

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

12 December 2017

### News

#### Health and biomedicine

##### [MHRA awarded £1.3m for collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization](#)

We are delighted to announce a new partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization that aims to extensively improve the safety monitoring of medicines in low and middle-income countries (LMIC).

##### [Huntington's breakthrough may stop disease](#)

##### [How soundscapes and vibrations are helping blind people see the world](#)

#### Agriculture and fishery

##### [Making 'green Brexit' work for agriculture and the environment](#)

#### Environment and ecology

##### ['Worrying alarm call' for world's birds on brink of extinction](#)

##### [Botanical exploits: How British plant hunters served science](#)

##### [Turning sunlight to sustainable fuel: Commission launches EIC Horizon Prize for Artificial Photosynthesis](#)

The European Commission has launched the second of six European Innovation Council (EIC) Horizon Prizes, on Artificial Photosynthesis, run under Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation programme.

##### [Narwhals' mixed-up response to fear could kill them](#)

Tracking study suggests the Arctic whales are particularly vulnerable to human disturbance.

## Climate and energy

### ['Future world' scenarios to paint a clearer climate change picture](#)

An EU-funded project's 'future world' scenarios are informing the development of innovative tools and measures to help vulnerable communities plan for, and adapt to, the effects of global warming - such as increased flooding, wild fires and extreme weather.

## Animal Research

### [Environment Secretary publishes bill to strengthen animal welfare](#)

New law will ensure animal abusers are jailed for up to 5 years and animal sentience is reflected in UK law

### [Michael Gove: I'll make Brexit work for animals too](#)

## Government and parliament

### [Sir Mark Walport questioned on Life Sciences and Industrial Strategy](#)

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee continues to take evidence for its inquiry into Life Sciences and the Industrial Strategy. Giving evidence is the Chief Executive designate of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), Professor Sir Mark Walport.

### [Peers question scope of life-sciences strategy](#)

### [Algorithms in decision-making examined](#)

The Science and Technology Committee continues its inquiry on algorithms in decision-making. The topic was pitched to the Committee earlier this year by Sense About Science, as part of the Committee's [My Science Inquiry](#) initiative

## Exiting the EU

### [Brexit 'breakthrough' raises hope — and questions](#)

Giving EU nationals the right to remain in the UK will boost confidence, say observers.

## Research funding and higher education policy

### [Gulf in funding between European university sectors 'is widening'](#)

As Germany, France and Nordic and Alpine countries continue with increased investment, much of the rest of the Continent has not recovered from the financial crisis

### [Research and innovation must stay connected](#)

It is vital that our best researchers maintain profile and participation in European networks through Brexit and beyond.

## Open access and publication policy

### [Peer reviewers need more nurturing](#)

Richard Catlow explains why three national scientific societies are calling for research evaluators to be highly valued and trained.

### [Hundreds of German universities set to lose access to Elsevier journals](#)

Negotiations to reduce journal prices and promote open access are progressing slowly

### [Sharing Clinical Trial Data: what it means for you](#)

Wellcome is joining ClinicalStudyDataRequest.com (CSDR), a data-sharing initiative involving academic research funders and pharmaceutical companies. Jen O'Callaghan, from our Open Research team, explains why and what it means for researchers.

## Equality and diversity

### [Men 'much more likely to ask questions in seminars' than women](#)

Male academics two and a half times more likely to speak up, as women cite lack of confidence and 'intimidating' speakers

## Public engagement

### [Citizen scientists help capture wild mammals on camera](#)

## Opinion

### [Scientific peer review: an ineffective and unworthy institution](#)

Les Hatton and Gregory Warr give their two-pronged solution to the problems of peer review

## Consultations

### [Evaluation of the EU's Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change](#)

Closes 1 March 2018

## Events

### [Rethinking British Agricultural Systems - Linking agri-science to post Brexit UK agricultural policy](#)

30 January 2018

### [New to Teaching Bioscience in Higher Education](#)

This one-day workshop event is designed to cater for the specific needs of bioscience colleagues who have reached a career stage in which they are called on to provide lectures and other university teaching but who are yet to (or have only recently been) appointed to substantive academic posts. It will also be of interest to researchers, postgraduates, hourly paid staff and visiting lecturers.

21 February 2018

### [Biophysics of epigenetic and chromatin dynamics](#)

16 – 17 April 2018

## And finally...

### [Blue Planet II: from octopus v shark to fish that crawl, the series's biggest discoveries](#)

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