

Supplementary Table 4. Comparison of mean RQI scores between author-suggested and non-author-suggested reviewers for *BMC Microbiology*.

	<i>BMC Microbiology</i>		
	mean score for author-suggested reviewers	mean score for non-author-suggested reviewers	p-value
Q1	1.77	1.68	0.37
Q2	2.02	1.90	0.33
Q3	2.33	2.44	0.53
Q4	2.53	2.58	0.86
Q5	3.14	3.20	0.63
Q6	3.25	3.30	0.70
Q7	2.20	2.40	0.24
Q8	3.48	3.44	0.52
Overall score	2.59	2.62	0.71

Abbreviations: RQI, Review Quality Instrument, Q1–Q8 – questions from RQI [12]