

The Royal Society of Biology

Research Communication Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

July 2020

Dear readers, the newsletter team will be taking a break for summer. To welcome the Autumn, we will return with the next edition in September.

This newsletter provides links to published news articles from a range of sources. 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

[Role of science in Government likely to increase following COVID-19, chief scientific advisor tells Parliamentary Links Day](#)

The COVID-19 crisis has led to a renewed understanding that science is important across all areas of Government and will help boost science's role in policy-making in future, the UK's chief scientific adviser Sir Patrick Vallance said at this year's RSB's Parliamentary Links Day.

[COVID-19 Bulletin](#)

For further detail on COVID-19 research, news and updates, RSB has developed a periodic bulletin collating some of the bioscience behind the outbreak and response, see [our webpages](#) to read previous editions and subscribe to the next.

[Main RSB webpage on COVID-19](#)

The RSB is working to adapt and ensure our services are delivered to the greatest extent possible whilst also taking into account Public Health England and Government advice during the pandemic. We regularly update this [webpage](#) with relevant information about our activities, initiatives and community support.

[Call for papers for journal special issue on pandemics](#)

Emerging Topics in Life Science (ETLS), the journal co-owned by the Biochemical Society and the RSB, has opened a call for papers for a special issue on pandemics. Aiming for publication in 2020, the issue will feature short reviews looking at coronaviruses and COVID-19, but also drivers of disease and emerging infections, emerging infectious disease preparedness and novel epidemiological concepts.

Submission deadline: September 2020

[The Biologist](#)

To assist during the pandemic, schools and colleges can access our digital archive for free until 1 October 2020. [Teachers can sign up and request access online](#) via our publishers, and also access other magazines including Chemistry World, BBC History Magazine, BBC Science Magazine and The World Today.

Spotlight on open access debate

[Universities offered reprieve in pandemic book licensing battle](#)

New intervention by the Copyright Licensing Agency may offer essential texts, according to Times Higher Education.

[cOAlition S develops “Rights Retention Strategy” to safeguard researchers’ intellectual ownership rights and suppress unreasonable embargo periods](#)

cOAlition S covers how it has developed a Rights Retention Strategy, which will empower funded researchers to publish in their journal of choice, including subscription journals, and provide Open Access in compliance with Plan S.

[Plan S Implementation Guidelines for Repositories: Results of COAR Repository Platforms Survey](#)

This article summarises a survey by the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), in consultation with cOAlition S, of repository platforms in order to assess their current ability and intention to support Plan S requirements, and to identify any specific challenges related to their implementation.

[Royal Society Signs Read & Publish Deal With JISC](#)

The Royal Society has signed a new Read & Publish deal granting researchers at participating UK universities unlimited access to read its journals and publish their own articles open access (OA) in them.

Publication policy and debate

[Pioneering duplication detector trawls thousands of coronavirus preprints](#)

Automated software flags instances of image reuse — but many were false alarms, reports Nature News.

[The UK National PID Consortium: A Pathway to Increased Adoption](#)

This Scholarly Kitchen article advocates the use of Persistent identifiers (PIDs) in scholarly publishing by acknowledging how being able to correctly identify a researcher with their institution(s), publications, and other works improves search and discovery, facilitates credit and recognition and reduces errors.

[Peer review should be an honest, but collegial, conversation](#)

Nature asked authors and editors for advice on how to improve peer-review communication.

[Cut UK academic publishing fees by 25 per cent, urge universities](#)

‘Unprecedented’ financial pressure on university budgets should result in reduced subscription charges, says UUK-Jisc group

[Equity in Scholarly Publishing: An Interview with the Workplace Equity Project](#)

The findings of the Workplace Equity Project's 2018 survey have recently been published as a peer-reviewed article in Learned Publishing - learn more in this interview with Workplace Equity Project founders.

[Software to Improve Reliability of Research Image Data: Wiley, Lumina, And Researchers at Harvard Medical School Work Together on Solutions](#)

A blog written by Mary Walsh, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Investigator, Office for Academic and Research Integrity at Harvard Medical School, and Chris Graf, Director, Research Integrity and Publishing Ethics, Wiley, showcasing how Wiley and Lumina are working together to support the efforts of researchers at Harvard Medical School to develop and test new machine learning tools and artificial intelligence (AI) software that can identify discrepancies in research image data.

[Artificial Intelligence to help meet global demand for high-quality, objective peer-review in publishing](#)

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers reports on the state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence Review Assistant (AIRA), developed by open-access publisher Frontiers, and how it helps editors, reviewers and authors evaluate the quality of manuscripts.

International publishing

[NWO announces implementation guidelines for Plan S](#)

The Dutch Research Council (NWO) has announced implementation of guidelines for Plan S, reports cOAlition S.

[MIT seeks to speed up pandemic research with AI-aided journal](#)

Times Higher Education reports on how the Massachusetts Institute of Technology is creating a new journal using artificial intelligence tools to rapidly compile scientific findings for open review and sharing, in the hope of speeding up coronavirus-related research.

Metrics

[Monitoring the effects of Plan S on Research and Scholarly Communication: an update](#)

cOAlition S reports on a monitoring framework by which funding agencies who are signatories of Plan S can track or monitor the most significant of Plan S effects, both positive and negative.

Publication ethics

[Publishers come together to take action on diversity in research publishing](#)

The Chemical Engineer reports that a group of 11 publishers, led by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), has made a commitment to take action to reduce bias across all stages of the publishing process. The commitment follows the publication of the RSC's Framework for Action.

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