

Science Policy Newsletter – a weekly round-up of policy headlines and stories

07 November 2019

News

Top stories

[Parliament sends 30,000 invitations for citizens' assembly on climate change](#)

From Wednesday 6 November, 30,000 invitation letters will be landing on doormats across the UK – including Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – inviting people to join Climate Assembly UK.

Royal Society of Biology news

[200 students attend this year's Bioscience Careers Day at Middlesex University London](#)

The RSB's annual careers fair saw students attend in their hundreds to learn more about career options, meet potential employers, and improve their CV writing and interview skills.

Health and biomedicine

[Antibiotic use falling but resistant infections rising](#)

[Measles erases immune 'memory' for other diseases](#)

Results from tests of unvaccinated children and monkeys come as measles cases spike around the world.

[Scientists developing diagnostic test to detect antibiotic resistance in less than 45 minutes](#)

[Government invests in global partnership to treat gonorrhoea](#)

The £3.5 million investment will help develop new treatments for gonorrhoea and make them available to low- and middle-income countries.

[Asthma carbon footprint 'as big as eating meat'](#)

[Spiders inspire double-sided sticky tape to heal wounds](#)

Food and drink

[Progress in reducing food sugar content 'lost' as people buying more, Public Health England warns](#)

'When you look at our data, you can see part of the problem is more of things being sold that are high sugar'

Agriculture and fisheries

[No-deal Brexit means return of battery eggs, farmers' union warns](#)

NFU says government has ignored call for tariffs on cheap US imports from caged hens

[Climate policies 'will transform UK landscape'](#)

[Entirely organic farming could raise food emissions by 70 per cent in England and Wales](#)

Certain foods require more land or transport when they are produced organically, meaning conventional production would be better for the environment

Forestry

[Government launches new scheme to boost tree-planting](#)

£50 million Woodland Carbon Guarantee scheme will encourage farmers and landowners to plant more trees and help to tackle climate change

Environment and ecology

[Landmark Environment Bill moves forwards](#)

Environment Bill passes second reading by MPs unopposed and will now progress to Committee stage.

[Yet another widely used insecticide found to harm bees – regulators need to change their approach](#)

Climate and energy

[Green Climate Fund attracts record US\\$9.8 billion for developing nations](#)

Despite no new contribution from the United States, several rich countries doubled their pledges compared with the last funding round.

Government and Parliament

[Government Science Capability Review](#)

A Review which addresses the capability of government science and engineering, recommending actions to further embed government science into policymaking.

Research funding and higher education policy

[Future frameworks for international collaboration on research and innovation: independent advice](#)

Professor Sir Adrian Smith has provided independent advice on the design of future UK funding schemes for international collaboration, innovation and research.

[Research culture: Résumé for Researchers](#)

[Leader of the pack: who has the power to change research cultures?](#)

The idea of “leadership” for a researcher might make you cringe – surely leadership is the sort of corporate waffle people go into academia to get away from?

[Horizon Europe association hopefuls ‘out of time’ for 2021 start](#)

UK and Switzerland risk missing out on beginning of €100 billion (£86 billion) programme, alongside potential newcomers Australia and Canada

[£2.8 million awarded to fund projects by British and Israeli scientists](#)

The projects will be awarded the funds from BIRAX, a £10 million programme to support cutting edge UK-Israeli research.

Open access and publication policy

[Octopus: a radical new approach to scientific publishing](#)

[Big variation across Europe in cost of publishing with ‘big five’](#)

Analysis of publishing deals across Europe highlights different costs faced by country-level consortia

Diversity and inclusion

[Equality, diversity and inclusion in 2019: the good, the bad and the bigoted](#)

[Black students more likely to engage in studies - but still attain lower degrees, study finds](#)

Attainment gap at universities should be investigated further, report says

Outreach and engagement

[Instant Wild expands collaboration with Rewilding Europe](#)

Over the last 50 years we’ve seen unprecedented declines in species populations.

Measuring impact

[Who are stakeholders in research? A Science and Technology Studies approach to navigating research impact](#)

International news

[South Korea deploys snipers and drones to fend off deadly pig virus](#)

Outbreaks of African swine fever have killed millions of pigs across Asia, and the virus has recently been detected in wild boars near the North Korean border.

[Climate impact from loss of tropical forests 600% higher than thought](#)

'I had a hunch it was bad but I didn't expect it to be this dramatic' says Dr Tom Evans

[New blood test to detect Zika approved in Brazil](#)

[Primate embryos grown in the lab for longer than ever before](#)

The 20-day-old monkey embryos could reopen the debate about how long the human variety should be allowed to grow in a dish.

[California biologists are using wildfires to assess health risks of smoke](#)

As fires rage in the Bay Area, scientists launch study to track long-term effects of smoke on the heart, lungs and immune system.

Opinion

[British farmers are not the enemy in the battle against the climate crisis](#)

As a cattle farmer I come under constant criticism, but UK livestock production is among the most sustainable in the world

[Talking about the 'antibiotic apocalypse' is alarming, not persuasive. This is why](#)

We've used global research to develop effective ways to communicate about drug-resistant infections to inspire change.

[Climate change, pandemics, biodiversity loss: no country is sufficiently prepared](#)

[Beware the UK government's Brexit promises](#)

Government offers of new funds for UK scientists could be unaffordable.

[Should we use AI to make us quicker and more efficient researchers?](#)

Opportunities

[Natural England Board Members](#)

Ministers wish to appoint four new Members to the Board of Natural England. Board Members play an important role in supporting and encouraging the executive team in improving Natural England's delivery for the natural environment by driving forward substantial change to deliver value for money, excellent customer service and better collaboration with key partners while maintaining a clear overview, and ensuring business continuity, across the range of its functions.

Closes: 14 November 2019

Entrepreneurship in Bioscience

A course for those who would like to learn about what entrepreneurship means in the bioscience sector.

Closes: 15 November 2019

UKRI Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centres

Proposals are invited for Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centres, each conducting interdisciplinary research that accelerates understanding and solutions to enable circularity of a resource flow (materials, material systems, products and/or services), including consideration of (multi-) sector contexts.

Closes: 19 November 2019

UKRI Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Coordinator

A call for proposals to be the Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Coordinator is open. The Coordinator will receive £150,000 (at 80% FEC) for up to 11 months to engage with the full spectrum of interdisciplinary research and stakeholder communities and design a proposal for an Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Hub, with up to £3.3m available at the second stage for the Coordinator to lead the integration Hub.

Closes: 19 November 2019

Invite to build interdisciplinary networks to address air quality challenges at the indoor/outdoor interface

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) invites proposals for interdisciplinary networks under the second wave of the Strategic Priorities Fund (SPF) Clean Air programme.

Closes: 5 December 2019

UK-Canada Globalink Doctoral Exchange Scheme

A new and exciting opportunity for UKRI and Canadian doctoral students to participate in a UK-Canada research exchange scheme. Supported by UKRI and Mitacs, up to 200 UK doctoral candidates will have the opportunity to develop into global citizens, with international competencies, during 12-week research placements in Canadian universities.

Closes: 12 December 2019

Register as an organisation getting funding directly from the EU

Give details of projects which may be eligible under the UK government's guarantee for EU funding.

Closes: 31 December 2019

British Biology Olympiad 2020

The [British Biology Olympiad 2020](#) (31 January - 7 February) for post-16 students is now open for registration. The competition challenges and motivates students with an interest in biology, providing them with an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge. High scoring students will receive certificates and be invited to an awards ceremony in London. Please contact [Raghav Selvam](#) with any enquiries.

Closes: 24 January 2020

Biology Challenge 2020

The [Biology Challenge 2020](#) (10 - 31 March) for students aged 13 - 15 is now open for registration. The competition stimulates students' curiosity for the natural world and encourages them to take an interest in biology outside of school. High scoring students will receive certificates and be invited to an awards ceremony in London. Please contact [Raghav Selvam](#) with any enquiries

Closes: 28 February 2019

£500 student & early-career member travel grants

Student and early-career members of the Royal Society of Biology can now apply for a travel grant of £500 to support future overseas travel in connection with biological study, teaching or research.

Closes: 1 March 2020

Events

STEMM-CHANGE conference

14 November 2019

Royal Society of Chemistry, London

Organ-on-a-chip: Current Gaps and Future Directions

2 December 2019

GSK Medicines Research Centre, Stevenage

Quantitative Methods in Gene Regulation V

9 - 10 December 2019

Institute of Physics, London

And finally...

Vampire bats aren't the monsters we thought they were

Royal Society of Biology

Science Policy Team

1 Naoroji Street

London

WC1X 0GB

policy@rsb.org.uk

Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Royal Society of Biology.

[Click here to unsubscribe from this publication](#)

Or, manage your subscription to this and to other RSB publications by logging into [mySociety](#) and choosing 'My Subscriptions' under 'Me and the RSB'.