

The Royal Society of Biology Research Communication Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

November 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

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 23rd of November 2020, includes updates on vaccine development and immunological memory, lessons learned from coronavirus vaccines in veterinary medicine, SARS-CoV-2 infection in mink, EU Recovery and Resilience, data visualisation, at risk groups, switching research funding, researching long-term COVID-19 effects, business investment for recovery, digital environmental solutions, and wellbeing. 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

Nature journals announce first open-access agreement

This Nature news article reports the publisher of Nature has agreed its first deal to allow some researchers to publish in the journal, and in 33 other Nature-branded titles, under open-access (OA) terms.

[Ask the Community \(and Chefs\): How Can We Achieve Equitable Participation in Open Research?](#)

This article featured in the Scholarly Kitchen covers a range of opinions on how to improve equity in research.

[Sci-Hub 'security risk' claims irk open access advocates](#)

Publishers warn that the pirate repository carries security risks, but critics say the threat is over-hyped to justify greater surveillance of researchers, reports Times Higher Education.

[New roadmap lays out path for OpenDOAR as an international, community-driven repository directory](#)

The Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR), and Jisc's OpenDOAR service which is a global directory of academic open access repositories, released a joint roadmap for the further development for OpenDOAR as an international, community-driven repository directory.

[Free collection of coronavirus research sees 1.7 million downloads](#)

A free, online collection of coronavirus research from Cambridge University Press has proved hugely popular, with around 1.7 million articles downloaded in the eight months to September, reports STM Publishing.

[Open access 'top performers' in Africa and Latin America](#)

Multi-source analysis of global open-access practices throws up surprises, with Europe and the US lagging behind, reports Times Higher Education.

Publication policy and debate

[UK universities sign deal to waive Plos publication fees](#)

A three-year deal will allow researchers to publish papers without paying additional article-processing charges, reports Times Higher Education.

[Video is here. Time to embrace it.](#)

This Scholarly Kitchen post was written by Violaine Iglesias, CEO & co-founder of Cadmore Media, the first video hosting platform dedicated to scholarly information. Cadmore's vision is to provide the best on-demand streaming technology and service to scholarly and professional organisations so they can publish media content.

[Wiley, CACTUS and STM partner with Kudos to study effect of COVID-19 on research funding and publishing](#)

Kudos, the award-winning service for broadening research impact, has provided an update on sponsors for its Brave New World research project, which will provide publishers, societies and providers of related services with vital insights to shape strategies for 2021 and beyond.

[Parallel Peer Review at Cell Press: An Interview with Deborah Sweet](#)

Deborah Sweet, Vice President of Editorial at Cell Press, provides an overview of a new initiative called Community Review. The initiative is aiming to challenge the core inefficiency of the current peer review system.

[Why we need more BAME representation in academic libraries](#)

Times Higher Education speaks to Regina Everitt, one of the very few BAME directors of a university library in the UK, stating greater diversity is needed within higher education's libraries.

[Scientists, Publishers Debate Paychecks for Peer Reviewers](#)

While some academics have called for compensation for assessing other scientists' work, arguably some publishers haven't warmed to the idea, reports The Scientist.

International publishing

[Eva Hnatkova, Czech Republic: Access to scientific knowledge allows making informed decisions](#)

Dr. Eva Hnatkova, Open Science Ambassador for Czech Republic and former President of Eurodoc, provides her opinion - addressing challenges and the importance of supporting open science in the Czech Republic.

Publication ethics

[Quarter of citations in top journals 'wrong or misleading'](#)

Forensic analysis of citations within leading scientific periodicals reveals alarming lack of rigour in academic referencing, says Times Higher Education.

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