

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

15 November 2018

News

Health and biomedicine

[Four pioneering ways to stop superbugs](#)

From India to Latin America, efforts are being made to reduce the rise and spread of antibiotic-resistant superbugs.

[Prevention is better than cure, say MSPs](#)

There is a lack of public health policies designed to prevent illness according to MSPs on the Health and Sport Committee.

[Expert consultation accelerates advances in nutrition science](#)

Wellcome and the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted an expert meeting in October 2018 that brought together leading scientists and promising early-career researchers to invigorate nutrition science.

[From deep-sea sponges to dragonfly wings: Superbug research from unexpected places](#)

From the Atlantic Ocean to our own backyards, our researchers have been hunting high and low for inspiration to help better understand and tackle superbugs.

[Two-pronged device enables maverick immune cells to identify and kill cancers](#)

Immune cells called Gamma Delta T cells can act independently to identify and kill cancer cells, defying the conventional view of the immune system, reveals new research published in Nature Immunology.

Agriculture and fishery

[Review of government's bovine TB strategy published](#)

A review of the government's 25 Year Bovine TB Strategy has been published.

[Badger culling has 'modest' effect in cutting cattle TB](#)

[Badger cull: Vets accuse ministers of 'barefaced lies'](#)

[Farming and small business sectors give evidence to Committee](#)

The Select Committee on the Rural Economy questions witnesses on farming, food and small business growth in the rural economy and asks whether they are getting the support they need from central government.

[European Court of Auditors criticise plans to reform CAP](#)

On Wednesday (7 November) the EU's auditors expressed clear criticism of the plans to reform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). They said that the Commission's proposals did not meet the demand for a "more environmentally-friendly and more strongly performance-based" approach. EURACTIV Germany reports.

Forestry

[Keynote address welcoming participants to the UK and to the Global Forest Governance Forum](#)

A transcript of a speech delivered by Minister Thérèse Coffey at the Chatham House Forest Governance Forum.

Environment and ecology

[Next generation 'may never see the glory of coral reefs'](#)

Undersea forests, bleached and killed by rising ocean temperature, might disappear in a few decades, experts warn.

[EU moves to protect large carnivores](#)

[Beavers to return to Essex for the first time in 400 years](#)

A pair of beavers will be heading to a new home in North Essex as part of a pioneering natural flood management scheme for East Anglia.

Water and air

[UK government's air pollution strategy 'a shambolic mess'](#)

Environmental lawyers say reliance on local authorities to take action is not working.

Climate and energy

[Electricity and biofuels needed in tandem to meet climate goals, UN report says](#)

Some first generation biofuels like palm oil diesel gave bioenergy a bad name but recent scientific reports have confirmed that policymakers must take into account all the available options in the transport sector to win the climate change battle.

Waste

[Retailers to pay up to £1bn for recycling under waste strategy](#)

Exclusive: ministers seeking to make firms pay more towards recycling their own waste.

Government and Parliament

[Diversity of the teaching workforce: statement of intent](#)

A statement setting out the Department for Education's commitment to increasing the diversity of the teaching workforce.

Exiting the EU

[Drug firms fear 'wasting' money for a Brexit no-deal outcome](#)

[Brexit: chemical regulation report published by Committee](#)

The EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee publishes its report on chemical regulations after Brexit.

[UK advantage requires good deal for science](#)

With crunch time rapidly approaching on securing a deal in the Brexit negotiations, CaSE Executive Director Dr Sarah Main sets out why the UK's long-term competitive edge requires a good deal for science with the EU.

Research funding and higher education policy

[Wales secures €100m of competitive EU research and innovation funding](#)

Finance Secretary Mark Drakeford today announced Wales has secured more than €100m to support major research and development projects from a flagship EU fund.

[Europe's researchers benefit from reduced bureaucracy](#)

The European Union's main research-funding programme has successfully cut down on red tape for grant applicants — but there is room for improvement.

[Concern over funding for degree apprenticeships](#)

The independent body that oversees degree apprenticeships has issued a warning over funding for the fledgling qualification, amid rumours of a cut in tuition fees that could have consequences for apprenticeship providers.

[Excellence vs cohesion in Horizon Europe](#)

Radical proposals for shifting the focus of the EU's next flagship R&D programme have divided both politicians negotiating the legislation and observers watching nervously from the sidelines.

Open access and publication policy

[Societies split on Plan S](#)

Two of the world's foremost scientific societies are divided over the open-access initiative Plan S, amid concern that it may cut access to society journals for some researchers.

[Scientists struggle with confusing journal guidelines](#)

Global survey finds that unclear publishing policies place an additional burden on many scientists who don't speak English as a first language.

Diversity and inclusion

[Diversity Conference 2018: Achieving diverse leadership in a research environment](#)

International news

[UKRI China launch continues Walport's global push](#)

Britain's attempts to increase international research links have continued with the opening of an office for UK Research and Innovation in China.

[Australian scientists call for 'feral horse' culls in alpine national park](#)

Researchers say the animals cause environmental damage.

Opinion

[Why I became a mental-health first-aider at my research institute](#)

Research group leaders should learn how to recognize if colleagues are experiencing problems at work, says James Turner.

People

[NERC Impact Awards 2018: 4,000 tonnes of microbeads no longer released into ocean](#)

Leading British microplastics researcher Professor Tamara Galloway has been shortlisted for a NERC Impact Award to honour the substantial benefit her work has provided for society.

[Marian Spain appointed interim Chief Executive of Natural England as James Cross steps down](#)

James Cross is to step down as Natural England's Chief Executive today [9 November] after four years.

Opportunities

[Agri-tech Catalyst round 7: agriculture and food systems innovation](#)

UK businesses and research organisations can apply for a share of up to £3 million from DFID for projects with partners in eligible African countries.

Closes 21 November 2018.

[2018 Parliamentary Shadowing scheme in Scotland open for applications](#)

Apply now for an opportunity to spend two days in the Scottish Parliament.

Applicants must be members of the British Ecological Society

Closes 26 November 2018.

[Outreach and Engagement Grants](#)

The grants allow individual members of the RSB, around the world, to apply directly for funding to help run an event or activity in their region.

Closes 15 December.

[School Biology Teacher of the Year Award](#)

Are you (or do you know) an amazing biology teacher? The Royal Society of Biology's School Biology Teacher of the Year Award aims to recognise outstanding and inspirational biology teachers. Visit the Society's website for further details.

Nominations for the 2019 award close on **21 December 2018**.

[HE Bioscience Technician of the Year 2019 open for nominations](#)

The Higher Education Bioscience Technician of the Year Award has launched again for 2019. The award recognises dedicated technical staff who are carrying out superb work underpinning research and teaching at all levels in universities across the UK and Ireland. The award is open to all technical staff, at any stage in their career, employed in a teaching, research or management role in the HE bioscience sector.

Closes 11 January 2019.

[Royal Society of Biology travel grants](#)

Student and early-career members of the Royal Society of Biology can now apply for a travel grant of £500 to support future overseas travel to attend a biology-related project or conference. Learn new lab and field techniques, gain professional development skills, and network with international academics with the support of a travel grant. Please visit the Society's [website](#) for further information and to read reports from [previous grant recipients](#). The deadline for applications is **1 March 2019**.

Consultations

[Public asked for views on banning energy drink sales to children](#)

The consultation is part of the government's plan to reduce childhood obesity and other health problems in children.

Closes 21 November 2018.

[Single use plastic: banning the distribution and/or sale of plastic straws, stirrers and plastic-stemmed cotton buds in England](#)

Closes 3 December 2018.

[Calorie labelling for food and drink served outside of the home](#)

Closes 7 December 2018.

[Marine licensing: proposed changes to exemptions](#)

Closes 14 December 2018.

[Public to have say on new National Parks](#)

A call for evidence is inviting views from the public on the future of our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Closes 18 December 2018.

[Evaluation of the legislation on medicines for children and rare diseases \(medicines for special populations\)](#)

Closes 4 January 2019.

[Shortage occupation list 2018: call for evidence](#)

Closes 6 January 2019.

[Committee calls for ideas from the public](#)

The Science and Technology Committee has decided again to create an open opportunity for the science community and the wider public to suggest science and technology areas for scrutiny.

Closes 8 January 2019.

Events

[The 2nd NanoLSI Symposium in London](#)

19 November, London

Nano Life Science Institute of Kanazawa University, Japan, holds the 2nd Symposium in London to enhance collaborative relationships with researchers around the UK.

Annual Animal Science Meeting

The Royal Society of Biology [Animal Science Group](#) and the Home Office [Animal Science Regulation Unit](#) annual animal science meeting is in December. This meeting is aimed at active researchers, support staff and administrators in animal research.

See details of past meetings on the [RSB website](#) and to apply please email Ellie Oakley at events@rsb.org.uk

[Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference 2019: An ABC for everyone involved in developing new antimicrobials.](#)

15 January 2019, London.

And finally...

[How the Jumping Spider Sees Its Prey](#)

Researchers looked deep into the eyes of a predatory spider to learn what it was looking at.

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