Joyous Holidays and Happy New Year!!

*Welcome to the microPublication Newsletter. We hope all of you, your friends and family are happy and healthy and looking forward to 2022. Can you believe we are heading into our **sixth year** of science publishing? We started with one worm article and now in 2021 we have over 400 articles, that include worm, fly, fish, yeast, frog, slime mold, and so on, see below.*

With this newsletter, we are excited to share with you our accomplishments, progress, and changes over the past year as well as key upcoming features to watch out for.

Upcoming releases

New Site - We will be rolling out a new version of our website very soon! The site has a new look as well as critical new publishing functions. Specifically, our current website is a standalone WordPress site that is separate from our submission and editorial processing platform. Our new site integrates our online journal with our platform, removing our dependence on WordPress and the need to switch platforms during publication. This change makes publishing and processing your articles faster and less prone to errors. When we dreamt about this project over six years ago, we had this dream of one platform to do it all, we are almost there!

With this release, we need testers - please let us know if you want to help us with feedback on our new site. You will get sneak peaks at the new website and its new features. You will have a say in what is good, what works, or doesn't work for you, and you will have our undying gratitude. Contact editors@micropublication.org if you are interested in being a beta tester.

New tools, new service - We will be rolling out a new tool to help you write. This tool acts as an authoring aid that will find typographical and formatting errors in the biological entities and reagents (gene, allele, transgene, etc.) that you report in your article. The tool recognizes known biological entities and will highlight them in your article when formatted correctly. Moreover, it will help you alert a curator at your relevant community database that you are reporting a new entity that may need a community approved name and or ID.

Community Feedback Hour

We are introducing the 'Community Feedback hour' to stay closer to our community. Every Monday at 8am US Pacific, 11am US Eastern time, microPublication Managing Editors will be available to answer your questions and hear your concerns. Tell us your thoughts on the submission process and website so we can continue to improve.

Indexing update

microPublication Biology articles are indexed in **PubMed Central**, **EuropePMC**, **Google Scholar**, and university library catalogs. Data published in microPublication Biology are also discoverable in community supporting knowledgebases, such as WormBase, FlyBase and SGD. This year we applied to **Web of Science** and are awaiting response. Stay tuned!

More communities and more team members

The *microPublication* community continues to grow! In the past year **DictyBase** and **SolGenomics** have joined microPublication as partner DataBases. The **CottonGen** and **Rice Annotation Project** databases will be joining us soon. If you are interested in partnering with us, reach out to contact@micropublication.org.

We would also like to welcome our new Science Officers (SO) and Managing Editors (ME) and thank them for their time and dedication. We are glad you joined the team!

Dictyostelium: **Rex Chisholm** (SO), **Petra Fey** (ME)
Fly: **Kami Ahmad** (SO)
Solanaceae: **Lukas Muller** (SO)
Worm: **Cheryl Van Buskirk** (SO), **Lina Dahlberg** (SO), **Matt Marcello** (SO), **Jae Cho** (ME), **Gary Schindelman** (ME)
Yeast: **Ann Kirchmaier** (SO), **Stacia Engel** (ME)

Development updates

CaltechData hosted by Caltech Library - microPublication's mission is to make all data available to the public. Data published as 'supplemental materials' in typical journal articles can often remain unavailable to the public. That is, supplemental data files are frequently not vetted for accuracy, not in a form that is computable, locked behind paywalls, or worse, lost due to broken URLs. For these reasons, we do not support supplementary data files. However, when all data necessary for reporting the results of the experiment do not fit in our small article format, we do allow authors to include these data as 'Extended data' files. Such data include GitHub repos for software, movies, GFF, FASTA, and Variant Call Format (VCF) files. To ensure that these data remain freely available, in perpetuity, we upload these Extended Data to CaltechData, which is run by our publishers,

the Caltech Library. This service enables us to upload research data essential to the article, link those data with the publication, and assign a permanent DOI so that others can reference the data set. We have more things in store for our collaboration with the Caltech Library, to learn more, please take a look at a recent joint webinar we did with them at the Open Publishing Fest, see below.

Automating reviewer invites - One of the major roadblocks of peer-review article publishing is finding reviewers. Often many invitations to review need to be sent out and keeping track of these invitations can be a logistical nightmare, especially when dealing with multiple articles at once. So we've rolled out an automated system to do this for us. We are now able to queue up researchers to invite for each paper. For each invitation that is sent out, the system listens for a response for 5 days, then sends a reminder invitation. If there is no response in the next 3 days, the system revokes that invitation and moves on to the next person in line, waiting 5 days for a response and so on. If someone accepts the invitation, the invitation system stops, as there is no need for any more invites. If someone declines the invitation, the system revokes the invitation and moves on to the next potential reviewer. This automation comes as a much-needed editorial management stress reducer; however, if you notice any bugginess with your invitations or reviewer response tools, please let us know right away. The last thing we want is to introduce troublesome communications for anybody.

GEP collaboration - The [Genomics Education Partnership](#) has been one of our earliest collaborators. The GEP incorporates bioinformatics and genomic research experiential learning into their Course-based Undergraduate Research Education (CURE) curriculum. In the GEP CURE curriculum, students are tasked with identifying and analyzing potential orthologs of insulin pathway genes in Drosophila species. These types of articles - single gene bioinformatic annotation reports, produce valid, verified, and computable results that unfortunately did not get published in mainstream peer-reviewed journal, until now. While these sequence analyses are accepted by NCBI GenBank, they are not picked up by major biomedical knowledgebases.

We have been facing a couple hurdles with getting the tools and system in place for this collaboration. First, the sheer volume of these articles made it unscalable for the authors to be submitting their articles through our submission platform. So we have been working with them to streamline article submissions from their students and team members, and we are almost there. Second, as a peer-reviewed journal we will be holding each article to the same level of peer-review scrutiny as any other article. However, getting reviewers for such small and templated articles is not easy. So we need to reinvent a review system to ensure each article goes through a rigorous non-conflict of interest review process and revisions are done when needed.

Collaborating with the GEP presents us with some interesting problems to solve that we embrace as the solutions open the door for collaborating with other projects that produce many articles that detail robust, solid, experimental results but end up getting lost without a publishing venue.

Publishing updates

Species	# of published
Caenorhabditis elegans	310
Drosophila species	49
Saccharomyces cerevisiae	18
Arabidopsis thaliana	14
Xenopus species	9
Zebrafish	6
Mouse	4
Dictyostelium discoideum	2

In addition, we have one published paper for other species: *C. albicans*, *R. solanacearum*, *T. dichotomus*, *P. patens*, *B. mori*.

Meeting outreach reports

This year we participated only in online events. The good news is that you can see recordings from some of these (links provided if available). We hope we will be able to meet you in person in 2022!

April 2021 –
Imperial College School of Medicine Society of Research and Academia

June 2021 –
International Worm Meeting

September 2021 -
Open Research London. Recording here.

November 2021-
Open Publishing Fest. Recording here.

Upcoming meetings

Save the date! We will participate in the upcoming Dros2022 conference in San Diego, April 6-10, 2022. If you are a Drosophila researcher and want to know more about microPublication, come visit our booth.

microPublication Biology - our MISSION

microPublication Biology is a new paradigm in scholarly communication. Our mission is to make all results from publicly funded research available to the public. With *microPublication Biology*, researchers can directly submit, have peer reviewed, and publish individual experimental results. While we seek all data, we have a particular interest in those data that are high quality but remain traditionally unpublished. We feel that unpublished data, for whatever reason it has languished, is equal in importance with data that is published and should be included in the corpus of publicly funded research findings. In addition to new findings or methods, findings in *microPublication Biology* can also be negative results, reproduced results, or results that are not perceived as being sufficiently novel and are cut from manuscripts to save space.

Importantly, unlike other journal platforms, information from each *microPublication* is directly incorporated into community databases (e.g., WormBase.org) through the use of author populated user-friendly web forms that rely on controlled vocabularies, when available – thus advancing the goal of making the content of each *microPublication* computable.

The many ways you can get involved

Submit an article.

Be a reviewer.

Send us your feedback.

Follow us on Twitter @micropub7n.

Subscribe (or unsubscribe) to our low traffic announcement mailing list.

Participate in whiteboard sessions and online webinars. Contact us!

If you are receiving this, you've previously voiced interest in the microPublication project. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter, you can unsubscribe at the announcement mailing list. Feel free to forward this newsletter to your friends and colleagues!