



## Reviewing is fun. The Reviewer of the Year Award of the Brain and Spine Journal

Peer review is a quality control measure for scientific publications. It includes a structured and well defined process in which professionals review each other's work to make sure that it is valid, reliable and objective. The peer review process is accompanied by security mechanisms established by the editors who attempt to avoid plagiarism and fraud.

The quality of this whole process and in particular the quality of the reviews contribute significantly to the quality of every scientific journal. The better the reviews the better the journal!

However, evaluating reviews is difficult. There is still a scientific discussion going on which parameters are relevant for the quality of a review. The parameters might differ between journals or even between types of manuscripts in one journal.

The widely independent, structured and reliable point based evaluation system established for the Brain and Spine "Reviewer of the Year Award" includes 5 parameters: punctuality, detailedness, conformity of reviewer's recommendation with the final editor's decision, accurateness of comments for the editors and the overall quality of the review.

The evaluation for the "Reviewer of the Year Award" 2022 started in July 2021 and ended in June 2022 covering the first academic year of our Brain and Spine journal. Each reviewer who had completed a minimum of 5 reviews in this time period was a potential candidate for the award. Each candidate was evaluated by the point system, which gives you a minimum of 0 and a maximum of 10 points per review. Those candidates who achieved the most points received the "Reviewer of the Year" award. If two reviewers have achieved the same number of points, the Brain and Spine journal management team consisting of the Editors-in-Chief, two delegates of the publisher Elsevier and the presidents of EUROSPINE and EANS would have to make a decision, but this was not necessary this time.

Based on the fact that our journal represents two specialities with two main focus areas we decided that the "Reviewer of the Year Award" will include 2 prizes: The "*Brain* Reviewer of the Year" and the "*Spine* Reviewer of the Year" award.

Each Award will be rewarded with ...

- free entrance to the annual EUROSPINE or EANS conference 2022
- ceremonial handover of the award during the annual EUROSPINE or EANS congress 2022
- 2 free tickets to the EUROSPINE or EANS congress evenings 2022
- and the reviewers name and a laudation will be published in the Brain and Spine Journal

Although these are already very good reasons for becoming a Brain and Spine reviewer there is much more that can be achieved. If you want to learn more about becoming a reviewer please have a look at our publishers "Reviewer Hub" website (<https://www.elsevier.com/reviewers>) that provides a host of information and training modules on how to conduct a good review. Further you will find ten very good reasons (<https://www.elsevier.com/connect/reviewers-update/ten-reasons-to-accept-your-next-invitation-to-review>) why you should consider accepting the next reviewer invitation by the Brain and Spine journal, including the fact that **reviewing is fun**.

The Reviewers of the Year 2021/2022 of the Brain and Spine Journal are ...



Dr. Franke currently serves as Head and Chairmen of the Department of Orthopedics at Klinikum Magdeburg (academic teaching hospital of the university of Magdeburg). His clinical interest is mainly all spinal disorders including all major pathologies such as adult and pediatric deformity, degeneration, infections, tumors and trauma. His research interest is focused on clinical studies of new techniques and devices as well sagittal balance adaptation in the elderly. He published over 60 article in peer reviewed journal and gave over 1000 presentations on international conferences and training courses. Dr. Franke is a member of various national and international medical associations and societies

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bas.2022.100931>

Available online 12 August 2022

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including the German Spine Society, IGASS and EUROSPINE, where he currently holds the position as general secretary. Additionally, he is board member of IGASS. Dr. Franke is Co-Founder of Spine 20 and was an active part of this initiative of the major spine organisations of the world. He serves on the Editorial Board of Brain and Spine since June 2021.



Dr Michaël Bruneau is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Free University Hospital in Brussels. His main clinical interest is focused on skullbase- and craniospinal oncology as well as vascular neurosurgery, particularly focused on surgical techniques and anatomy of the vertebral artery, in which he gained interest during his younger fellowship years trained by Professor George in Paris. Between 2019 and 2022 he was the President of the Belgian Society of Neurosurgery (BSN) and earlier between 2015 and 2017 the President, Belgian Neurosurgical Spine Society. Currently he serves as Chair of the EANS Skullbase section giving rise to high quality European guidelines for several tumors in this area. Last but not least he was the organizing president of EANS 2018 in Brussels. His broad scientific interest resulted in numerous scientific podium presentation during congresses around the world and resulted in >70 peer reviewed publications. He serves on the Editorial Board of Brain and Spine since June 2021.

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