

## The Royal Society of Biology Research Communications Newsletter

*A collection of online information and opinion pieces.*

**March 2024**

**Dear readers, the newsletter team will be taking spring break before returning with the next edition in May. In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your readership.**

This newsletter provides links to published news articles. Views or opinions presented are those of the original author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Royal Society of Biology.

### Royal Society of Biology news

#### [The Biologist](#)

The latest issue of The Biologist dives into Kew Garden's [enormous new report](#) on the state of the world's plants and fungi. Plus, we speak to the 'queen of pain' Professor Irene Tracey [about her decades of research on how we perceive pain](#). There are also articles on [the expanding use of AI in science education](#), [new approaches to antivenoms](#), [mobile bioscience labs in shipping containers](#), and the [use of multi-omics in understanding the health of ecosystems](#).

#### **RSB Technical Skills courses 2024**

Learn new skills or refine your laboratory techniques with the Royal Society of Biology's laboratory-based courses. These include courses in [Aseptic Techniques](#), [Microscopy and Bioimaging](#), [Tissue Culture](#), [DNA Analysis](#), and [Protein Identification](#) at University of East Anglia on 22nd – 24th May, and [ELISA Training](#) at Brunel University (London) on 31st May. Visit [our training events webpage](#) for full details and to book your place on these courses.

#### [John Maddox Prize nominations 2024](#)

Nominations for the 2024 John Maddox Prize are now open for researchers who are standing up for science and advancing public discourse. More information can be found on this [website](#).

**Closes: 20 May 2024**

### Spotlight on open access

#### [Feedback survey on the “Towards Responsible Publishing” proposal by cOAlition S](#)

cOAlition, an international group of 28 research funders working together to promote open approaches to scientific publishing, has recently introduced its “Towards Responsible Publishing” proposal. The current survey offers a platform for to express views about the ideas presented in the proposal, and influence its further development, ensuring it resonates with the needs and aspirations of the research community.

**Closes: 22 April 2024**

#### [Are Price, Value, and Openness the Most Important Scholarly Communication Priorities?](#)

For two decades, scholarly communication advocates and policy-makers have largely focused on

price, value, and openness for research outputs. Today, figures show a steady growth in the share of research globally that is published open access, with some geographic variance, but the marketplace and policy environment have not remained static. In recent years, as the open access agenda has achieved so great an impact, the second digital transformation of scholarly publishing has suggested new focus areas are of real importance. The Scholarly Kitchen's Roger C. Schonfeld asks, can advocates and policy-makers — from universities, academic libraries, and funding organizations — engage in a scholarly communication discourse that fully addresses these current and emerging focus areas and priorities?

## Publication policy and debate

### [Scientific Publishing: The first year of a new era](#)

What happened when eLife decided to eliminate accept/reject decisions after peer review? One year on from this radical change, the co-Editors-in-Chief and Deputy Editors reflect on the lessons learned.

### [IOP Publishing celebrates outstanding peer reviewers](#)

Recognising how important peer review is for preserving the quality and integrity of physical science research, IOP Publishing (IOPP) has announced its recipients of the Outstanding Reviewer Awards, according to STM Publishing News. The outstanding reviewers were selected from the more than 52,000 reviewers who submitted reports to IOPP journals in 2023. Recipients were chosen by IOPP's journal editors based on the number, timeliness and quality of reports completed.

## International publishing

### [International Horizon Europe campaign launches](#)

At the start of 2024, the UK associated to Horizon Europe. The UK Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) is encouraging the brightest thinkers with the biggest ideas from across Europe to partner with UK scientists, researchers and businesses through the world-leading Horizon Europe programme, as part of a new international campaign.

### [Opinion: International science is having a messy breakup](#)

The internationalisation of science is slowing down, say the authors of this opinion piece in Research Professional News. Geopolitical tensions and the increasing importance of technology for economic, military and political strength have raised concerns about international research cooperation. Countries, institutions and researchers are assessing the security implications and other risks before entering into collaborations that, until recently, were seen as desirable.

## Metrics

### [Clarivate Reveals Top 100 Global Innovators 2024](#)

Clarivate has revealed its 2024 list of Top 100 Global Innovators™ – organizations leading the world in technology research and innovation. For the first time, Clarivate ranked the top 100 organizations to provide a more defined view, as competition for exceptional patentable ideas grows more intense.

## Publication ethics

### [Compliance, evasiveness, barter and investment – why women do more academic service work](#)

Drawing on qualitative data and CV evidence, the authors of this post on the LSE Impact blog explore the gendered nature of academic service work and highlight how different expectations and strategies affect the workloads and career prospects of academic women.

### [Rise in “extremely productive” authors sparks concern](#)

The number of highly prolific scientific authors is continuing to rise, according to a new study. The Publication Plan reports that the study found the number of extremely productive authors – defined as those who publish the equivalent of more than 60 papers a year – has almost quadrupled since 2018. The study’s authors are calling for unusual authorship patterns to be monitored using centralised, standardised databases.

### [Wiley announces pilot of new AI-powered Papermill Detection service](#)

Wiley has unveiled plans for its new AI-powered Papermill Detection service, reports STM Publishing News. This service will be available through Research Exchange, an integrated submission and peer review system, as soon as next year.

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