

## **APPENDIX**

### **Survey Instruments**

#### **A) Baseline survey (sections 1 and 2 were used for the selection process)**

##### **Section 1: Personal information**

1. Full Name:
2. Email Address:
3. Institution:
4. Current Level of Training (e.g., PGY1, PGY2, etc.):
5. Specialty Area of Interest (if applicable):

##### **Section 2: Application**

1. Why are you interested in participating in this peer-reviewer initiative?  
(Please provide a brief response highlighting your motivation and what you hope to gain from this experience. Roughly 500 words.)
2. Are you able to commit to participating in seminars, mock reviews, and completing formal reviews as listed above? (yes/no)
3. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the Trainee Peer-Reviewer Initiative?

##### **Section 3: Baseline survey questions**

Thank you for completing the application. The following mandatory baseline survey aims to assess your current knowledge, attitudes, and skills before participating in the CUAJ Trainee Peer-Reviewer Initiative. This information will help us evaluate the initiative's impact on your development as a peer reviewer.

##### **0. Additional baseline demographic information**

- a) Do you have graduate training in research (MSc, PhD, etc.)?
- b) How many research publications do you have?
- c) Are you interested in an academic career?
- d) How frequently do you critically read academic papers as part of your training?
  - Never
  - Occasionally
  - Monthly
  - Weekly
  - Daily

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**1. Knowledge of peer review process**

- a) How familiar are you with the peer-review process? (Likert – 10 points)  
(1 = Not familiar, 10 = Very familiar)
- b) If you were asked to provide peer-review for a journal on a urology manuscript presenting original research, how comfortable would you feel providing said peer-review? (Likert – 10 points)

**2. Research and peer-review experience**

- a) How were you previously exposed to the peer-review process? (multiple choices possible)
- I directly peer-reviewed for journals
  - I peer-reviewed a manuscript following a mentor/research supervisor's request
  - I submitted a manuscript which was peer-reviewed
  - Never exposed to the peer-review process
  - Other: Please specify
- b) How many peer-reviews have you contributed? (numeric answer)
- c) Which journals have you reviewed for in the past? (free text)

**3. Critical appraisal skills**

- a) How comfortable are you with evaluating the following aspects of a scientific paper?  
(1 = Not comfortable, 10 = Very comfortable)
- Study design
  - Statistical methods
  - Interpretation of results
  - Study limitations and biases
  - Writing quality
  - Figure/tables quality
  - Abstract quality
  - Scientific relevance/importance
  - Writing a structured peer review
  - Providing constructive feedback

**4. Motivation and goals**

- a) What are your primary goals in participating in this initiative?  
(Please check all that apply):
- Gaining insight into the peer-review process
  - Enhancing my critical appraisal skills
  - Improving my academic writing

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- Networking with experts in the field
- Building my academic CV
- Other (please specify):

b) Do you envision providing peer-review as part of your future career, regardless of practice area or setting? (yes/no/unsure)

**5. Expectations and barriers**

a) How confident are you that this initiative will help you achieve your goals? (Likert)  
(1 = Not confident, 10 = Very confident)

b) What do you perceive as the biggest challenges to becoming a peer reviewer?  
(Please check all that apply):

- Lack of training
- Time constraints
- Lack of confidence in evaluating papers
- Limited understanding of specific research areas
- Other (please specify):

**6. Additional comments**

a) Do you have any additional comments or suggestions about the initiative? (Open-ended response)

**B) Exit survey**

Thank you for participating in the CUAJ Trainee Peer-Reviewer Initiative. This exit survey will help us evaluate the outcomes of the initiative and understand your experience. Your feedback is crucial in improving future iterations of the program. Completion of this survey is mandatory to graduate from the program.

**1. Knowledge and confidence**

a) How familiar are you with the peer-review process after completing the initiative?  
(1 = Not familiar, 10 = Very familiar)

b) How confident are you in your ability to perform a peer review for a journal?  
(1 = Not confident, 10 = Very confident)

**2. Skills development**

a) How comfortable are you now with critically evaluating the following aspects of a scientific paper? (1 = Not comfortable, 10 = Very comfortable)

- Study design

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- Statistical methods
- Interpretation of results
- Study limitations and biases
- Writing quality
- Figure/tables quality
- Abstract quality
- Scientific relevance/importance
- Writing a structured peer review
- Providing constructive feedback

**3. Practical experience**

a) How many peer reviews did you complete as part of the initiative?

- 1
- 2
- At least 3

b) How useful were the seminars and mock reviews in preparing you for formal reviews? (1 = Not useful, 10 = Very useful)

c) Did you receive sufficient mentorship and guidance during the initiative? (1 = Strongly disagree, 10 = Strongly agree)

**4. Impact on future career**

a) How likely are you to continue engaging in peer reviewing after this initiative? (1 = Not likely, 10 = Very likely)

b) Has participation in this initiative influenced your interest in academic publishing or research? (Please check all that apply):

- Increased interest in peer reviewing
- Increased interest in publishing
- Increased interest in conducting research
- No change in interest

c) Do you feel more prepared to integrate peer-reviewing into their future careers? (yes/no/unsure)

**5. Overall satisfaction**

a) How satisfied are you with the overall experience of the Trainee Peer-Reviewer Initiative? (1 = Not satisfied, 10 = Very satisfied)

b) What aspects of the initiative were most beneficial to you? (Open-ended response)

c) What aspects of the initiative could be improved? (Open-ended response)

**6. Recommendations and future involvement**

- a) Would you recommend this initiative to other trainees? (yes/no)
- b) Would you be willing to serve as a mentor for future trainees in this initiative? (yes/no)

**7. Additional comments**

- a) Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding your experience in the Trainee Peer-Reviewer Initiative? (Open-ended response)