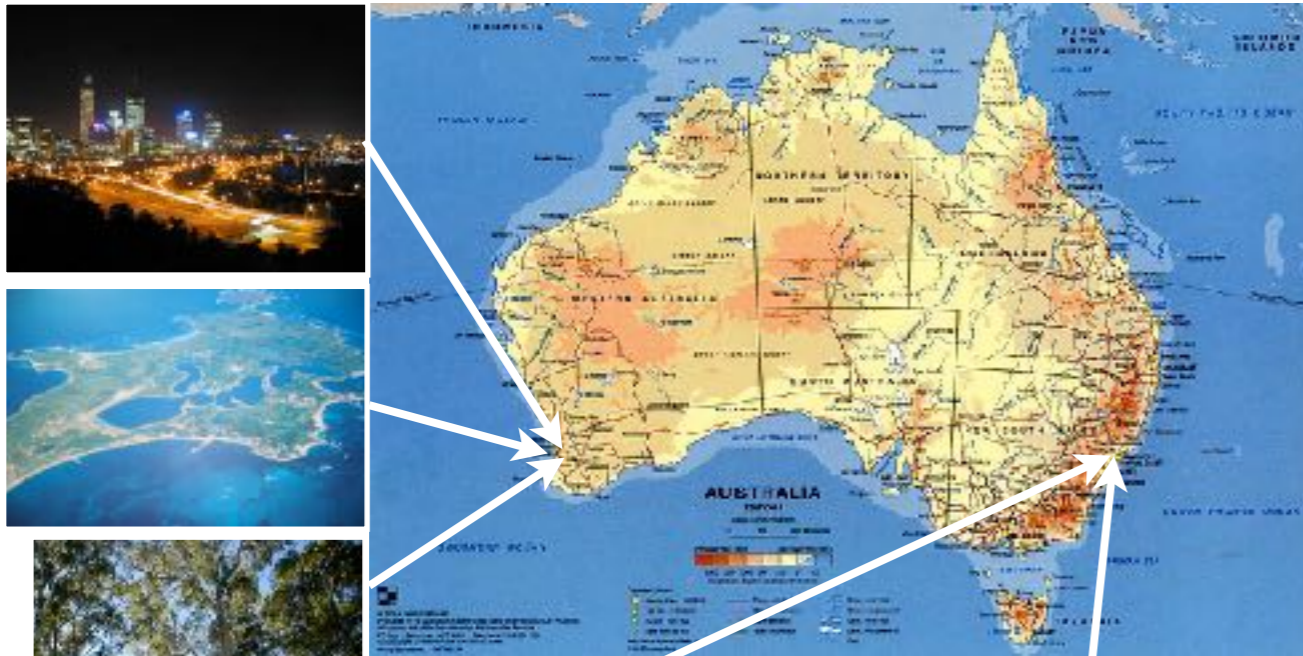


Stories from an editor

# About you

- Who are you?
- One thing I would like to understand better about publishing is.....?

# My Story....

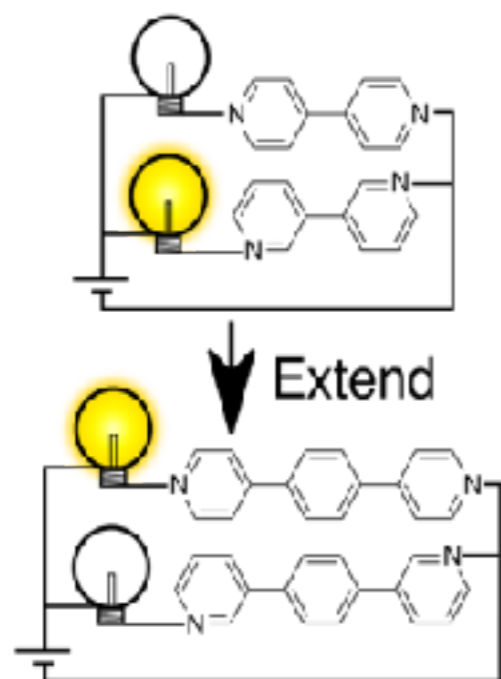


- I grew up in Perth, Western Australia and completed my undergraduate degree in chemical physics.
- I moved to The University of Sydney in 2002 and completed my PhD in Chemistry working with Prof. Jeffrey Reimers and Prof. Noel Hush.
- I moved to Chicago in 2006 to work a postdoc at Northwestern with Prof. Mark Ratner.
- Since 2010 I find myself in Copenhagen.
- In 2014, I became a Senior Editor at the Journal of Physical Chemistry A/B/C
- Now approx. 1500 papers in....



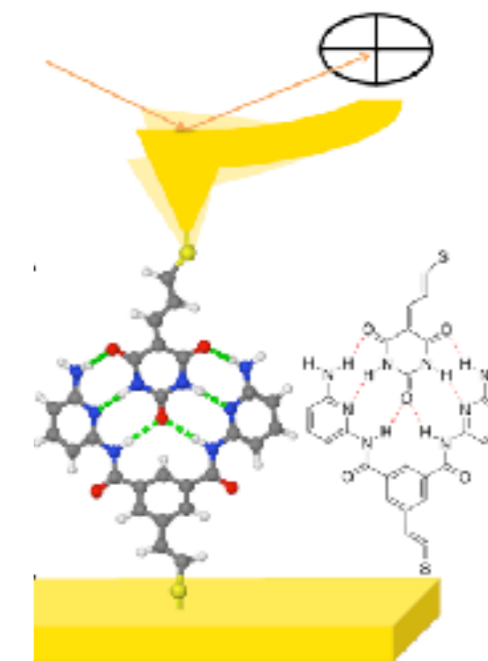


## Quantum Interference



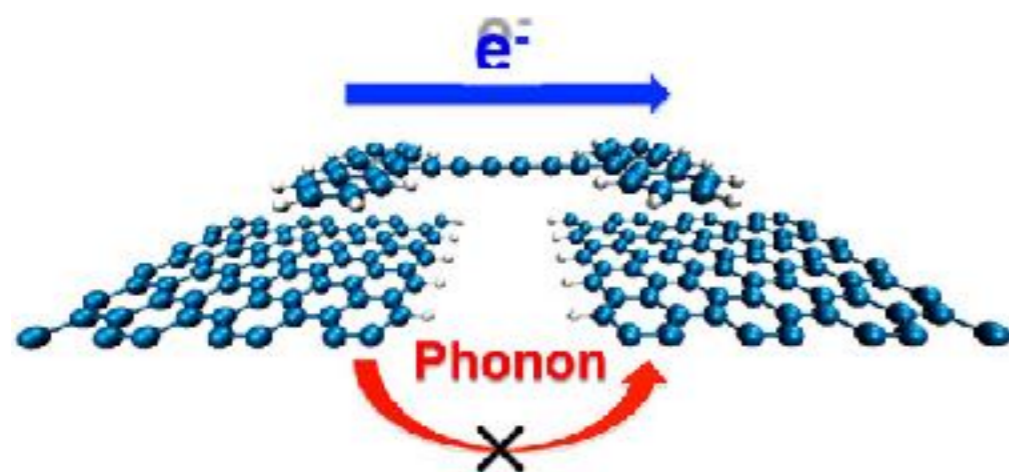
J. Phys. Chem. Lett. 7, 4825-29 (2016)

## Simulating combined force+conductance experiments



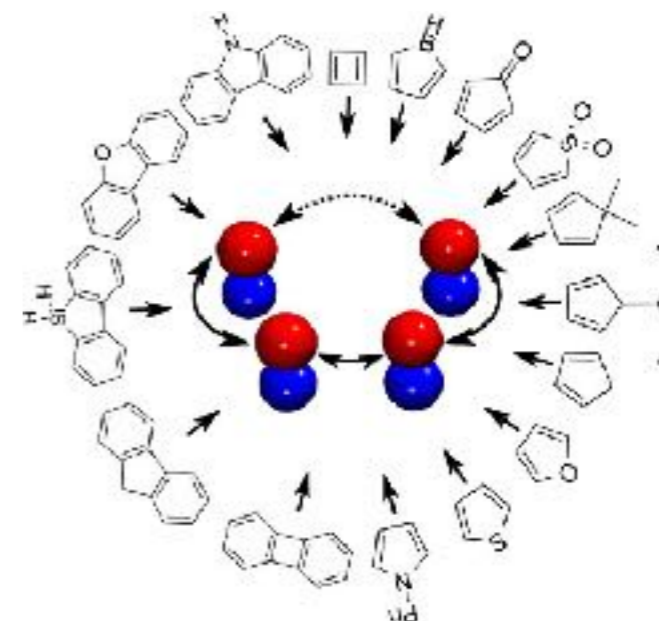
J. Phys. Chem. C 120, 19470-78 (2016)

## Phonon engineering and thermoelectrics



J. Phys. Chem. C 121, 7175-82 (2017)

## Chemical control of charge transport



J. Phys. Chem. C. 121, 8272-79 (2017).



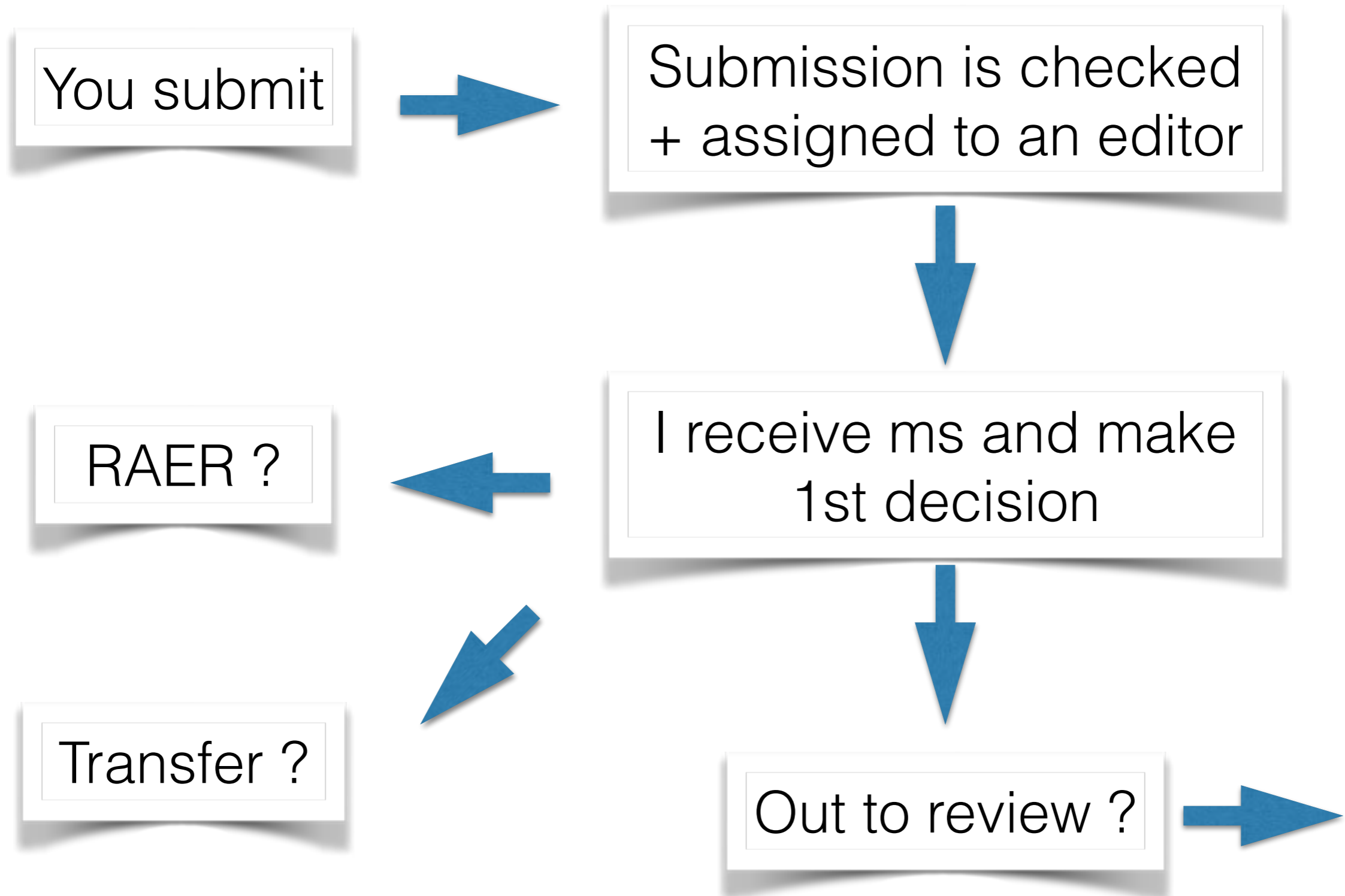
# About you

- Who are you? Where are you from/based?  
Research area?
- One thing I would like to understand better about publishing is.....?

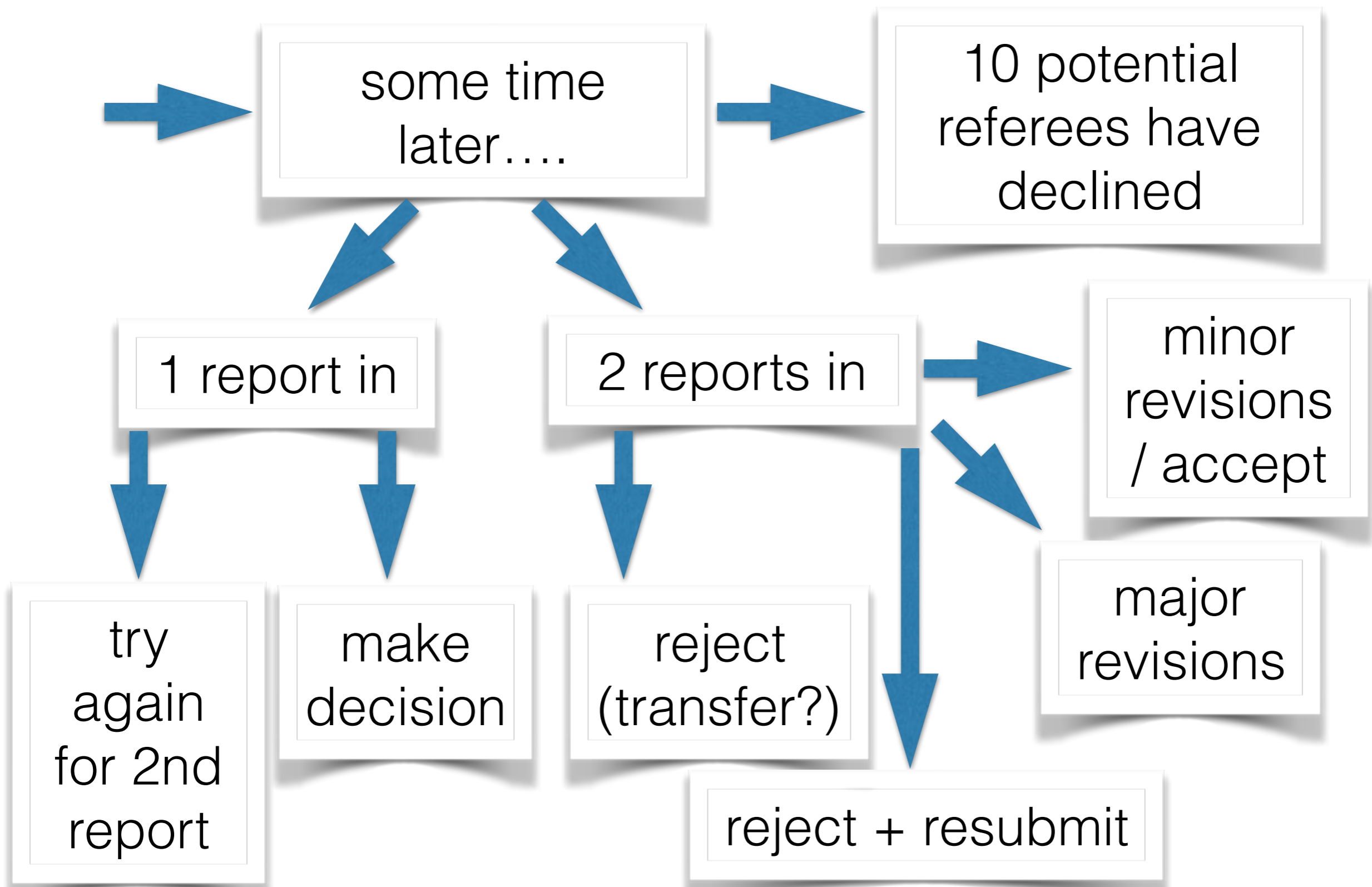
# Outline - part 1

- The work flow
- RAER - what influences my decision
- What makes a good cover letter?
- Recommending referees
- Understanding “bad” decisions
- A persuasive appeal

# The workflow



# You made it out to review





# How does transfer work?

Journal A is rejecting your ms

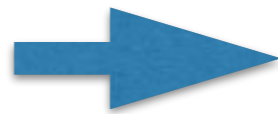
Consults with journal B

Not interested - reject from journal A

Interested - you receive an invitation to transfer

You accept - manuscript and any reports are transferred

You decline, do nothing etc



# RAER

- Is there “significant new physical insight”?  
(check info for authors for journal guidelines)
  - Do I know the field?
  - Do you normally submit high quality papers?
  - Have you explained the insight in your cover letter?
- I might consult (DE or EAB)

# What makes a good cover letter?

**Do** *tell me what is important about the paper*

**Do** use simple language - you can be less formal

**Don't** just copy the abstract - I have that already

**Do** take time to write carefully - I can see if you have

**Do** quote any previous submission number

**Do** write if you have any preferred/non-preferred editor/referees

**Do** give the titles of all authors (ie are they students/PhDs)

# Recommending referees

**Do** recommend at least 3 referees (ideally 5+)

**Don't** recommend from KU (or any of the institutions of co-authors)

**Don't** recommend all from DK

**Don't** recommend people you have published with (or declare this in the cover letter)

**Don't** recommend people you have ongoing projects with

**Do** fill in the optional text to explain why you recommend

*Mark Ratner, Ben Feringa, Paul Alivisatos, Klaus Mullen, Jean-Luc Bredas, etc will **NOT** referee your paper - you waste your opportunity by suggesting them*

# Understanding “bad” decisions

- Multiple reports, no serious criticism but you were rejected
  - What were the “ratings” like?
  - Were there also very positive comments?
- One report - maybe there were 15 other referees who declined to review

# An ineffective appeal

- Questions the competence of the editor/journal
  - Saying that you cannot understand this terrible decision
  - You are furious with this terrible process
- Talks up how important the authors are -I don't care how many papers you have published/reviewed, I have to take each paper on its merits
- Questions the competence of the referee - clearly not in the field/didn't read the paper/doesn't understand your work
  - that is your problem, maybe it wasn't clear
  - they can be your preferred referee
  - tells me that you don't want to reply to this referee, can I find a new one?



# For example...

Let be honest, it is of the outmost evidence that this guy did not care at all of spending time on the article, and cuts short deciding to reject the paper before reading it, proposing a couple of incosistent remarks just not to leave the comment field blank.

One can suggest that Reviewer 2 has very prejudiced opinion.... We can only suggest that Reviewer 2 has only very superficial understanding of our work and did not read it....

In conclusion, I treat the assessment of Reviewer 3 as abusive and derogatory to my paper and to myself personally. I have considerable achievements in <description of the field>.

# An effective appeal

- Thanks the editor for the comments from referees
- Might even say that you understand why the decision was taken, but you feel that the comments are simple to address
- Asks politely if the editor will reconsider the decision in view of the comprehensive reply that you have prepared
- Attaches the full reply

# Screw this journal, I'm going elsewhere

- Whatever you do - do make changes on the basis of the (ridiculous) reports
- Maybe even attach a full response as SI for review only
- NOTHING pisses off a referee like receiving a paper again from a different journal and seeing that their carefully prepared report was totally ignored