

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

18 October 2017

News

Royal Society of Biology news

[Mental health and wellbeing in the spotlight for Biology Week Policy Lates event](#)

The RSB's Policy Lates series returned this week with a discussion on the biology of mental health and wellbeing, as part of Biology Week 2017.

[MPs, Member Organisations and RSB members come together to celebrate Biology Week 2017](#)

The sixth annual Biology Week Parliamentary Reception took place on Wednesday, hosted by Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Stephen Metcalfe MP, Carol Monaghan MP and Chi Onwurah MP.

[Outstanding science communication and photography celebrated at the RSB Annual Awards 2017](#)

Members and supporters of the Royal Society of Biology last week celebrated the winners of the annual Photography Competition and Science Communication Awards at the Annual Awards Ceremony in London

[Ask a Biologist at New Scientist Live 2017](#)

Members and Fellows of the Royal Society of Biology delivered hands-on public engagement as part of the RSB's 'Ask a Biologist' exhibition activity at New Scientist Live 2017, with thousands of members of the public visiting the stand over the four day event. Watch [What can lakes teach us about climate change?](#) with Dr Evelyn Keaveney and find out [Why should I care about antibiotic resistance?](#) with Rachel Rowe. To watch more use the link [here](#)

Health and biomedicine

[New Commission study fuels generic drugs industry 'manufacturing dispute'](#)

The European Commission launched on Thursday (12 October) a public consultation on supplementary protection certificates for pharmaceutical products and the so-called Bolar patent research exemption

[Global Health must survive political upheaval: Dr Jeremy Farrar delivers MHRA annual lecture](#)

Dr Jeremy Farrar OBE, Director of the Wellcome Trust delivered the 12th Annual Lecture organised by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency in London tonight

[Global pledges to speed action on superbugs](#)

Wellcome is investing £2.4 million in a new project to track the global impact of superbugs as part of our ongoing efforts to help address this urgent global health threat

Food and drink

[Welsh food companies to develop new innovative products to help tackle childhood obesity](#)

A project to tackle childhood obesity has awarded funding to four Welsh companies to develop innovative, healthy and affordable Food and Drink solutions.

[Will a sugar tax work? Well it did at Jamie Oliver's Italian restaurants](#)

Researchers say the chef's 10p levy on sugary drinks led to a significant drop in sales - boding well for the government's sugar tax plan

Environment and ecology

[A new era for marine science: Green light for new Cefas headquarters in Lowestoft](#)

A new era of marine science is set to become a reality, with planning permission granted to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) to redevelop its headquarters site in Lowestoft.

[Asian hornet outbreak contained in Devon](#)

An Asian hornet nest has been destroyed in the Woolacombe area and no further live Asian hornets have been sighted.

[Brown trout return to Newcastle-under-Lyme](#)

The Environment Agency has revealed that brown trout, which haven't been seen in the Lyme Brook for many years, have returned to Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Water and air

[UK-Dutch-built Sentinel launches to track air quality](#)

[London's Toxicity Charge starts next week](#)

Climate and energy

[Government reaffirms commitment to lead the world in cost-effective clean growth](#)

The Clean Growth Strategy sets out an ambitious blueprint for Britain's low carbon future.

Government and parliament

[How will the life sciences strategy affect businesses?](#)

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee continues taking evidence for its inquiry into Life Sciences and the Industrial Strategy

[Letter from Robin Walker to Norman Lamb regarding the Work of Science Minister, 12 October 2017](#)

[Letter from the Chair to Grantham Institute on climate change research, 10 October 2017](#)

The Chair of the Science and Technology Committee, Norman Lamb, writes to the Grantham Institute on Climate Change

Exiting the EU

[European drug regulation at risk of stalling as agency plans to leave London](#)

Post-Brexit plans to relocate the European Medicines Agency could trigger severe staff losses, its head has warned

[UK Scientists are struggling after Brexit Vote](#)

Henry Lovett, Policy and Public Affairs Officer at The Physiological Society, reflects on the impacts that Brexit is already having on UK science.

Research funding and higher education policy

[Universities and Science Minister calls on universities to do more to commercialise UK research and innovation](#)

Jo Johnson calls on universities to strengthen links with businesses and local economies'

[Analysis shows value of innovative development projects in higher education](#)

A review of a HEFCE programme which funds development projects in the higher education sector has found significant benefits for students, the economy and society, with funding expected to return up to £12 in value for every pound invested.

[UK ranks above the world average for quality of research and remains a strong partner for international research collaboration and mobility](#)

New report measures UK's research performance (2010-2014) against nations including France, Germany, US, and China

Equality and diversity

[Can mentoring help black students choose STEMM?](#)

Ethics

[Ethical challenges in bioscience and health policy for the UK Parliament](#)

International News

[German researchers resign from Elsevier journals in push for nationwide open access](#)

[FDA advisers back gene therapy for rare form of blindness](#)

Therapy that targets disease-causing mutations could be the first of its kind approved for use in the United States

Opportunities

[HE Bioscience Technician of the Year Award](#)

The award, developed jointly by the RSB and the University Bioscience Managers Association (UBMA), seeks to recognise the superb work of bioscience technical staff. It is open to all technical staff working in the HE bioscience sector in the UK and Ireland.

[RSB Presentation Skills Course](#)

25 October (afternoon course)

This beginner level course covers personal presentation and body language; structuring your presentation; uses and abuses of visual aids; and meeting the needs of your audience. Course tutor Sue Smith is professor in medical education and director of teaching at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London.

[RSB Unconscious Bias Course](#)

08 November 2017 (morning course)

This half-day awareness building course aims to educate staff and managers so that they can lead by example in the quest to change mind-sets and create a more diverse and inclusive workplace. Course tutor Sally Baker is a chartered fellow of the Chartered Institute Personnel Managers & Developers (CIPD) and is a proven inclusion, equality and diversity specialist, as well as HR generalist with over 18 years' experience.

RSB Media Skills for Scientists Course

5 December 2017 (full day course)

This course will cover how to think like a journalist, deal with media requests and simplify your messaging. You will also learn about your rights as a source and how to deal with live interviews on TV or radio. Tutor Lou Del Bello is a multimedia journalist specialising in environment, climate change and development issues. She has a strong track record of devising successful editorial strategies for digital platforms through video, audio and interactive formats. She's also an accomplished writer with an extensive portfolio published on major outlets such as The Guardian and the New Scientist.

Registration Deadline: 5th of November 2017

Vacancy: Higher Education Policy Analyst or Higher Education Senior Policy Analyst

The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector.

Consultations

Algorithms in decision-making inquiry

Science and Technology Committee inquiry into the increasing use of algorithms in public and business decision making.

Closes 20 October 2017

Brexit – medicines, medical devices and substances of human origin inquiry

Health Committee inquiry into arrangements post-Brexit to guarantee supply of medicines, devices, and products

Closes 26 October

Call for evidence and briefing note: EEA-workers in the UK labour market

In response to this consultation, RSB are looking to collate evidence from our members, in the form of career experience case studies. For further information please contact policy@rsb.org.uk

Closes 27 October

Events

[AMR Market Lounge 2 - Wellcome Collection London](#)

15 November: Half Day Workshop

[UK Science Festivals Network Conference](#)

9 November: A new conference for anyone who is interested or involved in organising science festivals, events or activities

[Early Career Researcher workshop on diagnostics for Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

20 November: An interdisciplinary workshop, organised by the Learned Society Partnership on Antimicrobial Resistance, for early career scientists to share knowledge, encourage networking and explore the barriers and opportunities facing the development of rapid diagnostic for infectious disease. Join our invited experts to hear some of the clinical challenges and latest advances in molecular diagnostics, analytical technologies, biosensors and metrology for AMR.

And finally...

[Male scientists share more – but only with other men](#)

Evolutionary differences blamed for squeezing out female researchers

Royal Society of Biology

Science Policy Team
Charles Darwin House
12 Roger Street
London
WC1N 2JU
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.

Manage your subscription to this and to other RSB publications [here](#)