

**RESOLUTION
NUMBER**

AAD 002 (A-26)

TITLE

Pilot Stipends for Peer Review in Top Dermatology Journals

INTRODUCED BY

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WHEREAS, the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) mission emphasizes advancing excellence in dermatology and reducing administrative burdens through evidence-based education¹; and

WHEREAS, peer review is essential to scientific integrity, with global estimates exceeding 100 million person-hours annually²; and

WHEREAS, physician burnout remains high, with documentation load and uncompensated academic work contributing³; and

WHEREAS, dermatology precedent exists: BMC Dermatology offers honoraria for on-time reviews via Research Square⁴; and

WHEREAS, cross-field benchmarks include the Journal of Financial Economics (JFE), which pays \$100–\$150 per review, and the Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis (JFQA), which pays \$75–\$100, with evidence showing reviewer payments shorten turnaround time by ≈20–30%⁵; and

WHEREAS, journals routinely charge authors thousands of dollars in publication fees while relying on reviewers to donate highly specialized labor without compensation⁶, and the average article processing charge (APC) now approaches US \$2,820, with global APC spending rising from US \$910 million in 2019 to US \$2.538 billion in 2023⁷; and

WHEREAS, journals included in this pilot are the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD), JAAD Case Reports, and JAAD International (Elsevier), with phase-2 expansion candidates including Journal of the American Medical Association Dermatology (JAMA Dermatology) and the Journal of Investigative Dermatology (JID); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the AAD shall pilot a \$100 per completed, on-time peer review stipend across the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology (JAAD), JAAD Case Reports, and JAAD International for 12–18 months; and

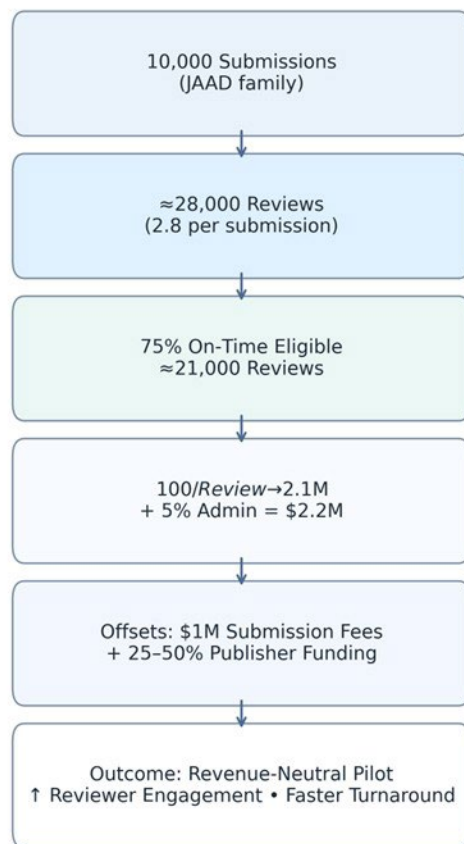
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that editors shall track review acceptance rates, turnaround, and quality, and include an optional field for reviewers to report time spent per review to inform calibration by article type and complexity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that results shall be analyzed and shared with the Advisory Board; if favorable, expansion to Journal of the American Medical Association

Dermatology (JAMA Dermatology) and the Journal of Investigative Dermatology (JID) will be proposed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding shall rely on modest submission fees (~\$100) and publisher co-funding via Elsevier to maintain budget neutrality.

Example of Potential Cost Impact w/Estimated Figures



References

1. AAD Strategic Plan. <https://www.aad.org/about/strategic-plan>
2. Publons. Global State of Peer Review Report (2018). <https://publons.com/static/Publons-Global-State-Of-Peer-Review-2018.pdf>
3. Shanafelt TD et al. Mayo Clin Proc. 2019;94:1681–1694. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31378270/>
4. BMC Dermatology Peer-Review Policy. <https://bmcdermatol.biomedcentral.com/submission-guidelines/peer-review-policy>
5. JFE / JFQA reviewer compensation; Chetty R et al., AER 2014.

6. Rajput V. Stop doing peer reviews for free. KevinMD. Nov 8 2025.

<https://kevinmd.com/2025/11/stop-doing-peer-reviews-for-free.html>

7. Abdel-Razig S et al., JAMA Netw Open 2024; Haustein S et al., APC Spending Report 2019–2023. <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2407.16551>

Does the resolution fall within the scope of the AAD and AADA bylaws, mission, vision, or strategic goals?

Yes.

Relevant Background and/or AAD Policy Considerations: JAAD Journals Publisher Elsevier does not support paid peer review. JAAD is a subscription-based journal and does not charge submission fees.

JAAD currently offers the following benefits to reviewers: CME credit for manuscript reviews; successfully completed reviews scored at 70% or above receive 3 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits per review / max. 5 reviews per year (15 credits). A published reviewer list appears annually in the journal. Elsevier's [Reviewer Hub](#) offers reviewer recognition certificates, an overview of peer review activities, and 30-day complimentary access to Scopus, ScienceDirect and Reaxys.

Fiscal/Resource Impact: Funding for the proposed pilot would come from the Academy's General Operating fund. Based on the financial model provided above, this would result in a \$2.2 million investment by the Academy.

References: N/A