



**SCIENCEROOT**

**WHITEPAPER**



# "Scienceroot" Whitepaper

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## Abstract

Technology evolves faster than ever, with the pace picking up with every passing year. Unprecedented in history, we have the greatest and brightest minds driving unparalleled change. Progress isn't a trend that naturally happens on its own - it requires an ever growing number of researchers and experts. Shockingly the scientific community of today doesn't get what it deserves, constantly struggling with obtaining funding and working endless hours with little to no reimbursement. It is our stated mission objective to empower those who empower us all by establishing Scienceroot, the first scientific ecosystem to sustain a journal which rewards scientists for their efforts.





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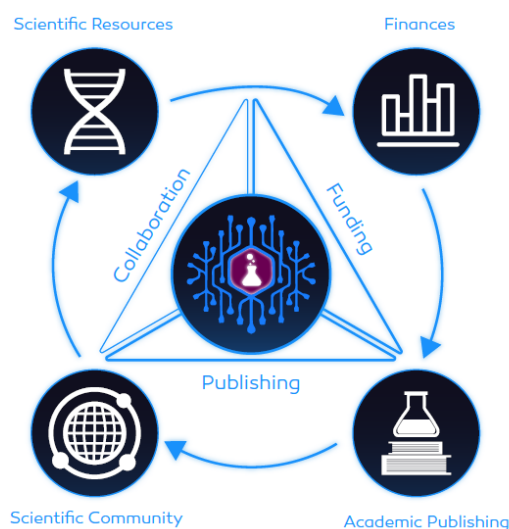
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# 1 Introduction

**Scienceroot** aims to transform the scientific and research community using blockchain technology. Our goal is to create an ecosystem where anyone in the scientific community around the globe will have the ability to gather funding, interact, discuss research ideas, collaborate and in the end, publish their work through a more efficient, intuitive and transparent platform. Our scientific ecosystem will be powered by its own unique currency called **Science Token (ST)**, which will be used to exchange funds, submit articles to our journal, access content and reward parties involved. Scienceroot will integrate all the critical functionalities needed by researchers, scientists and academics, making their day to day lives easier and allowing them to focus on maximizing their impact in the scientific world.

## 1.1 Motivation

Researchers have to publish their work in scientific journals in order to widely disseminate their results and gain recognition in the scientific world. In order to be able to come up with ground breaking research there is need for a collaboration platform to connect with peers, with whom they can discuss ideas and find solutions. Funding and a standardized job platform are greatly needed by scientists, researchers and academics. They need a place to allow them to have an overview of funding options, a chance to apply for grants, and a way of accessing new opportunities in their field. The reason why we decided to combine **Collaboration**, **Funding** and **Publishing** is because they are the 3 **key pillars** of the scientific/research lifecycle. Each researcher, scientist and academic has to go through them in order to publish, advance and disseminate their results.



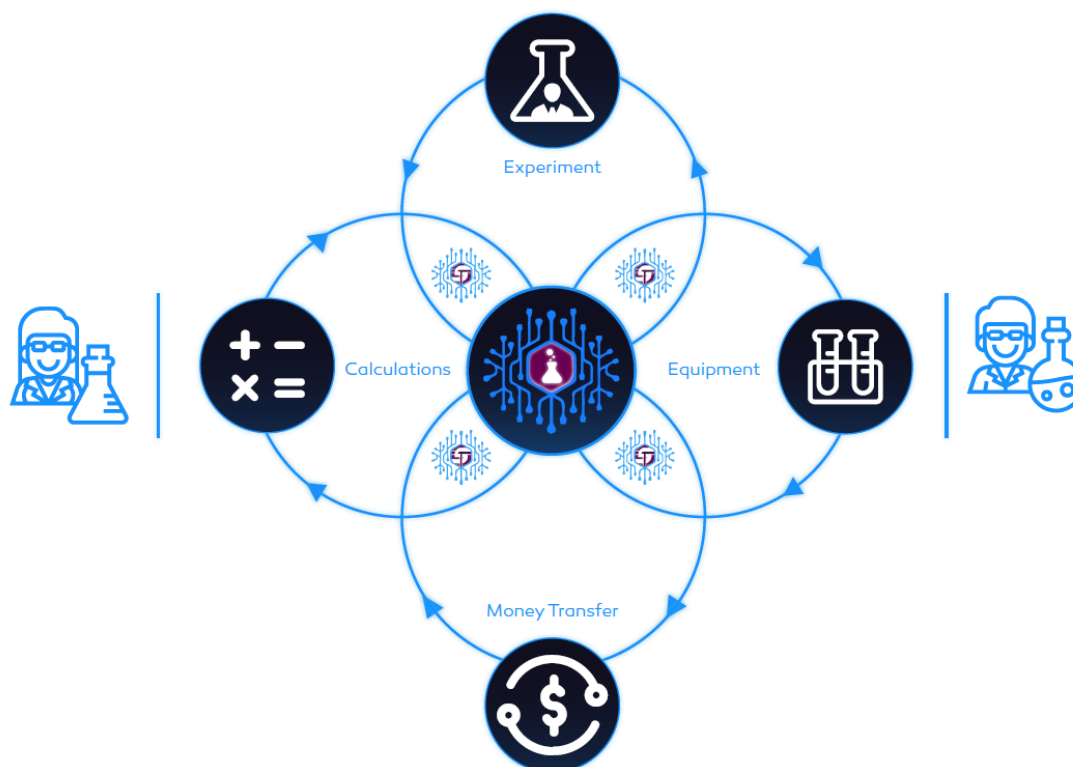
Currently many of these pillars are spread out on different platforms. By combining them, we are creating the platform which will change the scientific community for the better. To take it to the next level we add blockchain to create the world's most efficient, intuitive and transparent scientific ecosystem.



## 2 Scienceroot Platforms

### 2.1 Scienceroot Collaboration

The first part of our ecosystem will be the blockchain-based collaboration platform where scientists, researchers and academics will have the opportunity to connect and collaborate with colleagues, peers, co-authors and specialists in their field.

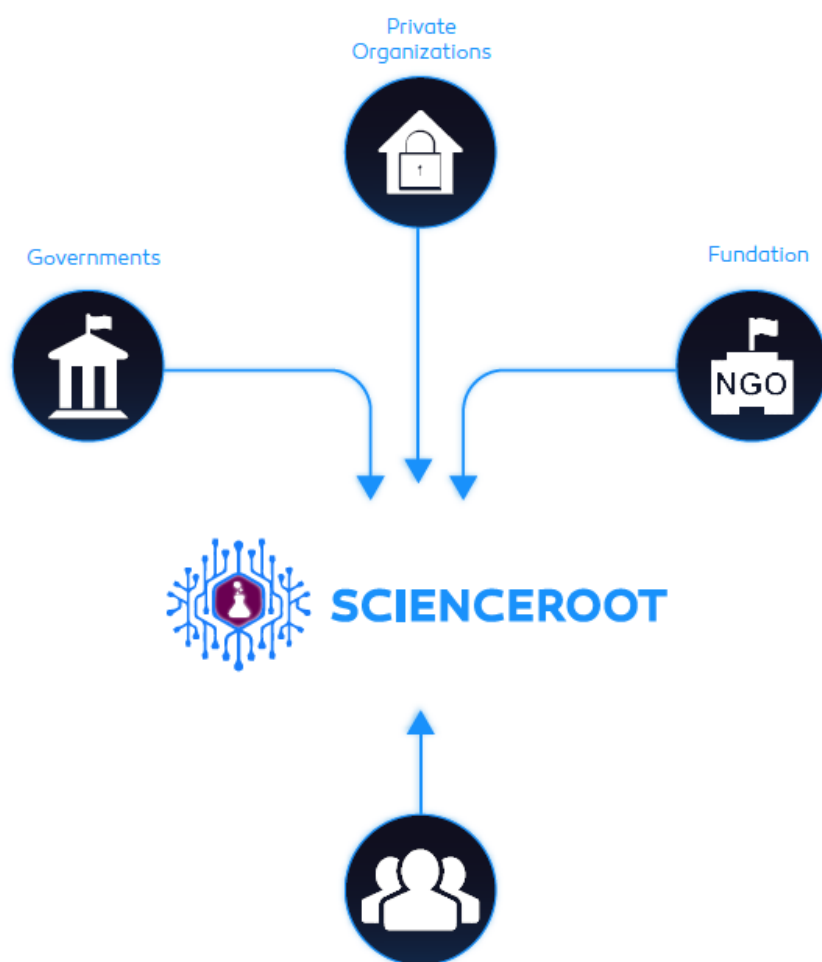


Furthermore, it will offer the possibility to ask questions, get answers and find solutions to research problems. By integrating the blockchain and the IPFS (Interplanetary File System) <sup>1</sup> as the underlying technology we are creating a decentralized open access collaboration platform with a unique currency to be used by users world-wide. For example, users will have the possibility to post a research problem or tip a helping colleague; by enforcing them with smart contracts we can guarantee that everyone keeps up at their end.

<sup>1</sup>IPFS - Interplanetary File System, a peer-to-peer hypermedia protocol to make the web faster, safer, and more open. More info <https://ipfs.io/>

## 2.2 Scienceroot Funding and Jobs

The second part will be our blockchain-based funding and job platform. Our target is to create a centralized portal that offers a wide list of grants from all around the world. The portal will be open to our registered users searching for national or international funding opportunities and organizations looking to recruit or market their grants to a national and international audience. This will enable scientists, researchers, and academics to more efficiently find a suitable funding option thus allowing them to focus on the scientific application itself rather than on funding details. The offered funds will be in fiat currency <sup>2</sup> and our own currency **Science Token**, while the decision on awarding them will remain with the offering organization.

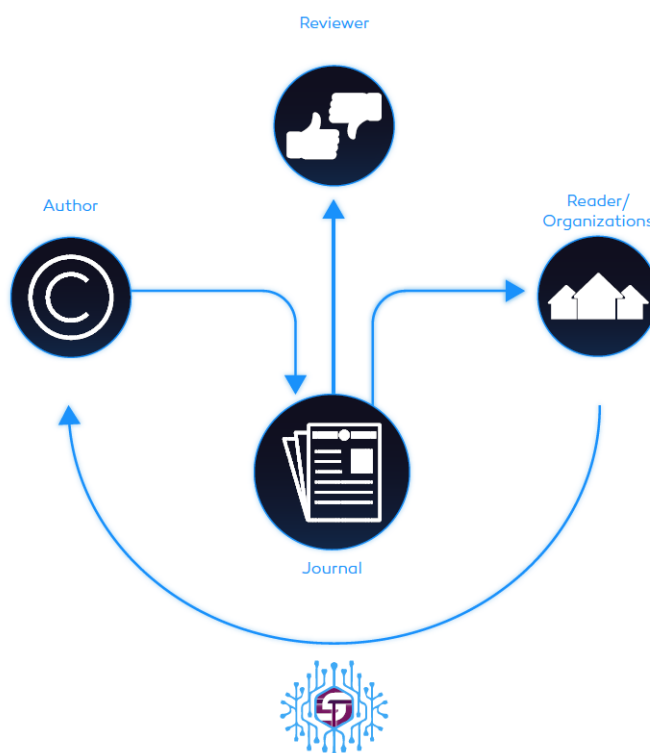


<sup>2</sup>Fiat money is currency that a government has declared to be legal tender, but it is not backed by a physical commodity.



## 2.3 Scienceroot Journal

The third part of our Scienceroot ecosystem will be our blockchain-based journal with different branches of the same journal such as Scienceroot Medicine, Scienceroot Biology etc. One of the core features of our journal platform will be the publishing process. By leveraging blockchain and smart contracts we can guarantee submitters immutability, security, transparency, and trust. We will also implement artificial intelligence for proof reading, content references and overall article format to assist our editors.



This will in the future speedup the initial editing process and lower editorial costs. By enabling this feature from the very beginning, we can train our artificial intelligence algorithm based on published papers. The second and most important feature will be our unique rewarding process which brings profit to anyone who decides to publish in our Journal. Scientists will obtain profits from their published work and peer-reviewers will receive compensation for their contributions. This will be achieved using blockchain smart contract technology to ensure an automated and unbiased process.



## 3 Why Blockchain?

### 3.1 Unique Currency

Blockchain offers the possibility to create our own non-inflationary unique currency which can be exchanged regardless of the user's location. Based on this, the global scientific and non-scientific community will have the option to get involved in promoting science by investing their money in a cause in which they believe in, without the fear of third-parties taking huge percentages of the generated contribution. This can be achieved using the immutable ledger and smart contracts. This feature will later allow us to create transparent grants which can be easily monitored. Scientists, researchers and academics collaborating worldwide will have a common Scienceroot currency that has the same value and functionality in every corner of the world.

### 3.2 Smart Contracts

Smart contracts serve as the foundation of our groundbreaking journal, which rewards all the contributors involved. Without smart contracts we would not be able to create a self governing system and pay high returns to our contributors. We can only achieve this by removing the intermediaries. Smart contracts will also allow us to protect the intellectual property of our publishers by automating the sale of the works online and eliminating the risk of file copying and redistribution. They will be the building block of our self-governing marketplace for scientific collaboration in which researchers, scientists, and academics can offer their assistance in exchange for ST's.

### 3.3 Storage and Content

Lastly the establishment of a journal built on the blockchain gives us the means to create a decentralized archive for the entire scientific, technical, and medical content to which anyone at anytime can have access. By distributing data throughout the network we are protecting files from getting hacked or lost, which will allow us to create a lasting database for generations to come.



## 4 State of the Art

### 4.1 Publishing

Regardless of the small audience, scientific publishing is a remarkably large industry. The total size of the global scientific, technical and medical (STM) market was estimated by Outsell at 25.2 billion USD in 2013 and is predicted to grow at about 4% annually as seen in [Figure 1](#).



Figure 1: Scientific publishing market cap analysis according to STM. <sup>1, 2</sup>

In order to create profit, a normal publisher has to cover several costs like: paying writers for the articles, editing, proof editing, design, shape, and distribution. After all this is successfully completed, a good publisher makes a profit of around 15%. The same goes for publishing a scientific article, except that the publisher avoids most of the costs. Researchers write articles about their own work - mostly funded by governments and research institutions - then send them to the publishers for free. The publishers hire scientific editors, who verify whether the manuscript is or not within the scope of the journal. Then, the greatest burden falls on the shoulders of other researchers who have to evaluate the validity and legitimacy of the work in a process called peer-review, again for free on a volunteer basis. After that, the publishers sell rights to their journals, so that fellow scientists can access the articles. There were about 28,100 active scholarly peer-reviewed English-language journals in 2014 and most of them do not compensate their contributors and reviewers.

We decided to challenge this approach. Peer-review and collaboration are fundamental to scholarly communication. According to the STM report a typical reviewer spends 5 hours per research paper and reviews about 8 articles per year. These numbers are so small because contributors are not rewarded for their time. By offering well deserved rewards to our contributors we aim to drive the scholarly community to new heights.

Despite the transformation of journals over the years, researchers' core motivation for publishing remains unchanged: it is a focus on securing funding and furthering the author's career.

In the current system, the incentive to contribute to science journals is based on the necessity for researchers to publish their work in order to be acknowledged. Our goal is to create an ecosystem, using blockchain technology, that more appropriately benefits all the parties involved in the research process, and perhaps in the future to be the connection point for the global science community.



## 4.2 Funding

Research funding covers any financing for scientific research, in both areas of science and social science. This is obtained through a competitive process in which potential research projects are evaluated and only the most promising receive funding. This process is normally run by the government, corporations and foundations with the first two are the major contributors. To put things in perspective here is a sample list ([Table 1](#)) of how much is being spent on research and development (R&D) in the recent years.

Rank	Country/Region	Expenditures on R&D (billions of US\$)	Year
1	United States of America	473.4	2013
2	China	409	2015
3	European Union	388.3	2014
4	Japan	179.8	2014
5	Germany	109.4	2014
6	South Korea	91.6	2014
7	India	66.5	2015
8	France	60.0	2013
9	United Kingdom	44.8	2013
10	Russia	42.6	2013
11	Canada	25.7	2013

Table 1: Top list of countries/regions by research and development spending<sup>3</sup>

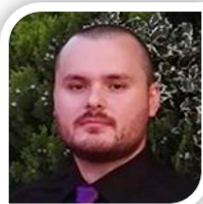
Granting agencies inquire about the researcher's background, facilities used, the equipment needed, time involved and the purpose of the scientific outcome. This process is time consuming due to the widespread variety of funding opportunities which are available to researchers. In order to be able to apply for funding, a scientist has to find a grant which best suits his needs. One can easily lose sight through all that is offered when searching for funding. A quick search will reveal a lot of grant-related scams, confusing ads, and a lot of subscription-based directories. The need for a go-to transparent and centralized platform which connects applicants with funding organizations is now bigger than ever.



## 5 Benefits of using Scienceroot

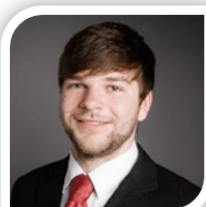
Problem	Solution
Researchers don't receive any money from their published work	Users will be able to reward them
Old and outdated submission and editorial technology	Blockchain & Artificial Intelligence
Long waiting times until articles get reviewed and not enough reviewers	Process will be sped up since reviewers will get paid
Divided platforms for different purposes	One ecosystem containing all the platforms a scientist needs
Dispersed funding organizations	Centralized platform containing all necessary informations

## 6 Team



**Vlad Günther** is a Consultant, Engineer and Project Manager with 6 years of experience in Enterprise IT, Finance and Management. He has worked for major companies like Microsoft and Bosch and is experienced in Cloud platforms, VoIP systems, enterprise architecture and Data Security. He is passionate about blockchain and cryptocurrencies, and inspired by decentralization.

**Alexandru Chirita** is a physicist currently working on finishing his Master studies at the University of Vienna, where he will soon be starting as a Ph.D student, doing molecular dynamics simulations. Having to work with researchers and being inspired by them, he came up with the concept of Scienceroot to help change the current status of the scholarly communication and publishing ways.



**Frederik Huschebeck** is an experienced Backend Developer with extensive knowledge of Blockchain configuration, Mining and Smart Contract Development. He studied Computer Science at the University of Dresden, Germany. His main Programming languages are C#,Java, Python and C++.

**Michael Schönbeck** studied International Affairs at the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences in Kleve, Germany. Over the years he gathered a lot of inter-cultural experience abroad in Jordan, China, Russia and Romania. He is also knowledgeable in SQL Server and Azure technologies from working at Microsoft. His first contact with cryptocurrencies was in 2013 when he first found out about Bitcoin, intrigued by the potential he began researching blockchain. He has a strong belief that blockchain can solve real world problems.



**Sven Seemann** is a frontend and backend developer with experience in developing healthcare software. His main programming languages are Java, CSS, HTML and Javascript. After his first contact in 2017 with blockchain, he realized the potential it has to improve the scientific community.

**Luca Tisu** is experienced in Organizational Development and Human Resources. Having a degree in Psychology he decided to pursue Organizational and Occupational Health Psychology to provide companies with assistance in growth and value creation. Being a Human Resources Scientist-Practitioner, he is driven by the change needed in the scientific community, experiencing first-hand the downsides of the status quo.





## 7 Token

Within the Scienceroot ecosystem, **Science Tokens** will be used by our scientific members to gather funding, exchange work for tokens, publish articles, buy articles and pay subscriptions. Furthermore, the payout of revenue generated by our members will be in science tokens. There will be limited supply of tokens. No further tokens will ever be created after the initial token offering so there will be no inflation.

The Science Token will be based on Ethereum<sup>3</sup>, a blockchain-based distributed computing platform. We choose this platform because Ethereum allows smart contracts which are essentially distributed computer programs; they run on a distributed public ledger, ensuring that their result is always consistent, available to anyone, and cannot be manipulated.

This will offer a collective unique currency (**ST**) which has the same value all around the world. Our users will not need to worry about cross-currency transactions anymore. You will be able to send science tokens to anyone with an cryptographically secure wallet no matter where they are. Our future plans are to collaborate with direct payment platforms to integrate our token so that our users will be able to pay directly at their local merchant using Science Tokens.

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<sup>3</sup>Ethereum is an open-source platform and is currently being adopted by companies like Microsoft, JP Morgan, IBM. For more information review <https://entethalliance.org/members/>



## 8 Technology

### 8.1 Accounts

In order to access everything Scienceroot has to offer, one needs to setup an account with blockchain integration. This will allow users to exchange tokens, gather funding, submit articles, access content and much more. The accounts are separated into four major groups, based on user needs:

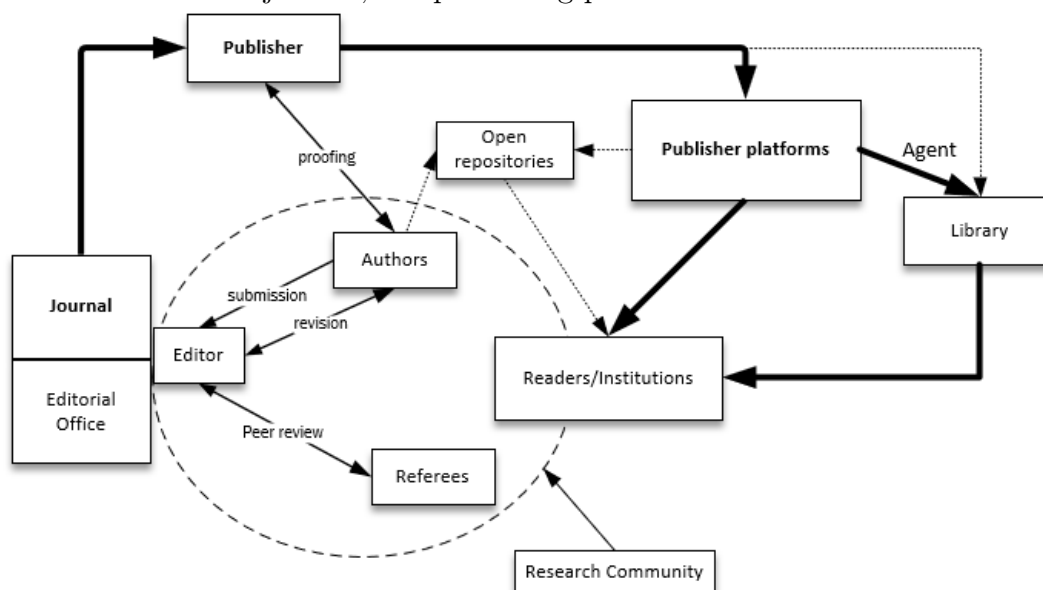
- Investor: Account for sending and receiving Science Tokens (**ST**) only
  - Name - required
  - E-Mail Address - optional (if provided will offer increased security and access to Scienceroot content.)
- Reader: Sending and receiving tokens, reading access to Scienceroot collaboration platform and journal
  - Name - required
  - E-Mail Address - required
  - Organizational Details: Title, Field, Experience - optional
- Researcher, Scientist, and Academic: Sending and receiving tokens, reading and writing access to Scienceroot collaboration platform and journal, access to search and applying for funding and jobs.
  - Name - required
  - E-Mail Address - required
  - Organizational Details - required
- Organizational Account and Libraries: Sending and receiving tokens, reading access to Scienceroot collaboration platform and journal, access to post funding and job possibilities, Delegation of access rights.
  - Organization Name - required
  - E-Mail Address - required
  - Organizational Details - required

For the account wallet we are combining the Ethereum blockchain with our own database. In this way we can create an improved Ethereum wallet with ERC20 compliance for our Science Token (**ST**) and integration to our Scienceroot database. The connection is done via the user's e-mail address and encrypted private key. We do not store the users Private Key. By linking the e-mail address to a normal Ethereum wallet we can increase account security by blocking access from suspicious locations and additional email verification.

## 8.2 Scienceroot Journal Technology

### 8.2.1 Traditional publishing process

In a standard science journal, the publishing process is as follows:



- 1. Author submits their manuscript to a Journal of their choice
- 2. Editor<sup>4</sup> reviews the manuscript. Chooses if it is going to be submitted to peer review or sent back to author for revision
- 3. If the article passes editorial review the editor sends it out to peer review<sup>5</sup>
- 4. After passing peer review the editor submits it further to publishing
- 5. Last minute proofing and layout review will be done together with the author
- 6. In the end it will be available to Readers via the Publishers Platform or library in print format

<sup>4</sup>Expert in the field

<sup>5</sup>Peer review is a methodological check on the soundness of the arguments made by the author, the authorities cited in the research and the strength and originality of the conclusions. It is mostly done by fellow researchers in the same field.



### 8.2.2 Scienceroot publishing process

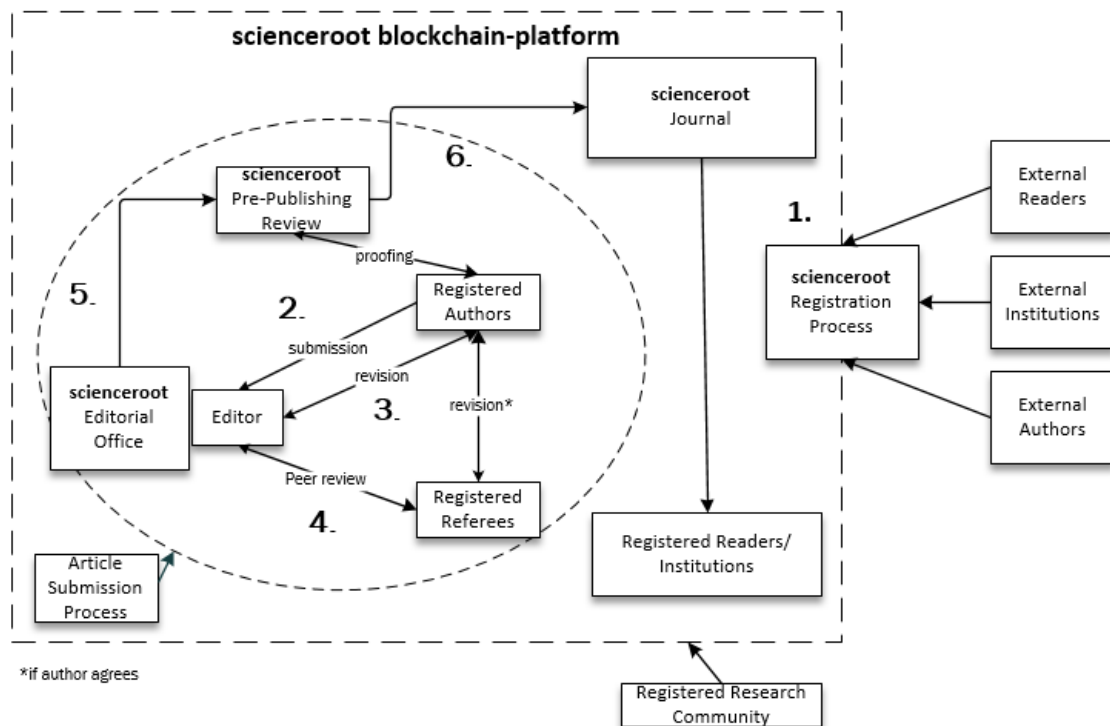


Figure 2: Scienceroot publishing process

- 1. Author registers to *Scienceroot*, receives his wallet and access to our journal
- 2. Author submits manuscript to our editors and chooses from one of our 3 publishing options (see [subsubsection 8.2.3](#))
- 3. Editor reviews and selects if the article will be submitted to peer review
- 4. Based on the advice of peer reviewers the editor has the final decision to publish the article or not
- 5. Article is sent to Pre-Publishing for final proofing and typesetting
- 6. Article is published in one of our Journals where it will be available for our registered readers.



### 8.2.3 Publishing Options and rewarding system

At *Scienceroot* we want everybody to have the chance to share their work and get rewarded. The only publishing option which we will offer will be **Open access**. Researchers will cover all publishing costs and articles will be available to everyone for free. However, we will encourage those who will use the publications for research purposes to sustain the authors by giving them the option to reward them with Science Tokens. Everybody who finds the published articles interesting can express their gratitude by means of our cryptocurrency.

*Scienceroot* will share profits with its contributing user base. There will be two categories of people eligible for the rewards, the authors and the reviewers. A visual description of the revenue and rewarding system is depicted in [Figure 3](#).

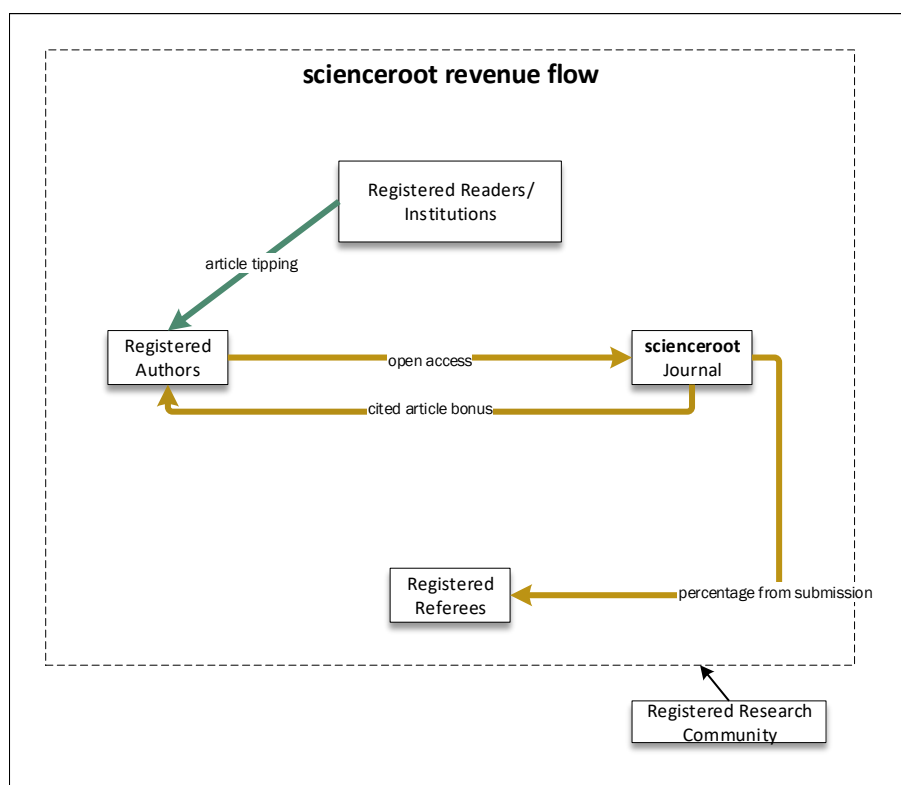


Figure 3: Revenue and rewarding system

**Reward for reviewing:** For each submitted article 20% of the submission tax in tokens will be set aside for peer reviewing. We believe that by using this format of reward we can speed up the review process and generate higher quality articles by getting more fellow researchers to contribute in peer review.

**Rewards for the authors:** 20% of the article submission tax will be redirected to the **Scienceroot Fund**(see [subsection 8.6](#)). Every half year we will be ranking the published articles based on the number of citations. The authors of the top most cited articles will be rewarded from this pool of tokens according to the ranking of their article.

By using this rewarding model based on a ranking system, researchers will be more motivated and incentivised to publish and create useful and ground-breaking content. Besides rewarding the authors for their contributions, we aim to add an element of competition to the activity of scholarly publishing.



### 8.3 Scienceroot Collaboration

This will be our decentralized social network platform for scientists, researchers and academics where they can showcase their work, connect with peers, seek new collaborations, find solutions, create and manage projects. Everything will be governed by blockchain smart contracts and therefore the need for the middlemen is eliminated. We will incorporate some of the known elements from social media platforms like LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook such as:

- Creating profiles
- Liking and following researchers and their publications
- Implementing a ranking system based on the contribution in a certain field
- Endorsing skills
- Bookmarking favorites
- Commenting and sending feedback
- Sharing news items and updates

Yet the most important feature will be the underlying cryptocurrency on which the whole platform will rely. It will offer the possibility for users to reward peers themselves for their contributions, delegate work in projects and get a quick payout for their knowledge, similar to already known freelancing platforms but without the middleman. This can be achieved with the help of smart contracts.

### 8.4 Scienceroot Funding and Jobs

Our target is to create a centralized portal which offers an entire list of government, corporate and private grants, funds, and jobs from all over the world. We will make applying for funds a lot easier, more transparent and intuitive. It will be accessible only to our registered researchers, academics, scientists and organizations searching or offering funding and job opportunities.

Funding will be offered in fiat currency and our own Ethereum ERC20 currency called **Science Token**, the decision will remain with the offering organization. Only funds offered in **ST** will be governed by smart contracts. Yet all offered funds and jobs will be stored in IPFS and saved on the Ethereum blockchain for increased security.

### 8.5 Storage

The open access content will be kept in a peer-to-peer storage system called IPFS. You can address large amounts of data with IPFS and place the immutable, permanent IPFS links into a blockchain transaction which timestamps and secures your content, without the need to write the data on the chain itself. IPFS will be also the backbone of our content archive, as it provides high performance decentralized archiving, resilient access to data, and removes duplications and offers version history for every file. This will allow us to create the world's most advanced and resilient archive of scientific content to which anyone, at anytime, will have access.



## 8.6 Scienceroot Fund

This tokens gathered in this fund will be used to reward authors and Scienceroot Fund is a pool of tokens used by Scienceroot organization to sell to researchers and readers at the moment of their registration and usage of the platform, therefore giving them easy access to **ST**'s. This From the submission tax, which will flow into this fund, we will retain up to 30% of them tokens set aside for rewarding the authors and use them to create grants and fund good science-related projects.

## 8.7 Copyright

In the case of subscription-access journals, authors grant the publisher a license to exploit a set of defined rights, this will allow Scienceroot journals to exploit commercially the rights in return for services provided to the author (peer review, copy-editing, marketing etc.).

In the case of open access journals, authors retain copyright and release the work under a Creative Commons license or similar, which allows use and reuse, but imposes conditions, such as attribution of the author, which will depend on copyright.

# 9 Vision and Roadmap

*Scienceroot* is not only aiming to disrupt the current scientific publishing model but also revolutionize and improve the scientific community in all aspects possible. We are creating a scientific publishing model which will reward and sustain researchers instead of maximizing our profits. We believe that this model will not just bring benefits to scientists and researchers, but also improve the quality of their work and motivate them to push science to new boundaries. By interconnecting it with our own collaboration and funding platform we can create a unique scientific ecosystem where science will prosper.

First, we will start off as a collaboration and funding platform for scientists, researchers and academicians. Having divided platforms for different purposes makes one lose sight over all the possibilities. This will serve as a go-to ecosystem for scientists to find peers, discuss ideas and gather funding for their research. By centralizing all global funding opportunities into one platform, we are making it easier for scientists, researchers and academics to find and apply for grants. And by adding blockchain and decentralization, we are getting rid of scams and creating a transparent, intuitive and user friendly platform.

Second, we will focus on building a journal with which we want to change and improve some of the inefficient aspects of traditional academic publishing. The process of publishing a scientific paper can take up to several months. Using AI, we will assist the editors with content review to establish whether the article is worth sending for peer-reviewing or not. Once it goes through the editorial process, the article will be further sent to peer-review. A traditional journal does not compensate the reviewers for taking their time to review articles and this process can be long and frustrating for both the submitter and the reviewer. At Scienceroot Journal we will provide the reviewers with a monetary incentive for their time. This will not only ensure speeding up the process, but will also solve the problem of not having enough reviewers.

The greatest benefit of using Scienceroot Journal will be its unique feature to reward the article submitters and provide with future grants. Our goal is to give as much as possible back to the academic community. A normal publisher clings



to them for personal gains, without giving anything in return. In this way, we will ensure that fellow researchers are also able to reap the benefits of their work.

## ROADMAP

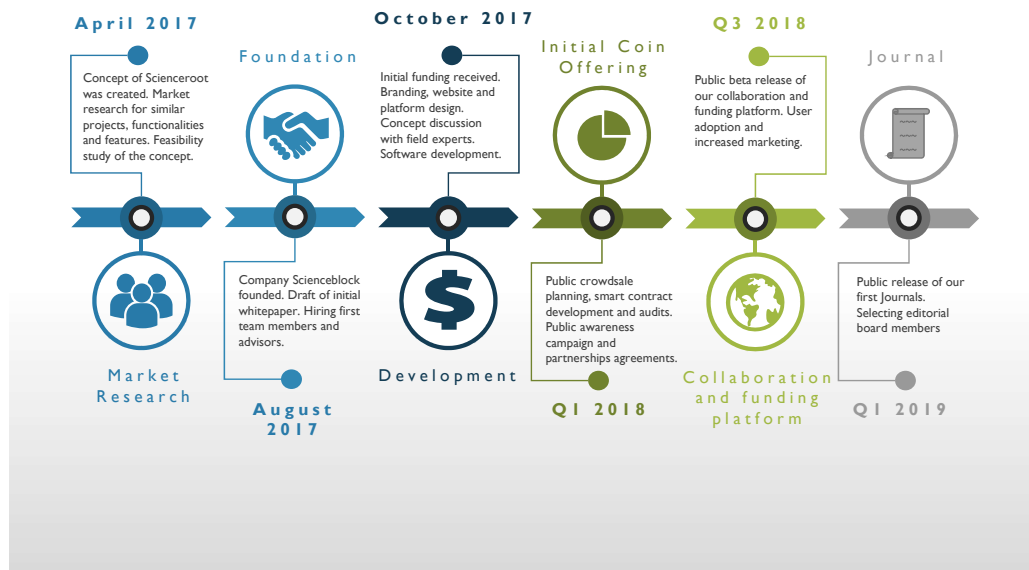


Figure 4: Scienceroot Roadmap

The dates are an approximate estimate of our planned releases. This may vary based on the results of our public crowdsale.



Everything presented in the whitepaper may be subject to change since this is not the last draft version and we might update it in the course of the development.

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