

The Royal Society of Biology

Research Communication Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

October 2020

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

[Science Minister discusses global challenges for Biology Week 2020](#)

UK science minister Amanda Solloway MP and Hilary Benn MP took questions on a range of science policy topics, from the future of research funding to climate change and COVID-19, at an event organised as part of RSB's Biology Week 2020.

Emerging Topics in Life Sciences

Emerging Topics in Life Sciences is planning a special themed issue exploring emerging technologies, approaches and products in the life sciences industry space, and we would be delighted if you would consider contributing. The journal is published by Portland Press on behalf of the Biochemical Society and the Royal Society of Biology, with all profits returned in service of the community. Open Access publication is available but is not required, with open access articles deposited to PubMed Central. All submissions will be independently peer reviewed.

If you are interested, you can choose to submit either a short, 3000-word mini-review of the latest findings, challenges and future implications, or a 1000-word opinion-based perspective piece. Our aim with the issue is not to provide an in-depth review of everything currently ongoing in industry, but to inform our academic audience of some of the most recent developments and encourage them to explore. Ideally, we are looking for submissions in early 2021, however we are able to be flexible and work with you if this is something you are interested in. Contact editorial@portlandpress.com (FAO Emma Pettengale) to discuss further details.

[COVID-19 Bulletin](#)

For further detail on COVID-19 research, news and updates, RSB has developed a monthly bulletin collating some of the bioscience behind the outbreak and response. The latest edition, published on the 26th of October 2020, covers updates including on aerosols and facemasks, virus survival in indoor environments, at risk groups, reinfection, second wave responses, vaccine and treatment progress, researching long-term COVID-19 effects, tackling misinformation, the impact of the pandemic on mental health and research field work, and Queen's Birthday Honours for services to COVID-19 research. 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.

Spotlight on open access debate

[Springer Nature collaborates with the OAPEN foundation on open access \(OA\) toolkit for researchers and academic book authors](#)

STM Publishing News reports Springer Nature is one of the founding members of the new OAPEN toolkit for researchers and academic book authors. The toolkit is a free-to-access, stakeholder-agnostic resource that aims to help authors better understand open access (OA) for books.

[Initiative pushes to make journal abstracts free to read in one place](#)

This Nature news article addresses how a group of publishers has agreed to make journal summaries open and searchable in a single repository.

[State of Open Monograph Series: Open access monograph funding](#)

In part two of the State of Open Monograph Series (Economics of Open Access Monographs), Digital Science & Research Ltd continue their conversation with Lara Speicher, Head of Publishing at UCL Press and Erich van Rijn, Director of Journals and Open Access at University of California Press.

Publication policy and debate

[SocPC: leading the way for open scholarship](#)

As the cultural shift towards open scholarship continues to gather pace, members of the Society Publishers' Coalition (SocPC) are leading the way with practical initiatives to foster openness, transparency, and collaboration. SocPC members are on the road to open scholarship, and various paths to transition are taking shape in 2020.

[Open research publishers introduce trans-inclusive policies to allow authors to retroactively change their names on public records](#)

F1000 Research and Wellcome Open Research have announced the introduction of a new policy which enables transgender scholars to change their name on publications.

[Ask the Community: What Would Improve Trust in Peer Review?](#)

This article featured in the Scholarly Kitchen covers a range of opinions to improve the peer review process involved with scholarly publications.

[The Global Pandemic and Scholarly Societies](#)

Robert Harington, Associate Executive Director of Publishing at the American Mathematical Society asks how scholarly societies are coping as the global coronavirus pandemic continues to cast a shadow, certainly well into 2021 and very likely into 2022 and beyond?

[Researching the impact of Artificial Intelligence on publishing](#)

Catherine Etienne, Senior Associate at Frontier Economics, writes about her experience researching and writing the People Plus Machines: The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Publishing report.

[Interview: The Future of the Library and the Information Professional](#)

Wiley has recently interviewed Jason Griffey, Director of Strategic Initiatives at the National Information Standards Organization (NISO), to share his thoughts on the future of the library and the information professional.

[IOP Publishing launches first-of-its-kind peer review certification programme](#)

STM Publishing News reports IOP Publishing is revolutionising peer review learning with the launch of the world's first peer review certification programme dedicated to the physical sciences.

International publishing

[India pushes bold 'one nation, one subscription' journal-access plan](#)

This Nature news article reports on how the Indian government is pushing a bold proposal that would make scholarly literature accessible for free to everyone in the country.

[Censored: Australian scientists say suppression of environment research is getting worse](#)

Environmental scientists in Australia say that they are under increasing pressure from their employers to downplay research findings or avoid communicating them at all, according to Nature News.

[Major US funder joins Plan S with 2022 open access deadline](#)

Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the biggest private US funder of biomedical research, seeks to push the adoption of European-led standard, says Times Higher Education.

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