

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

# A further flavour of eLife

I am very pleased to introduce you to the second edition of “A selection of recent highlights” from eLife. Once again we have compiled a collection of articles that give a flavour of the wide range of topics published in the journal over the past year. Of course, the research papers contained herein are just the tip of an iceberg; for each paper included, we published many other excellent papers from the different areas of the life and biomedical sciences.

While the number of papers we publish every month continues to rise, other things do not change. In particular, the three basic principles on which eLife was founded – the results of scientific research should be freely available to everyone; peer review should be fair and constructive; and journals should take full advantage of the possibilities offered by digital media and platforms – remain the same.

This collection also highlights some of the magazine content that eLife publishes: this includes six Insight articles that explain why the results reported in a given eLife paper are significant (including an Insight on the two eLife papers that reported evidence for a new human species, *Homo naledi*); an essay on the need for researchers to “own their mistakes”; and a Point of View article on preprints and priority of discovery. The past year has seen growing interest in preprints in the life and biomedical sciences, and eLife now encourages authors submitting a manuscript to the journal to upload it to a preprint server.

Working scientists remain at the heart of the decision-making process at eLife. With the strong growth in submissions and publications over the past year we have welcomed a new Deputy Editor (Eve Marder), increased the number of Senior Editors to 38, and increased the membership of the Board of Reviewing Editors to over 270 (see overleaf for a full list of editors). Moreover, based on recommendations from our editors, we have established a 300-strong community of talented early-career peer reviewers.

The combination of editors and reviewers at all career stages has a number of advantages: eLife benefits from the energy and knowledge of the latest techniques that these researchers bring

to the peer-review process, while the early-career reviewers gain valuable experience of peer review in general, and the consultative approach used by eLife in particular. The eLife approach to peer review – in which the reviewers discuss their reports with each other before reaching a decision – continues to be a popular and distinctive feature of the journal.

Our early-career advisory group also provides input and feedback to ensure that eLife remains in tune with the needs and interests of researchers at or near the start of their career. Examples of activities and outputs from the past year include a series of three webinars on postdoctoral fellowships, the first two rounds of our early-career researcher travel grants, and a series of interviews with early-career researchers.

There is more to open science than making research papers open access, and in the spirit of openness we are making our new publishing platform (Continuum) available under an open-source license. And related to this, we have started to showcase new tools for communicating and using scientific information on the “Labs” page of our website.

The introduction to last year’s collection mentioned the Reproducibility Project: Cancer Biology, which is a collaborative effort to independently replicate selected results from a substantial number of high-profile papers in the field of cancer biology. We have now published 29 Registered Reports (which outline the plans for the replications) as part of this project, and we hope to start publishing Replication Studies (the results of the replication experiments) in the year ahead.

Thank you for picking up this print version of eLife. While it gives a flavour of the quality of the papers published in the journal, I would still encourage you to visit [elifesciences.org](http://elifesciences.org) to see the online version for yourself and in full.

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