

Looking back on a year of gobbledygook

Martin Fenner, Gobbledygook

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A year ago today I wrote my first blog post on Nature Network (**Open access may become mandatory for NIH-funded research**). This is blog post #84 one year later and a good time to reflect on the experience. In May of last year I started the science blog **in a nutshell**, hosted on my own server and written just for fun. I discovered Nature Network in July and started **Publish or Perish 2.0**. In November 2007 I **changed the blog name** to **Gobbledygook**.

I try to write about the paper writing process from the perspective of a researcher. I'm interested in the technical changes in paper writing thanks to Web 2.0. Open access is another important topic and the perspective of a researcher is obviously very different from a journal publisher, science library or the interested public. I am sometimes not comfortable to write about open access, as this is a very political topic and the discussion can move away from arguments and into something about doing the right thing. That's why I would never write about Evolution vs. Intelligent Design or some of the other hotly debated topics in science blogging.

The blog post that received the most comments is **My Paper Writing Dream Machine 1.0**. That was also one of my favorite blog posts as I would love to see more of the potential of Web 2.0 technologies in our paper writing tools. I also enjoyed the discussion on posters at scientific meetings (**Are posters worth the effort?**) and on blogging from conferences (**Scientific meetings need more bloggers**).

I participated in a wonderful SynchroBlogging effort on April Fools Day (organized by **Jonathan Eisen** and with "help" from the **World Anti-Brain Doping Authority**) with **What can Erythropoietin do for you?**. I think we should do more SynchroBlogging, and not just on April 1st. **Public Access Week** was another SynchroBlogging effort and I learned a lot about access to my own papers in **Public Access Week: Who could read my papers?**.

Only two blog posts are about scientific research. **Using RNAinterference to identify genes that protect from cancer** was my contribution to **Just Science 2008**. In **Mouse models of human cancer and the need for more translational research** I wrote about a presentation by Mario Capecchi at the International Genetics Conference. I would love to do more **ResearchBlogging**,

but I think that we have to wait a few more years before science blogging has attracted enough people that read and comment on specific research findings.

Thanks to this blog I have met a number of very interesting and intelligent people with similar interests (see **this blog entry** by Bora Zivkovic and **this blog entry** by Matt Brown). That's why I'm very much looking forward to the **Science Blogging 2008: London** conference at the end of this month. My goal for the next year: help to make reading and writing science blogs part of the everyday life at more universities and reseach institutions.