

The Royal Society of Biology

Research Communications Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

February 2023

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Royal Society of Biology News

[Biology Week will be 16th – 20th October 2023](#)

Our next Biology Week will be 16th – 20th October 2023. Take part and help us celebrate the biosciences! If you want to start planning for Biology Week 2023 please check out our website to find out more, including an online guide for hints, tips and inspiration. More details will be released over the coming months in the lead up to the week itself.

Ideas wanted from MRSB and FRSB members

Are you a research active MRSB or FRSB member of the Royal Society of Biology, working in any bioscience research specialism, in any research setting? If so, we are looking for your ideas for a mass participation project featuring or generating research data that could be published. We want ideas to get various public audiences involved and engaging with real bioscience research. So if you answered yes to the questions above and you want a lot of people to take part in your research to generate big data, to highlight your research to a wider audience, and to make participating in bioscience research fun for the people who take part, please email [Amanda Hardy](#) to share your ideas.

Top story

[Applied Microbiology International launches a new open access journal: Sustainable Microbiology](#)

Led by Editor-in-Chief David A. Pearce, Professor of Environmental Microbiology at Northumbria University, Sustainable Microbiology welcomes submissions from scientists, policy makers and practitioners who show how microbiology can contribute towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The journal will showcase the role of microbes in achieving a sustainable future.

Spotlight on open access

[Cambridge University Press Aims for Full Open Access by 2025](#)

Cambridge University Press has announced that it passed the halfway point in publishing research articles open access in 2022, reports Publishing Perspectives. Some 10,000 articles are now “fully open,” and the Press has a goal of seeing “the vast majority of its research papers published fully open access by 2025.”

[Developing a globally fair pricing model for Open Access academic publishing](#)

cOAlition S has announced that it is seeking a consultant to explore how a globally fair pricing system

for academic publishing could be devised and implemented. The objective of the study is to explore the current pricing and distribution of costs of academic publishing, as well as alternative pricing models which are both fair and transparent, and which enable global participation.

Publication policy and debate

[Support for grant applications will make research more equitable](#)

The British Academy has introduced a new £100,000 fund to provide additional support to researchers applying for grants, writes Simon Swain, vice-president for research and higher education policy at the British Academy, in Research Professional news. The fund is open to both existing award holders and to potential applicants, with the aim of making the Academy's research funding inclusive to the broadest possible pool of eligible researchers.

[Enabling Trustable, Transparent, and Efficient Submission and Review in an Era of Digital Transformation](#)

Scholarly Kitchen looks at the submission and peer review stages of the publishing process, explains how digital transformation happens, and explores how intelligent services can enable trustable, transparent, and efficient submission and peer review.

[Springer Nature Acquires TooWrite for its Writing Researchers](#)

The 'research solutions' division of Springer Nature has acquired the TooWrite platform, still in development, for research writers, reports Publishing Perspectives. The platform was developed by researchers and, according to Springer Nature, "streamlines and simplifies scientific writing by guiding researchers through the process as if they were answering a questionnaire."

International publishing

[Commission confirms plans for Horizon Europe office in Kyiv](#)

According to Research Professional News, the European Commission has confirmed it intends to open a new office in Kyiv to coordinate Ukrainian participation in the EU's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme. Having first set out the aim last year, on 2nd February the Commission announced plans to open the office by the middle of 2023.

[Eurodoc Launches its "Women in Research" Campaign](#)

Eurodoc has launched its new campaign to recognise the importance and variety of female researchers. This campaign shares the stories of female scientists, in order to showcase how each one contributes in a significant way to research through their professional work and with their activism as advocates for better research. The campaign will run from the 11th of February, the International Day of Girls and Women in Science, to the 8th of March, International Women's Day.

[ALPSP Announces Support for Ukrainian-based Scholarly Publishers](#)

The Association of Learned and Professional Scholarly Publishers has announced that it is offering free membership for one year to Ukrainian-based scholarly publishers, to provide support during very difficult times for the country. This will include the opportunity to access all member benefits, such as training and capacity-building resources.

Publication ethics

[New instructional video series aims to help journal editors recognize image manipulation](#)

The STM Association reports that its Working Group on Image Alteration and Duplication Detection has launched the first in a series of instructional video modules to help scholarly journal editors screen for manipulated images in submitted manuscripts. This first module provides an overview of the most commonly found image aberrations in scientific publications, and illustrates how they may be detected and verified.

[UK Committee on Research Integrity announces strategy](#)

The UK Committee on Research Integrity has announced the publication of its 2023 to 2025 strategic plan, outlining the committee's mission, vision, and approach to promoting research integrity across the UK.

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