



The next-generation science publishing platform  
publish | extend | replicate observations


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Stories can wait. Science can't.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

As you well know, academia in Switzerland and worldwide faces serious challenges to sharing research due to the restrictive nature of the traditional science publishing system. The pressure to publish complete story-based, positive scientific studies results in many scientific observations going unpublished.

The Swiss National Science Foundation has set an objective aligned with our vision, to make all publicly funded research OA by 2024. We fully support this open science strategy.

Back in 2015 I founded ScienceMatters in Zurich in order to improve the scientific ecosystem by offering an alternative way to publish research more efficiently. We now publish high quality peer reviewed validated single observations, irrelevant of their impact or novelty, as well as negative data and replication studies. In the current research climate it is estimated that 80% of research remains unpublished. Our aim is to disseminate this research.

Join ScienceMatters in creating an open science culture, "Excellence comprises openness".

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lawrence Rajendran', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Lawrence Rajendran, CEO and Founder of ScienceMatters

## CURRENT CHALLENGES



### **Non-communication of data**

It is estimated that less than 1% of researchers publish more than one paper per year. The established publishing industry has created an artificial demand for complete stories based on positive results. This is why most scientific observations are never communicated. Not only does this hinder scientific progress but it is also a poor return on investment for public institutions.



### **Barrier to access data**

Institutions are paying millions of dollars each year in subscription fees to publishers. The University of Zurich pays \$5 million per year to one publisher. This closed science model is keeping valuable research behind paywalls.



### **Irreproducibility of data**

Replication studies are not published contributing to an ever increasing reproducibility crisis, where a significant amount of existing research is not reproducible.

ScienceMatters sees an opportunity and a need to make the publication of scientific findings more efficient and less time-consuming.

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## OUR SOLUTIONS

ScienceMatters is an innovative open access online publishing platform dedicated to improving the scientific ecosystem. We enable the rapid publication of single observations which can be extended and replicated. ScienceMatters uses cutting edge technology transferring the entire publishing process online. Our solutions enable scientists to disseminate high quality research and develop the scientific narrative in a collaborative manner.



### Single observation publishing

- 80% of research remains unpublished due to the demand to publish complete stories based on positive results.
- *Matters* and *Matters Select*, publish single, validated observations, whether these are novel, replications or based on negative data.
- Only the technical quality of research determines the acceptance to publish and not impact or novelty.
- Scientists publish more often and faster.
- The scientific community saves time and money spent on repeating dead-end studies.
- Scientists share more of their research, furthering scientific progress globally.



### Stories can wait

- Most journals demand complete stories prior to publishing, preferably novel and impactful.
- At ScienceMatters we allow for a natural emergence of the scientific narrative, by linking subsequent observations in a modular way.
- Once an observation is published it can be extended by the same authors or other researchers.
- Our patented algorithm facilitates the linking of data to create collaborative ways of developing a scientific narrative, where observations from various researchers can be linked together.
- Incentivises researchers to initiate work based on innovative and exploratory design versus story-oriented design, allowing a more creative process.

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### Validating existing research

- Replication studies are crucial in science, however, most journals do not allow the publication of replications.
- *Reproducibility Matters* is a journal dedicated specifically for the publication of replication studies to strengthen and solidify existing observations.
- Replication studies enable scientists to make informed decisions on which projects to pursue.
- Funders minimise the wasting of resources spent on irreproducible research.
- Institutes can identify and reward scientists for high quality research based on replicated work in addition to novel work.



### Reducing bias and discrimination

- During the review process scientists are discriminated against based on affiliation, gender or nationality.
- Triple-blind peer review ensures that the identities of authors, editors and reviewers remain unknown to one another, ensuring an unbiased review process.



### Streamlined online publishing process

- Our user-friendly online platform makes it easy to submit, review and track changes throughout the process.
- The average time from submission to first decision regarding publication at ScienceMatters is 16 days.
- Our online editor allows for the collaborative writing of observations without the inconvenience of following formatting guidelines. Using our online editor an author can submit in less than an hour.
- Reviewers spend on average an hour reviewing an observation. Single observations allows reviewers more time to focus on the technical quality and data.



### Open access, data & science

- ScienceMatters makes its content, including raw data, freely available, and it ensures that this content is archived and indexed.
- We operate under a Creative Commons Attribution Licence (CCAL). Copyright remains with the author.
- Greater visibility and citation frequency for authors increasing the likelihood of new collaborations.
- Reviewer comments are made public post-publication for full transparency and to promote an open science culture.

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## MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES

Becoming a member has many benefits to both institutes and individual authors.

### FOR AUTHORS:

- Reduced price per submission
- No need for reimbursement procedures

### FOR INSTITUTIONS:

- Fixed price - overview of spending on open access publications
- Reduced administrative work and costs

Your university can benefit by becoming a member of ScienceMatters by acquiring one of the following membership packages\*:

#### *University Trial Membership*

- Membership includes 20 submissions p.a.
- Promotion of published articles on social media
- Webinar introducing single observation publishing
- Representation of your institute on our website
- Package price 10'000 CHF p.a.

#### *University Unlimited Membership*

- Membership includes unlimited submissions p.a.
- Promotion of published articles on social media
- Representation of your institute on our website
- Onboarding package: a webinar series covering single observation publishing, peer review training, scientific writing & communication
- Package price 50'000 CHF p.a.

#### *University's Own Open Access Journal on ScienceMatters Platform*

- Membership includes your own fully customised, bespoke branded journal, with support, including unlimited submissions during the first 12 months
- Promotion of published articles on social media
- Representation of your institute on our website
- Onboarding package: a webinar series covering single observation publishing, peer review training, scientific writing & communication
- Package price varies based on requirements and is available upon request.

\*Membership packages can be customised according to the needs of your university.

## TESTIMONIALS ABOUT SCIENCEMATTERS

**“A forum that allows reporting well-supported single observations is a timely innovation in science publishing that will allow labs to quickly publish important findings that are not part of a larger project.”**

Thomas C. Südhof, Nobel Laureate, 2013, Stanford University

**“Observations matter in science: report them for what they are, no more, no less.”**

John P. Ioannidis, Stanford University

**“A game changer in scientific literature!”**

Michael Cai Wang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA

**“A much needed voice of reason in a publication landscape overrun with fairy-tales. Let the science speak for itself.”**

Andrew Sharo, Princeton University, USA

**“I think Matters is the logical step away from the constraints of traditional journals.”**

Georg Fluegen, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, USA Marta Florio, and Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics, Germany

**“Science might be fun again!”**

Arnab Barik, NIH, USA

**“I got blown away by your concept. It is truly going to be a revolution in science.”**

Raphael Gaudin, Harvard Medical School, USA

**“All great science starts with a single observation. Dynamic publishing is the future.”**

Tom Misteli, NIH, Bethesda USA (Editor-in-Chief of The Journal of Cell Biology and Current Opinion in Cell Biology)

**“I think that is exactly what needs to happen in science.”**

Maximilian Press, University of Washington, USA

**“It is a revolutionary concept.”**

Kulothungasagaran Narayanapillai, National University of Singapore



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