

The Royal Society of Biology Research Communications Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

May 2024

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

[RSB election manifesto](#)

With the general election date set for Thursday 4th July, we call on the next UK Government to invest in biosciences for a sustainable and prosperous future, and promote STEM teaching, learning and expertise in schools, colleges, universities, training and government. Read our full election manifesto [here](#).

RSB Outreach and Engagement Grant Scheme 2024 will open to applications on 4th June

The RSB Outreach and Engagement Grant Scheme will open to applications from RSB members wanting to create local community, schools and/or families engagement events, activities or resources to be run between 7th October 2024 and 30th May 2025; including during [Biology Week](#), which will take place from **7th - 11th October 2024**. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individual [members of the Royal Society of Biology](#) to run an event or activity in their region (anywhere in the world). Please see further details and a link to the application process [online](#) from 4th June until the application deadline **1st July 2024**. For enquiries, please email [Dr Amanda Hardy](#).

RSB Technical Skills courses 2024

Learn new skills and refine your laboratory techniques with the Royal Society of Biology's laboratory-based courses. These include courses in [Aseptic Techniques](#) on **19th June**, [Microscopy and Bioimaging](#), [Tissue Culture](#), and [DNA Analysis](#). These courses contribute to the [Technical Skills Certificate](#), which was developed to support training and development of technical staff, and addresses key competencies for professional registration ([Registered Science Technician](#)). The face to face element also provides an excellent networking opportunity. Visit [our training events webpage](#) for full details and to book your place on these courses.

Spotlight on Open Access

[Research Excellence Framework 2029 open access consultation](#)

The four UK higher education funding bodies are opening a consultation concerning the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2029 Open Access Policy. The proposed policy aims to embed progress in the sector for open access submission for journal publications. It also introduces an open access requirement for longform publications. They invite responses from any organisation, group or individual with an interest in research or scholarly publishing.

Closes: 17 June 2024, midday

Publication policy and debate

[Research sector sets out policy wish list as Sunak calls election](#)

Long-term funding and an immigration system that attracts top talent are among R&D leaders' requests, reports Research Professional News.

[Opinion: Publishing is more vital and relevant than ever](#)

In his introduction to its 2023 Annual Report, Dan Conway, CEO of the Publishers Association, reflects on publishing's role in society and the Publishers Association's priorities.

[Pay researchers to spot errors in published papers](#)

Borrowing the idea of 'bug bounties' from the technology industry could provide a systematic way to detect and correct the errors that litter the scientific literature, writes the University of Bern's Malte Elson in Nature.

International publishing

[Funding spotlight: €213M Horizon Europe partnership call for bio-based innovation](#)

Horizon Europe's Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU) has recently opened its big call for proposals for the year, with €213 million to be distributed to innovation, research and support projects across 18 topics. It's a chance for those working on bio-based innovations to get their ideas to the next level, edging towards demonstrator projects and closer to the market, writes Science Business.

[Harassment of scientists is surging — institutions aren't sure how to help](#)

As researchers increasingly face many kinds of attack over their work, there is debate about how to support and protect them, says Nature.

[Budapest and Berlin: Akadémiai Kiadó in Partnership With ResearchGate](#)

Germany's ResearchGate and its 'Journal Home' platform have announced a partnership with the Hungarian scientific publisher Akadémiai Kiadó, according to Publishing Perspectives.

And finally...

[Royal Society International Exchanges](#)

International Exchanges grants from the Royal Society provide support for scientists based in the UK to stimulate new research collaborations with leading scientists overseas. Grants can cover either a one-off short visit to explore opportunities for building lasting networks or bilateral visits to strengthen emerging collaborations. More information can be found [here](#).

Closes: 5 June 2024

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