

5 STAGES OF REJECTION

1 DENIAL

"There is no way this paper could have been rejected. Clearly the editor made a mistake and sent me the wrong decision email."



2 ANGER

"I am going to fight this. The reviewers do not know what they are talking about. The editor should know better. I am going to write a strongly worded email to the editor giving them a piece of my mind!"



3 BARGAINING

"I am going to offer the editor something so they will overturn their decision—that is, agree to write a review, referee more papers, and so on."



4 DEPRESSION

"The paper will make or break my career. Since it was rejected, clearly my ideas are all wrong."



5 ACCEPTANCE

"I'm sure they had good reasons for rejecting my paper."

“ Editors at *Inorganic Chemistry* not only handle hundreds of papers per year, but also are active research scientists who submit manuscripts themselves. **Each one of us has experienced these five stages when our own papers have been rejected. We understand.** ”

— P. Shiv Halasyamani, Associate Editor / William B. Tolman, Editor-in-Chief

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