

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

**24 January 2020**

This newsletter provides links to published news articles, preserving the original title and summary line. Views or opinions presented are those of the original author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Royal Society of Biology.

### News

#### Top stories

##### [Agriculture Bill to boost environment and food production](#)

Landmark legislation to boost productivity and reward environmental improvements in the farming sector for decades to come.

Among other [RSB Consultation responses](#), you can read the RSB response to the 'Health and Harmony' consultation on the future for food, farming and the environment issued by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [here](#).

#### Health and biomedicine

##### [W.H.O. Warns That Pipeline for New Antibiotics Is Running Dry](#)

In two new reports, the global health agency says only government intervention can fix the broken market for new antimicrobial drugs.

##### [Cancer treatment: study finds targeting nearby 'normal' cells could improve survival rates](#)

##### [Fight against antibiotic crisis stymied by lack of R&D spend](#)

##### [Tooth decay in children – is it time to put the needle and drill away?](#)

##### [UK Government tackles heart disease with new partnership](#)

The UK Government has announced its intent to pursue an innovative new collaboration to tackle heart disease with pharmaceutical company Novartis

## Food and drink

### [The Global Food Security programme: Ground-breaking research programme to improve health through better diet](#)

#### [Almost one in four food products launched in UK in 2019 labelled vegan](#)

In past two years, proportion of Britons who have eaten meat substitutes has risen to 65%

## Agriculture and fisheries

### [UK Research and Innovation \(UKRI\) is proud to support the United Nations International Year of Plant Health](#)

#### [Agriculture Bill: here's what it means for farming and the environment after Brexit](#)

#### [Agriculture Bill: Soil at heart of UK farm grant revolution](#)

#### [Two billion and rising: the global trade in live animals in eight charts](#)

The world's seas and roads are awash with farm animals, with almost two billion pigs, cattle, sheep and chickens trucked or shipped as exports in 2017

#### [EU will protect fishing communities in post-Brexit talks](#)

UK also must maintain higher labour and environmental standards, EU tells diplomats

## Forestry

#### [Ash dieback project launches International Year of Plant Health](#)

The Ash Archive initiative is a major step towards maintaining and restoring ash in the British landscape.

## Environment and ecology

#### [Biodiversity loss: what is causing it and why is it a concern?](#)

Plant and animal species are disappearing at an ever faster rate due to human activity. What are the causes and why does biodiversity matter?

#### [New protections for thousands of seabirds](#)

Environment Minister, Rebecca Pow, announces new protections for the breeding and foraging grounds of rare and vulnerable seabirds.

#### [HS2 will destroy or damage hundreds of UK wildlife sites, says report](#)

Survey reveals internationally protected natural habitats are among the areas at risk

#### [The five: changes in animal behaviour due to global heating](#)

Species around the world are being forced to alter their diet, migratory patterns, feeding grounds and more

#### [Bushfires: can ecosystems recover from such dramatic losses of biodiversity?](#)

[Bird species are facing extinction hundreds of times faster than previously thought](#)

## Water and air

[Scottish tests of 'whale-friendly' fishing creels](#)

[Time to step up and save our ocean](#)

In the 'super year' for the ocean, Environment Minister Rebecca Pow issues urgent call for global action to halt damage to marine habitats.

## Climate and energy

[Climate change: The challenges facing London](#)

[Climate crisis 'affecting quality of life and fuelling discontent'](#)

[Is Scotland leading the way on climate change?](#)

[Burning Planet: Climate Fires and Political Flame Wars Rage](#)

[Microsoft makes 'carbon negative' pledge](#)

[Mark Carney to drive finance action for UK climate talks](#)

Mark Carney to have key role in UN climate change conference.

## Government and Parliament

[Parliament and policy-making: the importance of collaborative work between scientists and policy makers.](#)

Lucy Quinn, spent two days in the Scottish Parliament shadowing the Cabinet Secretary, Roseanna Cunningham MSP and the Minister Mairi Gougeon MSP. Find out how she got on.....

## Exiting the EU

[PM says UK 'will continue to participate' in Erasmus](#)

'No threat' to UK involvement in European Union's student mobility programme, Boris Johnson tells MPs

[Immigration system will 'put people before passports' – PM](#)

Among other [RSB Consultation responses](#), you can read the RSB response to the Science and Technology Committee of the Commons' inquiry on an immigration system that works for science and innovation [here](#).

## Research funding and higher education policy

### [Rise in firsts awarded by UK universities stalls at last](#)

Figures mark end of trend that has seen the share of students gaining the top degree class double since 2009-10

### [Research England report details how the first version of the Knowledge Exchange Framework will work](#)

### [Knowledge exchange framework starts this year before funding link](#)

Participation in assessment likely to be a condition of receiving Research England funding from 2020-21

### [We need to give “special consideration” some special consideration](#)

The Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA) has published a discussion paper on requests for special consideration.

## Open access and publication policy

### [cOAlition S welcomes transparency framework and report, launches pilot](#)

### [Let Authors Choose How to Pay for Peer Review and Publication](#)

## Business and industry

### [Nature Risk Rising: Why the Crisis Engulfing Nature Matters for Business and the Economy](#)

## Outreach and engagement

### [Helen Mirren voices new plant health animation](#)

Dame Helen Mirren has helped renew efforts to keep plant disease *Xylella fastidiosa* out of the UK in 2020 – the UN’s International Year of Plant Health – narrating a new animation that warns of the devastation it causes, including the death of millions of olive trees in Europe

### [Lab Long Read: Human-centred policy? Blending ‘big data’ and ‘thick data’ in national policy](#)

## Digital technologies

### [Tech firms are winning the AI race because they understand data – other sectors need to catch up](#)

## International news

### [Belgian neurologist wins €1m prize for work on serious brain trauma](#)

Generet prize will fund more trials by Steven Laureys to help written-off ‘vegetative’ patients

### [Retractions mark 'significant moment' for Russian science](#)

Unprecedented recall of papers from Russian journals must also spark broader debate on academic culture, say research integrity scholars

## Opinion

### [Imagine a world without hunger, then make it happen with systems thinking](#)

Feeding the world involves tackling all aspects of the food system.

### [8 Takeaways from the 2019 IFSTAL Public Lecture](#)

### [Humans risk living in an empty world, warns UN biodiversity chief](#)

Ahead of the World Economic Forum, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema urges governments to take definitive action on climate, deforestation and pollution

### [Paris taught me how to do what is necessary to combat climate change](#)

To the world leaders mustering in Davos: set your minds to reaching net-zero emissions, and you can forge the future we need.

### [Wicked problems: are we doing too much research?](#)

Are we doing too much research?

## People

### [Interview with Muzlifah Haniffa](#)

The Foulkes Foundation Medal-winning immunologist on open science, adjusting to the UK climate and why women scientists still face bias

## Committee vacancies

### [Membership and Professional Affairs Committee members](#)

Members of the RSB and our Member Organisations are invited to apply for up to three vacant positions, and we are looking for a range of expertise including: member retention strategies, member engagement strategies, professional development expertise including technical pathways, online training and blended learning models, regional activity and business development expertise. We would particularly welcome members who work, or have expertise, in supporting technical professionals, are currently involved in the work of our branches and members in the early stages of their career or returning to work after a period of leave. To apply please submit your CV and a short (1 page) cover letter by the deadline.

**Closes: 12 February 2020**

## Opportunities

### [Speak Up for Food Security 2020: Apply now!](#)

**Closes: 26 January 2020**

### [Call for nominations for the Queen's New Year Honours 2021](#)

**Closes: 6 February 2020**

### [The Food Standards Agency Scientific Advisory Committees and Science Council vacancies](#)

**Closes: 10 February 2020**

### [RSB Anniversary Fundraising Raffle](#)

Be in with the chance of winning a fantastic prize whilst supporting the global biosciences community. All proceeds will go towards funding the RSB's charitable work and a full list of the exciting prizes can be found at [rsb.org.uk/raffle](http://rsb.org.uk/raffle).

**Closes: 25 February 2020**

### [Helping farmers to work more efficiently: apply for funding](#)

**Closes: 26 February 2020**

### [RSB Big Biology Day Grant 2020](#)

Are you interested in hosting a one-day science outreach festival to share your passion for biology and the natural world? Apply for the Royal Society of Biology's [Big Biology Day Grant 2020](#) and get up to £500 to host your own Big Biology Day!

**Closes: 28 February 2020**

### [Biology Challenge 2020](#)

The [Biology Challenge 2020](#) (10 - 31 March) for students aged 13 - 15 is now open for registration. The competition stimulates students' curiosity for the natural world and encourages them to take an interest in biology outside of school. High scoring students will receive certificates and be invited to an awards ceremony in London.

Please contact [Raghav Selvam](#) with any enquiries

**Closes: 28 February 2020**

### [RSB Big Biology Day grant scheme 2020](#)

The Royal Society of Biology's Big Biology Day grant scheme 2020 is now open for applications. The grant is an opportunity to share your passion for biology and the natural world, regardless of scientific background. Engage the general public with an array of hands-on activities, crafts and displays. During our anniversary year, and on through to the end of 2020, we are offering grants of up to £500 each for you to run your own Big Biology Day in your local area.

**Closes: 28 February 2020**

### [£500 student & early-career member 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 in connection with biological study, teaching or research.

**Closes: 1 March 2020**

### [Developing sustainable plastic packaging: apply for funding](#)

**Closes: 1 April 2020**

### [Learned Society Curation Awards](#)

**Closes: 20 April 2020**

## Consultations

### [Developing Global Standards for Governance and Oversight of Human Genome Editing](#)

The WHO Expert Advisory Committee on Developing Global Standards for Governance and Oversight of Human Genome Editing was set up to examine the scientific, ethical, social and legal challenges associated with human genome editing (both somatic and germ cell). The Committee is in the process of developing [a governance framework](#). In an effort to understand and include a wider set of views, the Committee is consulting on features that should be included in this framework, and governance-related issues. The RSB is considering submitting a response to this consultation and is seeking expert contributions. For the consultation questionnaire and if you would like to know more about how to contribute, please contact [consultation@rsb.org.uk](mailto:consultation@rsb.org.uk). Internal deadline for contributions is Tuesday 28 January 2020.

**Closes: 7 February 2020**

**[Guidance for research organisations on how to implement the principles of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#)**

**Closes: 24 February 2020**

## Events

**[Celebrating sport and exercise science education to promote lifelong health and the Welsh economy](#)**

**28 January 2020**

National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff

**[Athena Forum Prizes and Awards workshop](#)**

**31 March 2020**

Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne

## And finally...

**[Stray dogs have the natural ability to understand human gestures](#)**

The research could lead to a more peaceful co-existence between free-roaming canines—which number hundreds of millions worldwide—and people.

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