

EDITORIAL

Outstanding *JASMS* Manuscript Reviewers, 2016–2017

“Horrible,” “terrible,” “boring,” “not impressed at all,” “underwhelming,” “awful,” “blasé,” “unmitigated disaster,” “disgusting”—no, these are *not* terms found in reviews of manuscripts submitted to *JASMS*. Rather, these are words found in some on-line reviews of restaurants that I (J.A.L.) frequent and often use to host department seminar speakers. (Obviously, I disagree with these reviews. But I hope that you won’t think twice if I invite you out for a meal and a department seminar.)

Although these words directly convey the sentiment intended, rather negative here, they do so in a mean and hurtful manner. Fortunately, our manuscript reviewers do not use such phrases, and our editors would not allow for such harsh comments.

Definitions of *to review* include “to give a critical evaluation of” and “to assess (something) formally with the intention of instituting change if necessary.” We employ peer review to *improve* the quality of the manuscript. Reviewers’ evaluations help us to decide whether or not to accept a manuscript for publication. A reviewer’s comments should be objective, constructive, and designed to improve and enhance the manuscript.

Therefore, we value not only the number of times the reviewers expend considerable effort to provide us with timely manuscript evaluations but also the *quality* of the reviewers’ comments. Occasionally, authors will acknowledge the suggestions from reviewers directly in the final version of the manuscript. Reviewers provide exemplary and premium service not only to the journal but also to the authors.

Our most outstanding reviewers for 2016–2017 were Julia Laskin (Purdue University; West Lafayette, IN, USA), Raymond March (Trent University; Peterborough, ON, Canada), Yu Xia (Tsinghua University; Beijing, China), and Joseph Zaia (Boston University; Boston, MA, USA). As always, we thank Julia, Ray, Yu, and Joe for their outstanding efforts and service to *JASMS*. And we offer our heartfelt appreciation to *all* of the individuals who dedicated their substantial time and expertise to the journal by serving as reviewers in 2017.

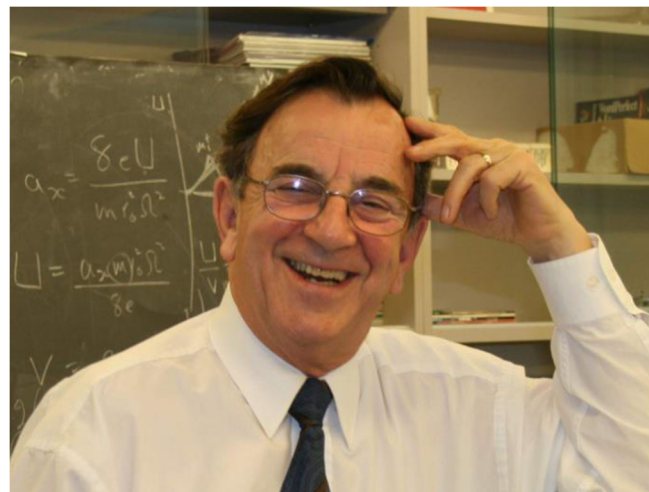


(Left-to-right) Yu Xia and Joe Loo at the *JASMS* booth at the 2017 ASMS Conference in Indianapolis, IN (photo courtesy of Sue Weintraub)



(Left-to-right) Joe Loo, Julia Laskin, and Joe Zaia at the *JASMS* Editorial Board dinner at the 2017 ASMS Conference in Indianapolis, IN (photo courtesy of Sue Weintraub)

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Ray March

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