

Role Description for Editor-In-Chief of

Age and Ageing journal

About the journal

[*Age and Ageing*](https://academic.oup.com/ageing) is the high-impact research journal of the [British Geriatrics Society](https://www.bgs.org.uk/) (BGS) which publishes 315 articles per year across 12 monthly online issues. It is widely read with 2.5 million article downloads per year.

This prestigious international journal publishes peer reviewed original articles, expert reviews and commentary on geriatric medicine and gerontology. Its range includes research on ageing and clinical, epidemiological and psychological aspects of later life. The journal aims to publish high-quality content intended to build the evidence base and ultimately enhance the quality of healthcare for older people. The journal’s Impact Factor has grown steadily in recent years, and now stands at 6.7, making its worldwide ranking in the category Si: Geriatrics & Gerontology category 10th out of 54.

About the role

The Editor-in-Chief (EiC) oversees the peer review process and editorial policy and strategy to produce topical, relevant, high-quality content for readers of *Age and Ageing* journal. They apply scientific and editorial expertise to identify articles suitable for publication and work with authors, peer reviewers and Editorial Board members to further improve the quality of individual articles through the process of peer review.

The EiC draws on connections and networks to commission articles and recruit authors to deliver content suggested by the Editorial Board. They proactively seek to attract high-quality submissions and capture the emerging work of high-profile researchers.

In the past year, the journal has received more than 2200 submissions, of which 800 were peer reviewed and 290 accepted for publication. There is a high bar for acceptance and the EiC must protect the capacity of the Editorial Board by rejecting more than half of new submissions and being selective about which articles to peer review.

Support and committee structure

The Editorial Board is active, engaged and highly motivated. It consists of the Chair, the Editor-in-Chief, Deputy Editor, six Senior Editors, and 29 Associate Editors who include three Systematic Reviews Editors, three Qualitative Research Editors, two Statistical Editors, a Digital Media Editor and 20 topic expert Associate Editors covering a wide range of subjects, disciplines, and geographical regions.

The BGS provides the EiC with support, including an established full-time Editorial Manager and part-time Editorial Assistants. The role receives support and guidance from the Editorial Board (editorial governance and strategy), the Editorial Executive Committee (business planning governance and strategy), the International Advisory Panel, and the publisher Oxford University Press.

Key tasks

* Perform initial assessment (“triage”) on 40 new submissions per week, aiming for an immediate rejection rate of 60%.
* Make the final editorial decision on 15 submissions per week which have received peer review and the assessment of an Associate Editor.
* Respond to occasional appeals and higher-level queries.
* Commission topical expert commentaries and other editorial content.
* Write an [Editor’s View article](https://academic.oup.com/ageing/search-results?f_TocHeadingTitle=Editor%27s+view) for each monthly issue.
* Oversee the publication of supplements and collections.
* Write a bi-monthly column for the BGS newsletter, AGENDA.
* Membership of the Editorial Executive Committee; report to and lead discussions at four online meetings per year.
* Membership of the Editorial Board; report to and lead discussions at two meetings per year (every third meeting is in-person, the rest online).
* Be available for weekly one-hour online meetings with the Editorial Manager.
* Recruit Editorial Board members when needed, to ensure that appropriate expertise and capacity is available to ensure the smooth running of the journal.
* Call upon the input of the International Advisory Panel as needed.
* Maintain an awareness of changes in editorial process, and strategic developments within the journal publishing field in general, including open access issues.
* Act as an ambassador, seeking to attract high-quality content and to maintain the sustainability, impact and reputation of the journal.

Commitment

It is anticipated that the EiC will spend the equivalent of one and a half days each week working on the journal, but the timing can be flexible to fit around other professional activities. Annual remuneration (currently 3 sessions per week) will be paid to the releasing institution of the EiC, subject to the terms of engagement. The EiC’s contract with the BGS will be for a period of five years; this may be extended by up to one year by mutual agreement.

Key skills and experience

Essential:

* Wide knowledge of the field of geriatric medicine and gerontology and of related research
* Extensive experience as a peer reviewer, associate editor or editor for a reputable journal, with the ability to guide a team of Associate Editors and Senior Editors
* Demonstrable credibility as an academic/researcher in the field of geriatric medicine/gerontology
* Experience of delivery of clinical care, preferably within the NHS
* A track record in publishing
* Familiarity with the academic publishing environment and current issues around open access
* Governance experience through an editorial board or other board
* Excellent judgement
* Access to UK and international networks that can be called upon for review and editorial duties

Applicants are likely to be familiar with the British Geriatrics Society and to be a member, but this is not an essential requirement of the role; they would however be expected to join the BGS if appointed. They should have working knowledge of online peer review application [ScholarOne Manuscripts](https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/support/scholarone-manuscripts/) or be prepared to undergo training to the required standard.

While they need not be based in the UK, they are expected to be available during UK working hours.