

The Royal Society of Biology

## Research Communications Newsletter

*A collection of online information and opinion pieces.*

July 2021

**Dear readers, the newsletter team will be taking a summer break before returning with the next edition in September 2021. In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your readership.**

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

#### [Editor-in-Chief for Emerging Topics in Life Sciences vacancy](#)

The Royal Society of Biology and the Biochemical Society are looking for an Editor-in-Chief for their [Emerging Topics in Life Sciences](#) journal, published by Portland Press. If you would like any additional information about the journal or would like to discuss this opportunity informally, please contact [Emma Pettengale](#), Managing Editor.

**Closes: 4 August 2021**

#### [Research Communications Newsletter survey](#)

Dear readers, the RSB continues to publish this free monthly newsletter with a roundup of online publication policy and research communication news, debate, meetings and events. The newsletter was created to meet the needs of our community, and we hope it is still a useful resource. By completing this feedback survey, you can help us to understand its current value and improve this service.

**Closes: 31 August 2021 (extended deadline)**

#### [COVID-19 Bulletin](#)

For further detail on COVID-19 research, news and updates, RSB produces a bimensal bulletin collating some of the bioscience behind the outbreak and response. The latest edition, published on 14th July 2021, includes updates on: the SARS-CoV-2 genome, biomarkers for severe COVID-19, COVID-19 and the brain, the Delta variant, hopes of a blood test for long-COVID, potential new antiviral treatments, and COVID-19 vaccines distribution. We also cover insights on the impact of COVID-19 on mental health, mentoring tips, and reasons to hope that a more sustainable world is possible. See [our webpages](#) to read previous editions and subscribe to the next.

### Spotlight on open access debate

#### [Microbiology Society: Increasing transparency and openness](#)

The Microbiology Society has announced three new initiatives that provide article-level metrics of all open access articles published by the Society's six journals, reports STM Publishing News.

### [UKRI accepts open access monographs must be ‘fully funded’](#)

The UK’s main public research funder accepts that it will have to ‘fund fully’ the cost of making monographs open access, reports Times Higher Education.

### [Opinion: Navigating the barbed wire of publisher access barriers](#)

This blog post moderated by the cOAlition S office uncovers some serious problems with accessibility, and the challenges encountered when trying to read an article potentially of interest to people involved in the Open Research space.

### [Opinion: Open and Faster Scholarly Communication in a Post-COVID World](#)

Writing for The Scholarly Kitchen, Liz Bal, Director of Open Research Services at Jisc, talks of how the pandemic presented an urgency for effective science to inform decision-making. While the research community responded with an extraordinary level of openness, speed, and collaboration, it has also brought to the fore some of the key challenges we still face in the transition to open research – and the opportunities they represent.

## Publication policy and debate

### [When is ‘self-plagiarism’ OK? New guidelines offer researchers rules for recycling text](#)

An article written for AAAS Science covers how the Recycling Research Project released guidance for editors and authors, describing when the practice is both ethical and legal, and how to present reused text transparently.

### [Taylor & Francis strengthens its partnership with the Research Data Alliance \(RDA\)](#)

Taylor & Francis has joined the Research Data Alliance as an organisational member, strengthening ties with a leading data organisation that is focused on facilitating data reuse and open data sharing, says STM Publishing News.

### [Opinion: Preprints Are Not Going to Replace Journals](#)

At a recent meeting, a debate was held on the motion: preprints are going to replace journals. Haseeb Irfanullah, a biologist-turned-development practitioner, was asked to oppose the motion, and this post is based on summarised arguments.

### [Opinion: Why Publishers Should Care About Persistent Identifiers](#)

This post is the first of two in which The Scholarly Kitchen looks at the state of persistent identifiers and what they mean for publishers.

### [New Simba Report – Scientific & Technical Publishing Grew During Pandemic](#)

STM Publishing News covers how the number of articles published with funding from 33 key research organisations tracked by Simba Information grew 10.7% to 525,042 articles in 2020, according to information in the Crossref database.

## International publishing

### [Jisc negotiates transformative agreement with the National Academy of Sciences \(NAS\)](#)

The Jisc consortium, which consists of 156 UK universities, is the first national consortium to strike a transformational deal with the NAS, says STM Publishing News.

### [Trends, Challenges, and Needs of Research in the Global South: Learnings as Research4Life Turns 20](#)

Every five years, Research4Life commissions in-depth reviews of its work to understand how the work of the partnership is experienced from the users’ as well as the partners’ perspectives. Domiziana Francescon, Co-Chair of the Communications team of Research4Life and Elsevier Foundation Partnerships Manager, discusses the latest findings.

## [Researchers from low-income countries to benefit from APC-free OA publishing in all IOP Publishing journals](#)

The move is part of the society publisher's commitment to increase global equity and inclusion in publishing, reports the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers.

## Metrics

### [Journal impact factor gets a sibling that adjusts for scientific field](#)

Clarivate Analytics' new Journal Citation Indicator (JCI) accounts for the substantially different rates of publication and citation in different fields. However, the move is drawing little praise from the critics, who say the new metric remains vulnerable to misunderstanding and misuse, says AAAS Science.

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