a manuscript: 4h. Three course sessions à 4h: 12h. Two homework assignments à 11h (article reading at least twice thoroughly: 4h; writing comprehensive review for beginners without a lot of experience: 7h): 22h. A total of 38h.

Language: English

Type of exam: Essay

Prerequisite: Minimal experience in reading and understanding publications in the field of human neuroscience.

Venue map: