

April 2022

Best Reviewer of the March-April 2022 issue - Brian J. Morris

Brian J. Morris



Brian J. Morris, DSc PhD is Professor Emeritus in the School of Medical Sciences at the University of Sydney in Sydney, Australia, where he has been since 1978 after 3 years of postdoctoral studies in the USA. Dr. Morris expertise includes molecular biology and genetics, which he has applied to the fields of cardiovascular diseases and to longevity. One of his research themes has focused on molecular mechanisms that control renin gene expression and identifying a role for the intrarenal renin-angiotensin system in the etiology of essential hypertension. Dr. Morris has 446 academic publications, and 547 conference abstracts. He has received major awards from the American Heart Association

Council on Hypertension, including the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award. He has an extensive news media profile. In 2018 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia.

One of his research interests is the health benefits of male circumcision, leading to 130 of his publications. His interest in circumcision stemmed from developing a better (molecular) test for use in cervical screening. It was then when he saw the research showing that women were at lower risk of cervical cancer if their male partner was circumcised. He was the first to invent and then competitively patent of the first use of PCR for viral detection in 1987. After many years of effort the use of PCR for detection of high-risk HPV types has replaced pap smears in many major countries in the world. He runs the Circumcision Academy of Australia as Secretary.

In recent years he has been studying the molecular genetics and genomics of human longevity as well. His efforts, in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Hawaii, helped secure a US National Institutes of Health 5-year Center of Biomedical Research Excellence grant of US\$15 million.

Dr. Morris regards critical evaluation of manuscripts during the peer-review process as being integral to achieving the high standard required for a manuscript to qualify for publication in a journal. He has extensive experience as a reviewer, having reviewed over 800 manuscripts in his 50+ year career. He believes that producing a worthwhile review on each occasion was helped by his skills in data evaluation and scientific writing as well as knowledge of the fields of research interest mentioned above. This has, moreover, helped the authors publish a higher-quality article. He has been glad to review manuscripts for the *Urology Journal*, particularly those involving male circumcision.