eLife’s mission and the PRC model

Ailís O’Carroll, Ph.D
eLife Community Manager
Email: a.ocarroll@elifesciences.org
Who are eLife?

2012 - 2022 - Accelerate discovery, operating a platform for research communication that encourages & recognises the most responsible behaviours

“Reform research communication”
20th century, after WW II – external peer review becomes standard practice across science and medical journals

Both JAMA and Nature were founded in the 19th century, but it was only in the second half of the 20th century that they started using outside referees.

20th century to today – big publishing houses own many of the society journals and generate high revenues from publishing

Global market share of journal articles by leading publishers, 2013 (%). Source: Financial Times. In 2020, big five publishers owned more than 50 % of the publishing market.

Monthly submissions, overall

Red line: bioRxiv / Blue line: medRxiv

Source: rXvist (https://rxivist.org/stats), 6 May 2022
Standard process in most journals (in theory)
What we're doing at eLife

Submit to eLife ➔ Initial submission ➔ Full submission ➔ Upload to preprint server ➔ Consultative peer review ➔ Public Reviews posted to preprint server (authors can provide responses) ➔ Revise and publish with eLife ➔ Option to transfer to another journal (after publication) ➔ Rejection without review
**Outcome**

- **Peer-reviewed preprint**
- **Evaluation Summary** – can be used for grant and job applications
- **Public Reviews** are posted alongside the preprint, along with a response from the authors if they choose to produce one

*eLife decision and recommendations for authors*

Authors of rejected papers, or those who decline to proceed with a revision, control when public reviews are posted, for example until their work has been accepted for publication in another journal.
For this new system to work, we need the community to get involved.
Sciety is an application built to help researchers discover what their peers are reading, easily access expert opinions on scientific outputs through community organisation of articles.

- Quickly find relevant content and spend more time reading what you care about.
- Curate your own individual list
- Share your group’s insights to grow your readership and keep the community informed.
- Read evaluations by selected groups of discipline experts
WHAT’S PREVIEW?

A preprint review platform, resource center, and convener. We provide ways for feedback to preprints to be done openly, rapidly, constructively, and by a global community of peers.

OUR MISSION

To bring equity and openness to scholarly peer review by supporting and empowering communities of researchers, particularly those at early stages of their career (ECRs) and historically excluded, to review preprints in a process that is rewarding to them.
EMPOWERING ALL RESEARCHERS TO ENGAGE IN PEER REVIEW

Increase diversity and bring equity to peer review by training the next generation of socially-conscious reviewers.

Support collaborative preprint review and incentivize participation by building open infrastructure and collaborative features.

Encourage collaborative and global discussions of preprints through live-streamed preprint journal clubs.
OPEN REVIEWERS

A cohort-based training and mentoring program to train the next generation of socially-conscious peer reviewers.

- We pair ECRs with more experienced reviewers and journal editors who provide mentorship and constructive feedback to writing manuscript reviews.
- We intentionally integrate an educational focus on the intersection between colonialism and science into the curriculum.
- We help bring more racial diversity to the peer reviewer pool.
- We build a database of trained reviewers that journal editors can easily access when selecting reviewers.
How can you get involved?

- **Submit your research** to eLife and post a preprint at the same time – eLife can help with this process

- Apply to **join eLife's pool of early-career reviewers** and get experience with peer review, **PREreview** Open Reviewers training

- **Join Sciety**, the **Open Science Champions community, eLife Ambassadors** events and others for ECRs ([https://twitter.com/elifecommunity](https://twitter.com/elifecommunity),)

- **Post, read and share preprints** and encourage others to the same

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128 eLife Community Ambassadors
50+ countries,
44+ research disciplines,
120+ different universities, institutes, labs & research communities represented.
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