

Shackled by convention: the  
plight of young academics – p2, 7

**Military R&D** Will the Commission's  
plans pass the final hurdle? – p5

**Ukraine** Keeping ties with Russia – p13

# Countries jockey to host EU medicines agency

## Timing of medical regulator's move from UK remains unclear

**SIX COUNTRIES ARE ALREADY LINING UP** to host the European Medicines Agency, the EU drug regulator, in the likely event of it being moved from London after Brexit.

There is no fixed procedure for choosing the locations of European agencies, observers say, and no precedent at all for an agency such as the EMA having to move. "If the decision has to be made, better to make it quickly," says Luca Pani, the director-general of the Italian Medicines Agency. He adds that, in his view, the EMA will be legally required to leave London within two years of the UK triggering Article 50, which prime minister Theresa May has said the country will do by March 2017.

But others say that the process of shifting the EMA and its 890 highly-specialised staff could take up to a decade, spilling into a multi-year "transition period" that the UK will seek to negotiate to smoothen its departure.

Fernand Sauer, a French pharmacologist who was involved in creating the EMA in 1995 and became its first director, says that the process of choosing London as its original location was "purely political". He recalls being shown the national bids for the EMA in 1995, and describes their content as "totally random".

The strongest contender at the time was Spain, Sauer says, which offered access to facilities in the Barcelona Olympic site. But the UK, which was eventually chosen, "never offered anything". The same applied to Sweden and its successful bid for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in 2005, Sauer says.

Based in London since its foundation, the EMA has the crucial role of regulating one of Europe's most important industries. Its geographical location is vital, commentators say, because it is a magnet for companies that want to stay close to their main regulator. The EMA is one of the largest and most important regulatory bodies in the world: the EU makes up 27 per cent of the global market for pharmaceuticals.

Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Sweden have already said publicly that they want to host the EMA, and more countries are expected to join them.

According to the chief executive of the Irish

by **Eleni Courea**

[ecnews@ResearchResearch.com](mailto:ecnews@ResearchResearch.com)

Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association, Oliver O'Connor, Ireland's case will be "business continuity", with Dublin's language and close proximity offering the option of a staggered move out of London.

Pani says Italy's selling point will be the creation of a "technopolis" in the centre of Milan, to surround a new base for the EMA. Italian prime minister Matteo Renzi is said to be personally backing the bid.

Henrik Vestergaard, deputy chief executive of the Danish Association of the Pharmaceutical Industry, says he hopes that "when the EU makes the decision to relocate, they look at the rational reasons instead of just making too political a choice".

And Karolina Antonov, an analyst at LIF, the trade association for the research-based pharmaceutical industry in Sweden, says that the strength of her country's academic and industrial base could swing the decision in its favour.

Though they've said little so far, France and Germany each have strong drug industries, and may just be biding their time until it becomes clearer how the UK's relationship with the EU will develop.

Moving a major regulator such as the EMA is likely to be a painful experience; even officials in some of the countries competing for its location confess they'd rather it stayed put. Uprooting the offices in Canary Wharf—where the agency signed a 25-year lease in 2015—will disrupt its existing relationships and, observers say, could hit consumers by delaying approvals of new drugs.

The idea of the EMA staying in London after Brexit may appear outlandish at first, notes Sauer. But he concedes that anything can happen in politics. If the UK chose a Norway-style relationship with the EU and remained within the jurisdiction of the EMA, Sauer says, it might yet prove possible: "It would be an easy solution to a very complex situation."

Every new opportunity  
for research funding  
from every sponsor in  
the EU, US & beyond

Independent news,  
comment and analysis

\*Research  
Europe

Edited by Colin Macilwain  
Europe@ResearchResearch.com  
Tel: +44 20 7216 6500  
Fax: +44 20 7216 6501  
Unit 111, 134-146 Curtain Road, London EC2A 3AR

a \*Research publication

# Generation let down

## The research system isn't entertaining fresh ideas

For some time now, the attitudes of early-career researchers towards the dissemination of their work, as well as their wider role in society, have been diverging from those of their elders.

New generations inhabit a universe in which ideas and information are shared freely and almost instantaneously on social media. But on planet research they discover a world guarded by paywalls and where the main measure of worth is something called a publication. In most universities, appointments and promotions are granted chiefly on the basis of a track record of publication in journals with high impact factors.

In this issue, David Nicholas of CIBER Research seeks to gauge the perspectives of young researchers on this clash (*see View, page 7*). His team interviewed 116 of them in depth, and found widespread unhappiness regarding their work environments.

Research leaders often explain that changes in publishing, including the introduction of open access, open up more flexible approaches to researchers' success. However the picture painted by Nicholas is one of hypocrisy at the top and disillusion at the bottom. Leaders talk about the desirability of open access, data-sharing and wider public engagement. But young researchers soon discover that the real world offers them little space for these.

Nicholas and his team unearthed several depressing trends. Interviewees said that they would like to focus effort on things other than publishing papers, but that pressure from their seniors prevented them from doing so. They were sceptical of open-access publishing, worried by predatory publishers and the costs associated with so-called 'gold' open access, and unenthused by the institutional repositories created to accommodate 'green' open access.

Troublingly for publishers and librarians, many of the early-career researchers interviewed have little knowledge of the characteristics of journals in their respective fields. They rely mainly on the ubiquitous Google Scholar for article access, rarely setting foot in libraries.

Despite the 2012 San Francisco declaration on research assessment—which declared that the tyranny of impact factors must end, and which most research leaders have signed up to—young researchers report that this tyranny is still very much in place. Many would like to break out of it and do other things, such as working more cooperatively with their peers and engaging more actively. But the longer they stay in the system, the more thoroughly its worst aspects consume their ideals.

There are occasional signs of progress, such as research commissioner Carlos Moedas's acceptance of a Bratislava Declaration that promised better treatment of young researchers. Nicholas also found that the much-criticised impact component of the UK Research Excellence Framework is helping early-career researchers, by delivering credit for outreach activities other than peer-reviewed publication.

But these are the exceptions to the rule. Something faintly grotesque is being constructed here: a monolithic academic research system driven primarily by numbers. It is failing our younger generations, failing the public good, and ultimately failing the cause of knowledge, science and innovation.

elsewhere

**"This is what happens when diplomats are allowed to draft legal instruments."**

Lawyer *David Allen Green* speaks about the lack of clarity within Article 50 and its possible revocation, as the UK prepares to trigger its exit from the EU in March 2017. The *Financial Times*, 19/10/16.

**"At my age you need to start thinking about what you want to be when you grow up."**

Former EU commissioner *Olli Rehn* steps down as Finland's economic affairs minister to take up a position with the Bank of Finland. *Yleisradio Oy*, 14/10/16.

**"In this battle, the side that was fighting for a more humane approach won out."**

A strike by 750 cafeteria workers at Harvard University has ended after the university agreed to meet the demands to raise salaries and reduce healthcare costs, the president of the food service union *Brian Lang* confirms. The *New York Times*, 25/10/16.

**"The astronomy department adapted their algorithms for watching the night sky to help oncologists map out how different breast cancers grow."**

Industry-university clusters such as those located around the University of Cambridge help to push digital innovation, says British conservative MEP *Vicky Ford*. The *Parliament magazine*, 21/10/16.

**"If we don't know how to appreciate the value of the EU, then it's going to go to the dogs."**

German foreign minister *Frank-Walter Steinmeier*'s cut-throat assessment of right-wing populism's impact on the future of the EU project. *EurActiv*, 24/10/16.

**"Some media described her first meeting in the European Council as entering the lion's den. It's more like a nest of doves."**

European Council president *Donald Tusk* maintains that UK prime minister *Theresa May* will be welcomed to Brussels for her first leaders summit. *Sky News*, 20/10/16.

decade

**"The Champions League does not say we are going to have a competition in Europe but nobody can transfer players."**

ERC Scientific Council member *Bob May* says the idea that the European Research Council should restrict the portability of its grants is absurd.

*Research Europe*, 2 November 2006

## what's going on

### Horizon 2020 review opens

The European Commission has launched a consultation on the progress of Horizon 2020, which will close on 15 January. Among the early submissions, the League of European Research Universities and Science Europe have asked the Commission to scale back its focus on impact. Several groups also said that the lack of participation from eastern Europe should be addressed through structural funds rather than additional Horizon 2020 spending.

### Commission budgets department in turmoil

EU budgets commissioner Kristalina Georgieva announced on 28 October that she will leave the Commission in January to become head of lending operations at the World Bank. Media outlets linked her departure to growing discontent over the working practices of Martin Selmayr, president Jean-Claude Juncker's chief of staff. The Commission promoted German commissioner Günther Oettinger to vice-president and budgets commissioner, shortly before a video of him making racist remarks about a Chinese delegation in Brussels was published online.

### Latest round of budget negotiations starts

The EU institutions began a three-week conciliation period on 2017 spending on 26 October. Discussions are set to be a repeat of previous years, in which the European Parliament's request for more research spending has been outweighed by member states' desire to reduce EU payments. Brexit is also expected to feature in the discussions.

### International academies propose merger

The International Council for Science and the International Social Science Council have initiated proceedings to combine into a single body, which they said would bring the natural and the social sciences closer together. However, at a joint meeting on 24 October, members raised concerns that the merger—scheduled for completion by 2018—had no clear organisational or financial plan.

### Commission moots huge R&D tax cut

The European Commission has suggested that companies should qualify for a super-deduction on R&D expenses to promote innovation, meaning they could deduct an amount higher than the original investment. Under a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base proposal outlined on 25 October, big companies' R&D spending would be 100 per cent deductible, with an additional 50 per cent deduction offered up to €20 million and a further 25 per cent deduction above that level. Start-up firms would qualify for an extra 100 per cent on top of the regular deduction.

### ESA lander lost on Mars

The Schiaparelli probe crashed into Mars on 20 October, marking a setback for the European Space Agency's latest mission to study the red planet. ESA director-general Jan Wörner said that he believed the mission had still been successful, because a trace gas orbiter had been correctly positioned in orbit before the disaster. In December, ESA ministers must decide whether to spend €300 million on the next project to land a rover on Mars.

### Medicines agency opens up trial data

The European Medicines Agency has started publishing full clinical-trial data for medicines authorised for use in the EU, to increase the transparency of clinical research. The initiative was launched on 20 October, and the EMA intends to publish all its clinical reports since 1 January 2015.

## europe

## Forum calls on EU to back 'disruptors'

A Bratislava forum has been told that start-up firms who do real engineering can't raise adequate funding, from venture capital or other sources, because their products take years to come to fruition.

The Re-industrialisation of the EU forum, held from 26 to 28 October as part of Slovakia's six-month presidency, agreed that the EU should do more to support 'disruptive' innovators who want to build new types of products but can't get financial backing from private sources.

The meeting also heard that large, established industrial companies are struggling to attract young scientists and engineers, because of their image. "The biggest challenge for us is to attract talent," said David Hathaway, vice-president for engineering at US Steel Kosice, a Slovakian steel producer. "We have a reputation as the sort of place your grandfather worked."

The forum, attended by about 800 engineers, scientists and officials, agreed to a 'Bratislava Agenda', published on 28 October, listing ideas for strengthening industrial development in Europe. The document names five priorities: focusing on 'disruptors'; fostering mid-level skills; closing the gap between developed and less-developed EU member states; building a 'common ecosystem' for innovators; and pursuing ideas that

by Colin Macilwain

news@ResearchResearch.com

improve the health and the environment of Europeans.

Martin Bruncko, finance director of AeroMobil, which has built and tested a prototype flying car, said he was "depressed by all the talk of warm, fuzzy collaboration" because the world of innovation is anything but that. "We just give a little bit of money to everybody, where we should give it to those at the cutting edge." Real innovators "are very driven and they are cut-throat".

"We need to enable the highly-driven companies that nobody wants," he said, referring to controversial disruptors in the service sector, such as Uber and AirBnB.

Bruncko, whose business is based in Bratislava, also said that less-advanced countries in the EU were now "awash with structural funding", much of which was being "staggeringly misused". He said that he wasn't referring to anything illegal, but just to wasteful projects.

However, Bruncko predicted that the overall global trend in technology—from computers and phones towards physical devices such as cars and drones—held out great promise for Europe. "This could be a European age, because we're moving from the 'digital' to the 'physical' and we're good at that in Europe," he said.

## Collaboration 'at risk' from data-protection law

Researchers are growing increasingly concerned about a law allowing member states to decide how to use personal data in research, saying it could undermine collaboration.

Scientists and lawyers say that they are worried about the implications of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which will apply from May 2018. The regulation was intended to harmonise EU laws, making it easier for groups, including researchers, to meet the necessary standards. But years of negotiation have watered down the proposal, and national governments will be permitted to implement their own versions of rules relevant to research.

"Member states can maintain divergent standards on data pseudonymisation and impose different safeguards for the processing of health and genetic data," said Sigrid Achenbach, a lawyer and a member of the data protection working group of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations. "With all these clauses, cross-border research will face a lot of challenges in trying to comply."

Health research will be particularly affected by the GDPR, the critics say, but the social sciences and other diverse fields are also expected to feel its effects.

Marie Timmermann, the EU legislation and regulatory affairs officer at Science Europe, an association of

by Craig Nicholson

cnnews@ResearchResearch.com

research funding and performing organisations, and Alea López de San Román, a policy officer at the League of European Research Universities, both said that they fear the rules will cause problems for projects spanning member states.

For the next two years, universities face not knowing how individual countries will proceed, said López de San Román. "We are trying to understand the possible consequences and we are waiting for member states to decide how they will legislate at the national level," she told *Research Europe*. "We're waiting, and the clock is ticking."

Speakers at an event on the GDPR hosted by the communication agency Intelligence in Science in Brussels on 18 October said they wanted member states to get together before 2018 to coordinate their decisions. Some participants said that the European Commission should play a facilitating role.

Researchers are "probably not thinking about the GDPR much yet", said Triona McCormack, director of research at University College Dublin. But she said she was worried that national data protection authorities could impose a "compliance-oriented" culture on research and data sharing in their interpretation of the law.

# Conflict over military plan

Anti-war activists have spoken out against plans to use EU funding for defence research, as the EU ploughs ahead with a programme that could be incorporated into Framework 9.

A petition against a €90-million preparatory action that will start in 2017 gained 63,000 signatures ahead of a European Parliament vote on the budget on 26 October. Its organiser Laëtitia Sédou, programme officer at the European Network Against Arms Trade, said there had been limited public discussion on EU funding for military research. "Part of what we wanted to do was to expose what was happening," she said.

The petition failed to convince a majority of MEPs not to support the 2017 budget, and on 28 October the first grant agreements for a 2016 military research pilot programme were signed. However, German left-wing MEP Sabine Lösing, who backed an amendment opposing the plans for defence research spending, said she would continue to fight. "We should focus on real social problems, and not accelerate the militarisation of the EU," she said.

Horizon 2020 contains a clause preventing purely military research from being funded, meaning that so far the initiative has taken place outside the Framework pro-

by Craig Nicholson

cnnews@ResearchResearch.com

gramme, under the remit of the European Defence Agency. However, it has been suggested the programme could be incorporated into Framework 9, which begins in 2021.

Kurt Deketelaere, secretary-general of the League of European Research Universities, said that this would be a bad idea. "I'd like to avoid any discussion of universities getting mixed up with defence research, and the related issues of ethics and integrity," he said.

He admitted it would be beneficial if Horizon 2020 and the military research programme had overarching rules and governance, to avoid increased red tape. But rising political support for military research should not take money away from other research areas, Deketelaere said. Advisers have suggested that a military research programme could receive €3.5 billion in 2021-27.

Meanwhile, Sédou questioned whether political support would be forthcoming if her campaign to raise public awareness is successful. "People want to be protected, but it doesn't necessarily mean they support militarisation of the EU budget or the use of public money for military research."

## Parliament pushes for closer ties with Iran

The European Parliament has invited Iran to appoint a national coordinator for Horizon 2020, among a range of measures intended to improve relations.

On 25 October the Parliament adopted a resolution asking the European Commission to promote links with Iran following the removal of EU economic sanctions. MEPs requested a training scheme to host Iranian researchers at European universities, and a political science programme to study regional integration.

The resolution follows a nuclear agreement reached in July 2015 between Iran, the EU, China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK and the United States, under which Iran agreed to limit its stockpiles and enrichment of uranium.

The suggestions for better ties under Horizon 2020 were welcomed by Abdelhamid El-Zoheiry, president of the Euro-Mediterranean University and coordinator of a €1-million Horizon 2020 project involving partners in Iran. "Iran is a strong regional power, academically and politically, and I think improved relations with the EU would be useful to both sides," he said.

While Iran was eligible to receive EU research funds throughout the duration of its sanctions, its involvement has been limited. The country received just €360,000 under four projects throughout Framework 7.

The Commission said that it was already acting on

by Craig Nicholson

cnnews@ResearchResearch.com

some of the Parliament's suggestions, and that it intended to pursue Horizon 2020 collaboration in the areas of water, renewable energy, food and the bioeconomy.

In April, research commissioner Carlos Moedas visited Iran to push forward research relations. Further progress is also expected in November when international banks will re-establish normal relations with Iran. Previously, researchers involved in EU projects said that obtaining funds was a major difficulty because of limits on financial transactions.

The Parliament resolution was passed by 457 votes to 174, and some MEPs raised concerns about the plan. Marietje Schaake, a Dutch MEP with the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, said that the Parliament's position "lacked clarity on human rights", and that she believed it was "too early" to formalise cooperation with Iran.

But the Commission said that science diplomacy could be instrumental in rebuilding Iran's global position, and for bringing together EU and Iranian researchers and students to work on common challenges.

El-Zoheiry said: "We have to recognise that we're in a trust-building phase, but we are progressing."

## interview

# A light in the darkness

**Eleni Courea** spoke to two academics who have relocated from Syria to the UK. Names have been changed at their request.

More than buildings, roads or even individual lives, war takes its toll on a country's social and cultural fabric. Since civil war broke out in Syria in 2011, the Council for At-Risk Academics (Cara) has been helping to relocate academics from Syria to Europe. The London-based non-governmental organisation is seeking to preserve the warring nation's intellectual heritage by providing sanctuary to academics.

Abd came to the UK two years ago from Aleppo—"now a famous city", he notes wryly—where he worked as an industrial engineer. In Syria, his work at a mapping company focused on improving digital representation of geographical terrain. In 2015, Abd secured a placement at the University of Liverpool with the assistance of Cara; he travelled to the UK with his family, and the organisation covered their living expenses. After completing a one-year honorary fellowship, Abd successfully applied for a permanent lectureship in September 2016. As a geologist specialising in surveying and geographic information systems, Abd collects and analyses data to study dams.

Hosam, a second-year PhD student at Nottingham Trent University, left Homs in 2015. He headed for Beirut in Lebanon, where he applied for a UK visa. After Cara found him a position at Nottingham Trent, Hosam arrived in the UK in November 2015. Back in Syria, Hosam was a pharmacologist in a university laboratory, teaching medical students. In Nottingham, he is working on a cell line model to predict the clinical response to drugs for Parkinson's disease.

While the biggest change has come from the safety and security of their immediate environments, both Abd and Hosam stress how different the world of academia is too. "In Syria we didn't have 'research' in the real meaning of the word," Hosam says. Academic study in Syria is very unstructured; working in the UK comes

with responsibilities for teaching and funding applications, Abd observes. The learning environment is different too: in Syria, engineering students are limited to theoretical grounding, with minimal opportunities for fieldwork.

But despite this, Hosam says he settled easily into life in the UK. After finishing his PhD at Nottingham Trent, he aspires to take up postdoctoral study and to pursue a research career focusing on schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, he says. Abd, who has

already been successful in securing one permanent post at the University of Liverpool, aims to stay there for a while. "I'm trying to work hard here and to give everything I have to support the university that hosts me," he says.

Both Abd and Hosam speak highly of their experiences with Cara, and say that there is an urgent need for more initiatives to relocate Syrian academics to Europe.

But Cara's assistance comes with the understanding that academics will return to their home country once it is safe to do so, and contribute to rebuilding society there. For Abd, this is of paramount importance. "It is my dream that all academics return to Syria and transfer our new expertise. But this requires a clean working environment," he says.

Injustice, corruption and inequality are major barriers that need to be overcome. "There are a lot of qualified people in Syria, but the problem is the leadership. Decision-makers are not qualified to be in their positions, in most cases," Abd says, daring to touch on the difficult political problems in his home country.

Hosam is realistic, observing that refugee researchers who return to Syria will not be able to carry on as in the UK—there simply aren't the right resources and structures. Biomedical science and laboratory-based research won't be at the forefront of attention for many years to come, and the humanities and social sciences must be prioritised over and above any other academic areas, he says. "Social and psychological research will be very important in order to overcome the direct consequences of the war," he says. "I don't think that the country will be investing in Parkinson's disease when they have millions of people who need direct psychological care."

But, Hosam says, Syrian academics who have spent time in Europe are uniquely equipped to build a more structured environment back home. This is what he sees himself contributing when he returns.

It is clear that Syria will be a shell of its former self long after the bombs stop falling. As an engineer, Abd says he is used to teaching students the principles of building with solid foundations. When it comes to rebuilding countries, you need to cultivate an equally solid human being, he says—one equipped with an open mind, freedom of speech and a willingness to fight corruption. "This is my message," Abd says: "Once we have free people, we will be able to rebuild our country. Building infrastructure will be easy in comparison with that task."

*More to say? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com*

'My dream is that all academics return to Syria and transfer our new expertise.'

david nicholas **view from the top**

# Publish or perish thwarts young researchers' urge to innovate

Early-career researchers constitute a vast pool of talent. They are the largest group of researchers and their numbers are growing fast. They are essential for enabling research to meet the needs of knowledge economies and, as the League of European Research Universities wrote in 2010, universities' research crucially rests on their access "to the best talents of the rising generation and the creative influence of the irreverent young".

Despite all this, our research has found that whatever the country and whatever their discipline, early-career researchers face a precarious work environment. Their careers entail many moves between institutions, short-term contracts and heavy workloads. The last of these stems largely from the need to fast-track academic development in a quest for scholarly reputation and tenure. It is this precariousness, as much as researchers' age or generation, that shapes their scholarly attitudes and behaviours.

As a result, early-career researchers are stuck in the middle. They work in an unbending system of rewards and reputation. But they also inhabit a rapidly changing and enticing environment of digital scholarly communications driven by open science and social media.

On the one hand, they must adhere to the norms of academia, stifling any revolutionary thoughts about the current system. On the other hand, many are digital natives and have a natural inclination to think and behave more expansively, innovatively and publicly. The means at their disposal are changing fast, but the ends they are striving to achieve have barely budged.

The outcome reveals the tensions created by academia's digital transition: scholarly practices, behaviours, representations, wishes and objectives are moving in many directions, while the formal frame of evaluation remains as rigid as ever—if not more so—thanks to greater levels of global competition.

**EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS SEE** the possibilities for change, but cannot act because of a lack of time and authority. These tensions and trade-offs explain the apparently contradictory findings in our study, *Early Career Researchers: The harbingers of change?*

Funded by the Publishing Research Consortium, an industry association, this was a three-year investigation of 116 science and social sciences researchers from 81 universities in China, France, Malaysia, Poland, Spain, the UK and the United States. Subjects were generally 35 or younger, and were either doctoral students or post-docs—none had a permanent, tenured post. They were interviewed for an hour or more in their own language.

Interviews focused on early-career researchers' attitudes and behaviours in respect to scholarly communications, and the adoption of technologies, such as social media, online communities and open science.

In general, the pressures on early-career researchers prevent them from taking the initiative in shaping how they work, especially in publishing. Instead, they follow their seniors. They avoid risk when choosing their research projects, and this extends to how they publish.

We found that early-career researchers focus almost wholly on one element of the research cycle, publication, often to the detriment of everything else. This is rational, at least until hiring, tenure and promotion requirements are expanded to include novel ways of disseminating and measuring scholarly achievement.

For the time being, all their efforts go into publishing papers in high-impact-factor journals, or at least those indexed by citation databases, such as Web of Science or Scopus. Thus, their publishing strategy is simple and myopic: publish many articles in top-tier journals, with the most prestigious co-authors and research groups.

A good number would love to move away from this overriding preoccupation with publishing papers. They do not, however, feel they have the status to change things, believing that this has to be done higher up the ladder.

**BEYOND PUBLISHING, MANY EARLY-CAREER** researchers see outreach activities as part and parcel of their job, and many expressed their frustration at not being able to practice this activity. There is an exception among UK researchers, who are more able to reach out to practitioners, policymakers and the public, often using innovative means such as social media. This is undoubtedly due in part to the inclusion of impact beyond academia in the UK's national research evaluation, the Research Excellence Framework, showing what can be done when the reward system is (partly) changed.

Collaboration and sharing, albeit activities long embedded in academia, are often trumpeted as scholarly activities particularly congenial to the young. We found that these are things that early-career researchers do and enjoy—and would like to see given more recognition—but not at the cost of losing a competitive edge.

They collaborate mainly because it leads to publication in top journals and gaining valuable international contacts. Collaboration is

*Continued on page 8*

'Pressure prevents early-career researchers from shaping how they work.'

*Early-career researchers from page 7*

easier than ever thanks to scholarly online networks, although conferences are still the most important way to build research alliances.

Digital tools have made sharing research almost effortless. While early-career researchers talk a lot about sharing as central to their scholarly lives, they still have to abide by the rules of academic competition. This means that there is little sharing of ideas and interim results using social media. Sharing research outputs after formal publication, in contrast, is popular.

Our picture of early-career researchers offers mixed news for publishers and bad news for libraries, the two main pillars of traditional scholarly communication. Publishers own the highly-ranked journals, but many young researchers understand little of what these companies do. Some researchers lack what we might call a publishing culture; confusing, or unable to distinguish, one publisher from another. This may be partly explained by the default use of Google Scholar rather than publisher platforms for finding and accessing papers.

The picture is more worrying for libraries, as their scholarly services seem to have lost all visibility. Many early-career researchers have not set foot in their library for years, and consider them mainly as places for undergraduates to work. As with publisher platforms, Google has supplanted their discovery systems. To make matters worse, institutional repositories are not popular, either. This poses some challenges for publishers, as they have long worked hand-in-glove with libraries.

Advocates of open-access publishing see it as a game changer, but most early-career researchers do not. Gold open access, where authors pay to make papers freely available, is universally seen as a good thing. That being said, young academics are aware of its problems, such as predatory publishers with dubious editorial practices. They are also worried that open access might tilt the playing field in favour of those who can afford to pay for it.

Distrust of open access has declined relative to earlier surveys, but our respondents still saw a journal's prestige as its decisive attribute. Despite a growing number of funder mandates, publishing in open-access journals is not part of many publishing strategies. Green open access—depositing in institutional repositories—is done when obligatory, but there is a general lack of knowledge of and interest in repositories.

Will early-career researchers be the harbingers of change? Some academic leaders—including the League of European Research Universities, a consortium of 21 of the continent's top research universities—hope so, believing that the young could sweep away tired and obso-

lete practices that skew scholarship.

In its 2010 position paper quoted previously, Leru argues that the public interest is best served by universities producing well-developed and creative people, rather than merely successful projects or published papers. Therefore, as important as it is for an institution to develop its research productivity and reputation, it is more important still to optimise support for early-career researchers' development.

Leru's members, however, are currently as much part of the problem as part of the solution. Until higher education employers' policies actually change, these researchers' precarious position and the reputational system conspire to prevent them from becoming the vanguard of change.

**THERE ARE FLICKERS OF MOVEMENT.** Early-career researchers plainly have more adventurous attitudes towards some aspects of scholarship, even if this does not always show. For example, while they might not target their efforts at journals with innovative features, such as video articles, they are aware of and excited by such developments.

By the same token, many researchers use social media regularly, mostly for obtaining journal articles, connecting with colleagues and—increasingly, with the encouragement of their institutions—to maximize research impact.

Online scholarly communities such as ResearchGate are gaining ground, and more transformational ideas are being mentioned than we have come across in earlier studies. Researchers in the United States, and in the UK—where attitudes are closer to those in the US than in the rest of Europe—are, if not leading the changes, articulating them most vocally. French researchers are the most pessimistic, believing nothing will change.

The pace of change, and with it the advancement of science, is being slowed by the constricting realities of life for early-career researchers, rather than their inclinations. The solution is to make their circumstances less precarious and give them their heads.

In that way, young researchers might dare to do more original, creative and transformative research, even at the risk of missing out on publishing in top journals; adopt novel dissemination strategies; use more time to explore the scholarly opportunities of social media and open science; deposit papers in repositories with greater alacrity; and act more independently of their seniors.

*More to say? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com*

*David Nicholas is director of CIBER Research and a professor at Tomsk State University, in Siberia, and the University of Tennessee. This article was written with the help of the 'Harbingers' research team: Anthony Watkinson, Eti Herman, Chérifa Boukacem-Zeghmouri, Blanca Rodríguez-Bravo, Jie Xu, Abrizah Abdullah and Marzena Swigon. See also <http://ciber-research.eu/harbingers.html>*

'Many young researchers understand little of what publishing companies do.'



# funding opportunities

Research Europe  
3 November 2016

every new opportunity every discipline

## highlights

### ERC consolidator grants

The European Commission Horizon 2020: ERC invites proposals for its ERC-2017-COG ERC consolidator grants. Grants are worth up to €2.75 million over five years [10].

### Erasmus + Jean Monnet

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme, invites proposals for the Jean Monnet activities call. Grants are worth up to €300,000 [12].

### Risk research chairs

The AXA Research Fund invites applications for its chairs programme. Four to six grants, each worth between €450,000 and €1.8 million, are available [28].

### Headache research award

The Italian Society for the Study of Headaches invites applications for the Enrico Greppi award. The prize is worth €10,000 [36].

### Electrical insulation

InnoCentive invites proposals for its challenge on electrical insulation materials with low permittivity. The award is worth up to USD 30,000 (€21,000) [57].

## deadlines

Opportunities from previous issues of *Research Europe*, listed by closing date. European Commission and associated funders marked **EU**.

Each entry is followed by a Web id

### November

- 11 **ES** Institute of Photonic Sciences student research fellowships 1189185
- 13 **EU** Era-Planet joint transnational call 1191854
- 14 **EU** Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology pilot project for developing the use of new technologies and digital tools in education 1192063
- 15 **UK** Alzheimer's Research UK dementia consortium 1184312
- CH** European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases young investigator awards 204169
- EU** H2020: Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation H2020-WIDESPREAD-04-2017 teaming phase 1 1187225
- EU** Horizon 2020: Societal Challenges H2020-CO-CREATION-2016 co-creation for growth and inclusion – topics 2 and 3 1184873
- NL** International Statistics Institute Karl Pearson prize 1175092
- UK** Ramsay Memorial Fellowships Trust fellowships 202413
- EU** Single European Sky ATM Joint Undertaking H2020-SESAR-2016-1 exploratory research call 1190687
- UK** Strathmartine Trust grants 1179352
- NL** Tilburg University Witteveen memorial fellowship in law and humanities 1192171
- IT** UniCredit Foundation Crivelli Europe scholarship 1161988
- 16 **UK** Alzheimer's Research UK target validation pathfinder grant 1189922
- EU** Directorate-General for Climate Action study on mapping the development of the international carbon market 1192158
- UK** Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh small research pump priming grants 255235
- 17 **EU** Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises study on international oceans governance – scientific support 1192162
- 18 **EU** EUREKA Eurogia2020 call for projects 1161448
- 22 **DE** Gerda Henkel Foundation research project grants 1166541
- DE** Gerda Henkel Foundation research scholarships 1166545
- 23 **UK** Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers Ralph Brown expedition award 211459
- UK** Royal Geographical Society/Institute of British Geographers Thesiger-Oman fellowship 211462
- EU** Directorate-General for Education and Culture European cooperation projects 1177060
- UK** Wellcome/Royal Society Sir Henry Dale fellowships 1164964
- UK** Wellcome/Science Foundation Ireland/Health Research Board research career development fellowships 253970
- 24 **UK** Royal Society/Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin fellowships 212549
- 25 **IT** Eni advanced environmental solutions prize 1191336
- IT** Eni energy frontiers prize 1191307
- IT** Eni energy transition prize 1191335
- EU** EUREKA-Chile joint call for proposals 1189977
- 29 **EU** Directorate-General for Energy solar decathlon Europe competitions – analysis of the results 1192178
- 30 **SE** Anders Wall Foundation Anders Wall environment award 1191166
- DE** Bayer early-career investigator award 197657
- DE** Bayer fellowship project award 212799
- DE** Bayer outcomes research 1190311
- DE** Bayer special project award 197667
- UK** British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy education grants 1187352
- UK** British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy PhD studentships 1177720
- UK** British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy research grants 209805
- IL** Dan David Foundation prizes 204688
- UK** Department for International Development health systems research programme consortia 1192198

## europa

### Baltic Sea award

The Baltic Sea Fund invites nominations for the Baltic Sea award. This recognises a person or an organisation for their contributions for the benefit of the Baltic Sea environment. The award includes a cash prize.

**Web id:** 208684

**Email:** lotta.nummelin@ostersjofonden.org

**Deadline:** 18 November 2016 [1]

### Wood technology award

Holzindustrie Schweighofer invites nominations for the Schweighofer prize. This recognises innovative ideas or products concerning the European forest-based sector. Up to seven prizes worth up to €100,000 each are available.

**Web id:** 207235

**Email:** info@schweighofer-prize.org

**Deadline:** 3 February 2017 [2]

### Summer fellowships

The Federation of European Biochemical Societies invites applications for its summer fellowships. These enable students to visit an institution within the federation's area. Fellowships are worth up to €4,000 each.

**Web id:** 200149

**Email:** febsfellowships@univie.ac.at

**Deadline:** 1 April 2017 [3]

### EU defence procurement

The European Defence Agency invites tenders for the following contracts:

- study on the standardisation of a remote pilot station of remotely piloted aircraft systems for European Aviation Safety Agency's certified category, worth €400,000 over 24 months.

**Web id:** 1192329

- deployable cyber evidence collection and evaluation capability (DCEC2), worth €450,000 over 48 months.

**Web id:** 1192445

**Email:** procurement@eda.europa.eu

**Deadline:** 22 November 2016 [5]

### EU common agriculture

The Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development invites tenders for evaluation studies of the common agricultural policy – synthesis and cross-thematic issues. The tenderer will conduct evaluation studies to analyse of cross-thematic issues related to the common agricultural policy. The contract is worth €3.5 million over 72 months.

**Web id:** 1192358

**Email:** agri-evaluation@ec.europa.eu

**Deadline:** 19 December 2016 [6]

### EU Erasmus+

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme invites applications for the following opportunities:

- mobility projects in the field of education, training and youth, with varied funding amounts according to applicant country and the duration of the project.

**Web id:** 1176968

## Online Funding Search

For full details of every funding opportunity, visit  
[www.ResearchProfessional.com](http://www.ResearchProfessional.com)

Online subscribers can view full details of any funding opportunity by simply searching for the Web id number as free text in a funding search.

### Funding search

Free text: 1234567 x

Search

NOT TO BE  
PHOTOCOPIED

For subscriptions call +44 20 7216 6500

•strategic partnerships in the field of youth, worth up to €450,000, over up to 36 months. **Web id: 1176972**  
**Deadline: 2 February 2017** [8]

### EU Erasmus+ Higher Education

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme, invites applications for its capacity building in the field of higher education action. This supports the accessibility and internationalisation of higher education in partner countries. Funding is worth up to €1 million per project, for up to three years.

**Web id: 1176974**

**Deadline: 9 February 2017** [9]

### EU ERC consolidator grants

The European Commission Horizon 2020: ERC invites proposals for its ERC-2017-COG ERC consolidator grants. These support principal investigators who are at a career stage at which they are consolidating their own independent research programme. Grants are worth up to €2.75 million over five years.

**Web id: 1191206**

**Deadline: 9 February 2017** [10]

### EU Erasmus+ master's grants

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme, invites applications for the Erasmus Mundus joint master degrees. These aim to foster improvements, innovation and internationalisation in higher education institutions. Grants are worth up to €50,000 per year.

**Web id: 1176970**

**Deadline: 16 February 2017** [11]

### EU Erasmus + Jean Monnet

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme, invites proposals for the Jean Monnet activities call. This promotes excellence in research in the field of EU studies and fosters the dialogue between the academic world and policy-makers. Grants are worth up to €300,000.

**Web id: 1163895**

**Deadline: 23 February 2017** [12]

### EU Erasmus+ alliances

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme, invites applications for its knowledge alliances action. This aims to foster innovation in higher education, business and the broader socio-economic environment. Grants are worth up to €1 million for up to three years.

**Web id: 1176973**

**Deadline: 28 February 2017** [13]

### EU Erasmus+ youth

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme, invites applications for its capacity building in the field of youth action. This supports transnational capacity-building and mobility activities. Each grant is worth up to €150,000.

**Web id: 1187322**

**Deadline: 8 March 2017** [14]

### EU Erasmus+ partnerships

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme, invites applications for its strategic partnerships in the field of

education and training. These support joint initiatives promoting cooperation, peer learning and exchanges of experience in Europe. Each grant is worth up to €450,000 for 36 months.

**Web id: 1176971**

**Deadline: 29 March 2017** [15]

### EU Erasmus+ sport

The Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency, under its Erasmus+ programme, invites applications for its collaborative partnerships in sports. These support the development of innovative practices in different areas relating to sport and physical activity between organisations. Grants are worth up to €400,000 over 36 months.

**Web id: 1176977**

**Deadline: 6 April 2017** [16]

### Intensive care awards

The European Society of Intensive Care Medicine invites applications for the Baxter-ESICM fluid management award. This supports research on intravenous fluids, used in resuscitation, replacement of fluid losses. The award is worth €20,000.

**Web id: 1177493**

**Email: research@esicm.org**

**Deadline: 1 May 2017** [17]

### EU maritime receiver

The European Global Navigation Satellite Systems Agency invites applications for its call on maritime receivers development, test and validation. This aims to develop a prototype of multisystem receiver using navigation signals from at least GPS with augmentation provided by satellite-based augmentation system corrections. Four grants, each worth €250,000, will be available.

**Web id: 1188395**

**Deadline: 1 December 2016** [18]

### EU European networks

The Centre for International Mobility Finland, in collaboration with the Education, Audiovisual, and Culture Executive Agency, invites applications for their Creative Europe networks programme. This supports activities that enforce international collaboration and adaptability within the cultural and creative industry. Grants are worth up to €250,000 per year over four years.

**Web id: 1192232**

**Email: kirjaamo@cimo.fi**

**Deadline: 25 November 2016** [19]

### Nordic criminology

The Scandinavian Research Council for Criminology invites applications for its research grants. These support criminology projects with Nordic relevance. Grants are worth up to €200,000.

**Web id: 257828**

**Email: laura.myntinen@om.fi**

**Deadline: 8 December 2016** [20]

### Cultural mobility

The Nordic Council of Ministers, under the Nordic Culture Point, invites applications for its mobility funding. This aims to enhance cultural and artistic collaboration in the Nordic and Baltic countries. Funding covers expenses for travel and stays of up to 10 days.

**Web id: 1192138**

**Email: program@kulturkontaktord.org**

**Deadline: 13 February 2017** [21]

### EU volcano eruption

The European Science Foundation invites applications for its science meeting grants under its measuring and modelling of volcano eruption dynamics programme. These support meetings that advance knowledge of volcano eruption dynamics. Funding covers travel and accommodation of participants.

**Web id: 1168207**

**Email: t.druitt@opgc.unit-bpclermont.fr**

**Deadline: 18 November 2016** [22]

### EU sustainable development

Interreg IVB North-West Europe invites project proposals for its fourth call. This aims to make the North-West Europe area a key economic player, with high levels of innovation, sustainability and cohesion. The total budget is €370 million.

**Web id: 1191446**

**Email: nwe@nweurope.eu**

**Deadline: 18 November 2016** [23]

### Cardiovascular research

The European Society of Cardiology invites applications for its basic research fellowship. This enables a researcher to spend one year in a European research laboratory, working in the area of cardiovascular sciences. One fellowship, worth €25,000 for one year, is available.

**Web id: 1174474**

**Email: councils@escardio.org**

**Deadline: 1 December 2016** [24]

### Terminal illness

The MAPI Research Trust invites applications for the Catherine Pouget award. This supports projects that improve the quality of care received by patients with terminal illness, including the education of those who care for them. The award is worth up to USD 10,000 (€9,200) over up to two years.

**Web id: 1168160**

**Email: tgauchon@mapigroup.com**

**Deadline: 15 December 2016** [25]

### Agricultural innovation

The Agropolis Foundation invites nominations for the following awards:

- the Louis Malassis international scientific prize, with three prizes of €20,000 each available. **Web id: 1167723**

- the Olam prize for innovation in food security, worth USD 50,000 (€46,000).

**Web id: 1192235**

**Deadline: 25 January 2017** [27]

### Risk research chairs

The AXA Research Fund invites applications for its chairs programme. This creates an academic full time position in the host institution in the field of risk. Four to six grants, each worth between €450,000 and €1.8 million, are available.

**Web id: 1157917**

**Email: chairs@axa.com**

**Deadline: 28 April 2017** [28]

### Biology and medicine

CORBEL invites applications for its open call for research projects. This offers access to cutting-edge technologies and services available at research infrastructures across the biological and medical sciences. Funding covers staff, instrumentation and travel costs.

**Web id: 1192454**

**Email: frau.keitner@embl.de**

**Deadline: 30 November 2016** [29]

### Doctoral visit fellowships

Bielefeld University invites applications for its visiting fellowships. These allow doctoral researchers to work at the graduate school in Germany for four months to promote international scientific and cultural exchange. The fellowship consists of a stipend worth €2,800 for four months.

**Web id: 1188647**

**Email: application-bghs@**

**uni-bielefeld.de**

**Deadline: 15 January 2017** [30]

### Diabetes research

The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes and Novo Nordisk invite applications for their diabetes research in Europe programme. This supports initiatives in diabetes research in order to diffuse knowledge and facilitate its application. Grants are worth up to €400,000.

**Web id: 1157979**

**Email: foundation@easd.org**

**Deadline: 1 February 2017** [31]

### Diabetes fellowships

The European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes invites applications for the following opportunities:

- Lilly research fellowships, worth €50,000 each. **Web id: 260001**

- rising star fellowships programme, with four fellowships worth €30,000 each, plus travel expenses, hotel and registration costs covered for the annual meeting.

**Web id: 1165235**

**Email: foundation@easd.org**

**Deadline: 15 February 2017** [33]

### Hypertension science award

The European Society of Hypertension, through the Talal Zein Foundation, invites nominations for the Talal Zein award. This recognises work related to the basic science, epidemiology, pathophysiology or therapy of hypertension. The award is worth €3,000.

**Web id: 1181792**

**Email: ajmanol@otenet.gr**

**Deadline: 31 March 2017** [34]

### EU doctoral programme

The European University Institute invites applications for its doctoral programme. This offers funding for a doctoral programme with close supervision in writing dissertations. Approximately 150 scholarships are available for four years, and include tuition fees and monthly grants.

**Web id: 1170933**

**Email: applyres@eui.eu**

**Deadline: 31 January 2017** [35]

### Headache research award

The Italian Society for the Study of Headaches invites applications for the Enrico Greppi award. This recognises the best unpublished paper addressing the clinical, epidemiological, genetic, pathophysiological and therapeutic aspects of headache. The prize is worth €10,000.

**Web id: 201166**

**Email: sisc@sisc.it**

**Deadline: 31 May 2017** [36]

### Migration and integration

International Migration, Integration and Social Cohesion (IMISCOE) invites applications for seed funding for research clusters. This supports the development of new research or joint publications in the field of international migration

and integration. Grants are worth up to €5,000 over one year.

**Web id:** 1192411

**Email:** imiscoe@fsw.eur.nl

**Deadline:** 1 December 2016 [37]

### Philosophy prize

The University of Oslo invites applications for the Berit and Peter Wessel Zapffe prize. This recognises work on philosophical and ethical reflections about human reproduction. The prize is worth NOK 100,000 (€11,000).

**Web id:** 1182029

**Email:** bjorg.mikalsen@mn.uio.no

**Deadline:** 15 January 2017 [38]

### Visegrad group courses

The International Visegrad Fund invites applications for its university studies grants. These enable universities to develop degree programmes that relate to the Visegrad Group countries. Grants are worth up to €10,000 per course and €40,000 per degree programme.

**Web id:** 1169917

**Email:** visegradfund@visegradfund.org

**Deadline:** 1 December 2016 [39]

### Princess of Asturias awards

The Princess of Asturias Foundation invites nominations for the Princess of Asturias awards. These recognise scientific, technical, cultural, social and humanitarian work performed at an international level by individuals, groups or institutions. Each award is worth €50,000.

**Web id:** 1161516

**Email:** fpa@fpa.es

**Deadline:** 30 March 2017 [40]

### Mathematics grants

Institut Mittag-Leffler invites applications for its postdoctoral fellowship grants. These enable researchers to undertake a short visit to the institute to conduct research projects in mathematics. Grants provide accommodation, office space, a monthly stipend and travel expenses, for up to three and a half months.

**Web id:** 1169870

**Email:** director@mittag-leffler.se

**Deadline:** 8 January 2017 [41]

### Scandinavian studies

The Clara Lachmann Foundation invites applications for its grants. These support activities that promote Scandinavian cooperation, related to Scandinavian languages, history, literature, society or art. Grants are worth between SEK 4,000 (€400) and SEK 40,000 each.

**Web id:** 178206

**Email:** info@claralachmann.org

**Deadline:** 15 March 2017 [42]

### Paediatric oncology grants

The Swedish Childhood Cancer Foundation invites applications for its start-up grants for paediatric oncology. These support research group collaborations and consortia and provide funding to apply for larger grants.

**Web id:** 1190571

**Email:** emeli.lundstrom@barncancerfonden.se

**Deadline:** 15 May 2017 [43]

### Allergy award

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Organisation, in collaboration with Allergopharma, invites

applications for the Allergopharma research award. This recognises scientific achievements of young scientists working in the field of allergy. The award is worth €10,000.

**Web id:** 260912

**Deadline:** 30 November 2016 [44]

### Scientific fellowship

The Society in Science invites applications for the Branco Weiss fellowship. This enables researchers to undertake unusual research projects across the frontiers of science, engineering and social sciences throughout the world. Funding is worth up to CHF 500,000 (€460,000) for up to five years.

**Web id:** 260294

**Email:** society-in-science@ethz.ch

**Deadline:** 15 January 2017 [45]

### Engineering fellows

CERN invites applications for its post-career break fellowship. This enables researchers to undertake research work in experimental or theoretical physics, or advanced development work in applied science, computing or engineering. One full-time fellowship or two-part time fellowships are available.

**Web id:** 1176979

**Email:** cern.reception@cern.ch

**Deadline:** 28 February 2017 [46]

### Trauma surgery fellowships

The AO Foundation invites applications for its AOTrauma fellowships for surgeons. These provide orthopaedic and general surgeons with additional experience in surgical techniques. Over 250 fellowships, worth up to CHF 8,484 (€7,800) for up to 12 weeks are available.

**Web id:** 1173200

**Email:** fellowship@aotrauma.org

**Deadline:** 14 July 2017 [47]

### Animal welfare research

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare invites concept notes for its animal welfare research award. This supports innovative research in animal welfare science. The award is worth up to £50,000 (€56,000).

**Web id:** 1192226

**Email:** ufaw@ufaw.org.uk

**Deadline:** 25 November 2016 [48]

### Oxford fellowships

The University of Oxford's Centre for the Study of the Book at the Bodleian Libraries invites applications for the following opportunities:

- the Bahari visiting fellowships in the Persian arts of the book, worth up to £9,600 (€11,000). **Web id:** 1187115

- the Byrne-Bussey Marconi fellowships, worth up to £6,400.

**Web id:** 1176712

- the David Walker memorial fellowships in early modern history, worth up to £4,800. **Web id:** 1176714

- the Humfrey Wanley fellowships, worth up to £4,800. **Web id:** 1176708

- the Sassoon visiting fellowships, worth up to £4,800. **Web id:** 1176352

**Email:** fellowships@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 5 December 2016 [53]

### Animal welfare prizes

The University Federation for Animal Welfare invites applications for its medal for outstanding contributions to ani-

mal welfare science. This recognises an individual scientist for fundamental contributions to the advancement of animal welfare. The award is worth £3,000 (€3,300).

**Web id:** 1165088

**Email:** goodwin@ufaw.org.uk

**Deadline:** 9 December 2016 [54]

### Disease outbreaks

The Department for International Development invites tenders for its tackling deadly diseases in Africa programme. The tenderer will address a number of challenges that limit the effectiveness of responses to disease outbreaks. The contract will last 60 months.

**Web id:** 1192438

**Email:** p-graham@dfid.gov.uk

**Deadline:** 16 December 2016 [55]

### Chemistry accessibility prize

The Royal Society of Chemistry invites nominations for its inclusion and diversity prize. This recognises a contribution to promoting and improving the accessibility, inclusivity and diversity of the chemical science community. The award is worth £5,000 (€5,600).

**Web id:** 1191811

**Deadline:** 16 January 2017 [56]

### Electrical insulation

InnoCentive invites proposals for its challenge on electrical insulation materials with low permittivity. This supports research into new solutions, additives or new materials, to lower the permittivity of current high-voltage power distribution cables. The award is worth up to USD 30,000 (€21,000).

**Web id:** 1192380

**Deadline:** 31 January 2017 [57]

### Social sciences prize

The Kadas Prize Foundation, in collaboration with Cambridge University Press and the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Cambridge, invites applications for its nine dots prize. This rewards original thinking towards the publication of a book, on whether digital technologies are making politics impossible. The prize is worth £100,000 (€110,000).

**Web id:** 1192376

**Email:** questions@ninedotsprize.org

**Deadline:** 31 January 2017 [58]

### Archaeology/art fellowship

The School of Advanced Study invites applications for the following opportunities:

- the AD Trendall fellowship, worth £5,000 (€5,600). **Web id:** 1192224

- the TBL Webster fellowship, worth £5,000. **Web id:** 1191008

**Email:** director.ics@sas.ac.uk

**Deadline:** 31 January 2017 [60]

### Canine health research

The Kennel Club invites applications for its international canine health awards. These recognise innovative researchers and veterinary scientists whose work has had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of dogs. Prizes are worth up to £40,000 (€45,000).

**Web id:** 1192243

**Email:** icha@thekennelclub.uk

**Deadline:** 12 February 2017 [61]

## Companion animals

The Waltham Foundation invites proposals for its research awards. These support projects related to the nutritional, behavioural, health and welfare of companion animals around the world. 15 grants worth up to USD 20,000 (€18,000) each over two years, are available.

**Web id:** 208814

**Email:** waltham.foundation@waltham.com

**Deadline:** 1 March 2017 [63]

## Plant pathology

The British Society for Plant Pathology invites applications for its MSc project bursary fund. This enables master's students to complete the research element of their course. Bursaries are worth up to £3,900 (€4,300).

**Web id:** 1171891

**Email:** education@bspp.org.uk

**Deadline:** 1 April 2017 [64]

## Applied microbiology

The Society for Applied Microbiology invites applications for its public engagement grant. This supports events where aspects of microbiology are promoted to the general public. The grant is worth up to £3,000 (€3,400).

**Web id:** 1179374

**Email:** julie@sfam.org.uk

**Deadline:** 29 April 2017 [65]

## rest of world

### Canadian studies

The International Council for Canadian Studies invites applications for the following opportunities:

- young Canadian studies postdoctoral fellowships, worth CAD 7,500 (€5,100), plus the cost of a return airline ticket.

**Web id:** 252699

- graduate student scholarships, with six awards, worth up to CAD 4,000 each.

**Web id:** 205824

**Email:** nadyne.lacroix@iccs-ciec.ca

**Deadline:** 24 November 2016 [68]

### Inflammatory bowel disease

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada invites applications for its grants for innovations in inflammatory bowel disease research. These support innovative projects that have the potential to improve the diagnosis, therapy and prevention of inflammatory bowel disease. Grants are worth up to CAD 50,000 (€34,000) for up to one year.

**Web id:** 1176131

**Email:** researchassistant@ccfc.ca

**Deadline:** 20 January 2017 [69]

### Southeast Asia urban climate

The Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia Partnership at the University of Toronto invites applications for its post-doctoral fellowship. This enables a recent PhD graduate to carry out research on building urban climate change capacity. The fellowship includes an annual salary of CAD 45,000 (€31,000) plus support for travel in Southeast Asia.

**Web id:** 1183103

**Email:** amrita.daniere@utoronto.ca

**Deadline:** 28 February 2017 [70]

## tenders

**Material surface** \*ESA

The European Space Agency invites tenders for a new material surface for water condensate. The tenderer will test the new surface anti-microbial treatment for its susceptibility to microbial biofilm formation and quantitatively study the possible extent of degradation by microorganisms and release of toxic compounds in condensate. The contract is worth between €200,000 and €500,000. Ref: 16.129.19. **Deadline: 25 November 2016**

**Cubesat concept** \*ESA

The European Space Agency invites tenders for R&D studies competition for innovation AO#4 – lunar cubesats for explorations. The tenderer will generate a number of cubesat or smallsat mission and system concepts, including operational approaches, platform designs and instrument concepts, to support ESA's lunar exploration objectives. The contract is worth between €100,000 and €200,000. Ref: 16.197.02. **Deadline: 25 November 2016**

**Optical polishing** \*ESA

The European Space Agency invites tenders for new optical polishing techniques. The tenderer will assess the performance of new polishing techniques in terms of achievable polishing speed, wavefront and scatter performance. The contract is worth between €200,000 and €500,000. Ref: 16.129.16. **Deadline: 29 November 2016**

**Altimetry radiometer** \*ESA

The European Space Agency invites tenders for the provision of a coastal altimetry radiometer instrument study. The tenderer will elaborate a novel radiometer instrument design aimed at future operational altimetry missions with higher spatial resolution in order to improve coastal altimetry, topography over sea ice, ice sheets and inland hydrology applications. The contract is worth between €200,000 and €500,000. Ref: 16.156.04. **Deadline: 2 December 2016**

**Cloud profiling** \*ESA

The European Space Agency invites tenders for the provision of a scientific concept study for wide-swath high resolution cloud profiling. The tenderer will study a concept addressing the need of the climate community of these profiles by adding active observation capability to future operational cloud observations for synergistic exploitation. The contract is worth between €200,000 and €500,000. Ref: 16.197.15. **Deadline: 2 December 2016**

**Antenna testing** \*ESA

The European Space Agency invites tenders for a measurement methodology for fast antenna testing. The tenderer will consolidate a working approach, demonstrating a solution that measures complex antennas for telecom applications by reducing radio frequency testing time and cost. The contract is worth more than €500,000. Ref: 16.1TT.32. **Deadline: 1 February 2017**

\*ESA is at: <http://emits.esa.intw>

## usa

Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History global volcanism programme for visiting scientist or post-doctoral fellow

**Web id: 1172459**

**No deadline** [77]

John Templeton Foundation small research grants in core areas

**Web id: 1192274**

**Deadline: 30 November 2016** [78]

Smithsonian Institution Museum Conservation Institute technical studies fellowship

**Web id: 1192372**

**Deadline: 30 November 2016** [79]

University of South Carolina Peter B Cotton advanced endoscopy travel fellowship programme

**Web id: 1192418**

**Deadline: 1 December 2016** [80]

Geological Society of America young scientist award

**Web id: 191689**

**Deadline: 1 February 2017** [81]

Padi Foundation research grants

**Web id: 210778**

**Deadline: 1 February 2017** [82]

University of Notre Dame Center for Philosophy of Religion research fellowships

**Web id: 1182266**

**Deadline: 1 February 2017** [83]

University of Notre Dame Center for Philosophy of Religion visiting graduate fellowship

**Web id: 1182267**

**Deadline: 1 February 2017** [84]

American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists distinction in biomarker research award

**Web id: 1188482**

**Deadline: 21 February 2017** [86]

Open Society Foundations fellowship

**Web id: 261030**

**Deadline: 1 March 2017** [87]

National Archives and Records Administration Gerald R Ford scholar award

**Web id: 208374**

**Deadline: 31 March 2017** [88]

Electrochemical Society Vittorio de Nora award

**Web id: 1165078**

**Deadline: 15 April 2017** [89]

Eppendorf science prize for neurobiology

**Web id: 205656**

**Deadline: 15 June 2017** [90]

IEEE/Association for Computing Machinery Ken Kennedy award

**Web id: 251830**

**Deadline: 1 July 2017** [91]

John Templeton Foundation large research grants in core areas

**Web id: 1163827**

**Deadline: 31 August 2017** [92]

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts research and development grants to individuals

**Web id: 1176030**

**Deadline: 15 September 2017** [93]

Department of Defence extramural medical research

**Web id: 1187050**

**Deadline: 30 September 2017** [94]

Electrochemical Society Edward Goodrich Acheson award

**Web id: 158424**

**Deadline: 1 October 2017** [95]

## policy diary

## November

10 IP in Life Sciences, Bonn, Germany.  
<http://rsrch.co/2ekMdBp>

14 Women and Leadership in Academia, Zurich, Switzerland.  
<http://rsrch.co/2colYfj>

- Enterprise Europe Network Annual Conference, Bratislava, Slovakia. To 16.  
<http://rsrch.co/2etob70>

- Advanced Research Infrastructure Communities, Brussels, Belgium.  
<http://rsrch.co/2dn4q3y>

15 Presidency Conference: Social Sciences and Humanities in Addressing Global Challenges, Bratislava, Slovakia. To 16.  
<http://rsrch.co/28JN9is>

- Artificial Intelligence and Ethics, Brussels, Belgium.  
<http://rsrch.co/2dsaNBk>

16 Global Trends to 2030: Society and Governance, Brussels, Belgium. To 17.  
<http://rsrch.co/2bYHUwL>

- Integrating Societal Impact in a Research Strategy, Copenhagen, Denmark. To 18.  
<http://rsrch.co/2evGYgL>

- Public Participation in Sustainable Innovation, Brussels, Belgium. To 17.  
<http://rsrch.co/2eFmRBz>

17 European Quality Assurance Forum, Ljubljana, Slovenia. To 19. <http://rsrch.co/10e5gss>

- 4th Annual European Cyber-Security Conference, Brussels, Belgium.  
<http://rsrch.co/2ccnm38>

20 ACA Annual Conference 2016: Higher Education Institutions and their Habitat, Budapest, Hungary. To 22.  
<http://rsrch.co/2bPXuId>

- Impact from Social Sciences and Humanities, Rome, Italy. To 22.  
<http://rsrch.co/2e7MdIA>

21 Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Stakeholder Forum, Brussels, Belgium. To 22.  
<http://rsrch.co/28JiiQK>

22 Joint Programming Conference 2016, Brussels, Belgium. To 23.  
<http://rsrch.co/1RZrh3u>

- Open Access and Open Data Policy, London, UK.  
<http://rsrch.co/2clItfT>

- Innovation Policies for the Digital Shift, Brussels, Belgium.  
<http://rsrch.co/2dNUJr8>

23 Spreading Excellence and Crossing the Innovation Divide, Brussels, Belgium.  
<http://rsrch.co/2cu5PK4>

- SME Assembly, Bratislava, Slovakia. To 25.  
<http://rsrch.co/2eknsJk>

## \*Research Europe

ISSN 1366-9885

Published every two weeks with breaks at Christmas, Easter and in summer. The next issue will be published on 17 November.

**Letters to**

Research Europe  
Unit 111, 134-146 Curtain Road,  
London EC2A 3AR, England  
[news@researchresearch.com](mailto:news@researchresearch.com)

**Enquiries to**

[info@researchresearch.com](mailto:info@researchresearch.com)  
Tel +44 20 7216 6500

**Editor** Colin MacIlwain

**Comment and Analysis Editor**  
John Whitfield

**News Editor** Laura Greenhalgh

**Senior Reporter** Craig Nicholson

**Reporters**

Eleni Courea, Cristina Gallardo,  
Lindsay McKenzie, Anna McKie,  
Amanda Stringfellow

**Chief Sub Editor** Kris Pedder

**Sub Editor** Jenny Maukola

**Data Analyst** Gretchen Ransow

**Funding Content Managers**

Mikael Järvelin,  
Sanja Vlasisavljevic

**Deputy Funding Content**

**Manager** Mirella Rosenström

**Senior Funding Content Editor**  
Sofia Capel

**Deputy Funding Content Editor**  
Marion Galley

**Editorial Researchers**

Claire Braun, Anna Hagberg,  
Lucas Haks, Gladys Hellgren,  
Louise Jensen, Eeva-Maija  
Jokiniemi, Lotte Krause,  
Sam Marberg, Willemijn van  
Mossevelde, Marcia Rato, Ben  
Raynor, Saara Santanen, Dalia  
Saris, Kartikey Srivastava,  
Simon Svendsen

**Production Manager**

Katherine Lester

**Production Team**

Grace Harrison, Laura Kipp

**Technical Director** Steve Potter

**Editor, Research Fortnight**

Ehsan Masood

**Chairman and Founder**

William Cullerne Bown

**Publisher** Thérèse Claffey

**Sales Director** Nicky Cooper

**Sales Managers**

Jon Thornton, Alison Warder

**Advertising London**

Trishita Shah, +44 20 7216 6528  
[advertise@researchresearch.com](mailto:advertise@researchresearch.com)

Published by \*Research.

Copyright © Research Research  
Limited, 2016.

**ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

Reproducing *Research Europe*  
by photocopying, electronic or  
other means in any language  
without the permission of the  
publisher is illegal.



Please recycle after use.

**NOT TO BE PHOTOCOPIED**

a \*Research publication

# Neutral ground

**Inga Vesper** reports on a Volkswagen Foundation programme trying to keep scientific channels open between Russia and Ukraine.

It started with a boycott. When Ukraine's government heard that participation in the Volkswagen Foundation's trilateral partnership programme would fund Ukrainian scientists to work with Russian colleagues, it clamped down. Government officials told local universities to reject the foundation's call for partners and refuse to participate.

In fact, the government's interference brought the programme nationwide attention. When the boycott was lifted after diplomatic discussions involving the German embassy, the programme received more than 200 applications. "We never expected this," says Matthias Nöllenburg, the programme's director. "It shows that there is a lot of potential, but very little fear."

In April, the Volkswagen Foundation funded 36 research projects that will each receive €250,000. The requirement: that scientists from Germany, Ukraine and Russia collaborate on the project equally, despite differences in the availability of research infrastructure and the ever-shifting power balance between the countries.

In 2014, the ousting of Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich left a power vacuum that was quickly exploited by Russia. The country annexed Crimea and supported pro-Russian rebels in Ukraine's Donbass region. Intermittent fighting has killed more than 8,000 people in two years. Donbass remains under Russian control and diplomatic relations are in deep freeze.

Nöllenburg says that the Volkswagen programme aims to bypass the political conflict and help to keep academic collaboration between the countries on track. "Scientific contacts between Russians, Ukrainians and Germans still exist from Soviet times," he says.

The programme's efforts have been noticed by the European Commission: Ukraine and Russia are collaborating under Horizon 2020, and the Commission said it is keen to use science to provide a positive voice throughout the conflict. "The universal language of science can open channels of communications where few other mechanisms are feasible," says a Commission spokeswoman.

"The Russian, Ukrainian and German embassies know what we are doing, and we keep them informed," Nöllenburg says. "Hopefully, the collaboration gives wider perspective and helps to relax political tensions."

The 36 projects cover all disciplines including a linguistics project looking at the media's expression of conflict; experimental physics research into the property of nanomaterials; and a study on mathematical algorithms.

Metrology researcher Thomas Pluntke leads a project

at the Dresden University of Technology, which seeks to improve the management of transboundary river resources between Russia and Ukraine. Pluntke says that some of its participants had worked together previously, but that the support from the Volkswagen Foundation has been particularly welcome since national funding for joint projects has been frozen since the conflict began.

Without the programme, previous collaboration would have ended without conclusion, Pluntke predicts. "At a university, if you do not get funding, the collaboration shrinks immediately."

Germany's role has also been vital, as the Dresden water management project had to cancel its first planned workshop in Russia because Ukrainians were not able to travel there. As Nöllenburg puts it: "Germany is neutral ground."

The Commission spokeswoman says that similar thinking led the EU to accept Ukraine, Tunisia, Armenia and Georgia as partnership countries in Horizon 2020. Their memberships allow scientists to obtain visas and funds to attend events and workshops in Europe, when visiting each other in their home countries can be hard.

Pluntke says that it is important to host projects in the warring nations to maintain respect and interpersonal relations. "We want our scientists to not just accept the situation, but try to face the problems," he says.

But Nöllenburg says that after much discussion the Volkswagen Foundation decided not to fund any projects in Crimea, in order to avoid taking a political stance on ownership of the territory. "We did not want to walk on thin ice," he says. The same goes for projects in eastern Ukraine, where fighting is frequent. "When institutions are closed and it is dangerous to move about, we would need to interrupt projects," Nöllenburg says. "We cannot put scientists in danger."

On 19 October, Germany's chancellor Angela Merkel held a meeting with the French, Ukrainian and Russian leaders to discuss the possibility of a ceasefire. Afterwards, Merkel said that it achieved "no miracles", but that at least the countries were in contact.

Her assessment seems to encapsulate Nöllenburg's aspirations for the trilateral partnership programme. "We want participants to understand that the other side are also just people, and to talk to them."

*Something to add? Email comment@ResearchResearch.com*

'The aim is to bypass political conflict and keep academic collaboration on track.'

## uk &amp; ireland

## Universities urged to tackle sexual violence

Universities have a duty of care towards students who report that they have been raped or sexually assaulted, the vice-chancellors' group Universities UK has said.

A set of guidelines issued by UUK on 21 October said that universities should not wait for criminal investigations to finish before taking action on alleged rape or sexual assault. The guidelines, based on legal advice from law firm Pinsent Masons, said that universities should also improve institutional-level action to combat sexual harassment.

The report, by the UUK taskforce on campus harassment, was commissioned by the government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills in September 2015. It was intended to reflect new duties that universities have towards students under the 1998 Human Rights Act and the Equality Act 2010, as well as the changing technological and social context that universities operate in.

Among its recommendations, the report said that universities should embed tackling violence and harassment in their institutional strategy and undertake regular impact assessments. They should work with students' unions, the police, community leaders and specialist services to handle incidents, and improve staff training within the university, the report said.

by Rachel Hall

rhnews@ResearchResearch.com

The taskforce received evidence on staff-to-student sexual harassment, which has received considerable media attention following an investigation published in October by *The Guardian* newspaper into the use of non-disclosure agreements in such cases. However, the report criticised the fact that there were no national records of university students involved, meaning evidence was limited to surveys by the National Union of Students.

UUK said that it would consult with universities, students and interested groups to assess the necessary next steps. UUK chief executive Nicola Dandridge acknowledged that universities could be "more systematic" in their approach to tackling harassment. She said: "Not every university has all of the necessary building blocks in place for effective prevention and response."

Pam Tatlow, chief executive of the MillionPlus group of 19 teaching-led universities, said that "all too often", victims of harassment have been "reluctant to report what has happened to them and have felt let down by the system". The guidance should "give them confidence" that universities will take proper steps to support students and conduct investigations in an appropriate way, Tatlow said.

uk & i  
in brief

## Research and higher education bill sails through Commons

A bill that will significantly alter the governance of research in the

UK has passed the House of Commons with no changes. Opposition MPs raised concerns that the bill does not offer enough protection for the research councils and would lead to a reduction in university autonomy. But science minister Jo Johnson led conservative MPs to veto all proposed changes, stating that he did not want the legislation to be "too prescriptive".

## Academics confused over open data

A survey of 2,000 academics has found that 76 per cent make their data openly available, but more than half are unsure about the licensing conditions. Academics reported confusion about the extent to which their data could be accessed or reused, and fewer than half of the respondents said they knew how to cite a secondary research dataset. *The State of Open Data* report was published by the online digital repository Figshare.

## Crick sees first spinouts

The Francis Crick Institute has launched two spinout firms seeking to commercialise cancer therapies. GammaDelta Therapeutics will aim to advance a novel approach to immunotherapy that uses the body's own T cells, while Achilles Therapeutics will focus on lung-cancer therapy.

The London-based biosciences lab opened in September and has a £100 million (€112m) annual budget.

## Northern Ireland launches space strategy

A task force is to be set up on Northern Ireland's activities in space. First minister Arlene Foster said that the group would set priorities for industry and promote collaboration with the UK Space Agency. Northern Ireland's aerospace income stands at £1.3 billion (€1.46bn), making it Europe's eighth largest aerospace region in revenue terms.

## Low marks on female leadership

A report commissioned by the British Council has said that the UK must address the lack of women in leadership posts. Women hold less than 30 per cent of the top positions across politics, business and civil society, it said. The report suggested that university research funding should be dependent on commitment to advancing women in higher education.

## Brexit to lead science and technology committee

Stephen Metcalfe, Conservative MP for South Basildon and East Thurrock, has been appointed chairman of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee. Following his appointment, announced on 19 October, he said that he would focus on "ensuring the government does all it can to maintain the UK's status as a science superpower during the uncertain times ahead".

## Germany gives science a voice in GM laws

The German government plans to opt out of EU approvals for genetically modified crops on an individual basis, and will give the research ministry a role in the process.

In a draft law published on 5 October, the government said that when a company applies to the EU for permission to cultivate a GM crop, Germany's federal agriculture ministry will ask the Bundesrat—which represents the 16 German states—whether it has good reasons to oppose cultivation. If there is opposition from a Bundesrat majority, and if five other federal ministers including the research minister agree, the company will be asked to exclude Germany from its application.

If the company ignores this request and goes on to gain approval from the EU, the federal government can order a national ban on the crop with the agreement of the Bundesrat. According to the draft, environmental, socioeconomic, agricultural and ethical concerns will be among the reasons why a crop can be banned.

The draft had been expected to provide a full ban on GM crop cultivation in Germany or to give Germany's states more power in the decision-making process. GM opponents fear that the federal education and research ministry will veto any attempts to ban an EU-approved crop.

"That ministry will always say no," said Heike Moldenhauer, who works on genetic technology at Bund, a non-governmental organisation focused on environmental protection. "The idea of a nationwide ban has died."

There are also concerns that the complexity of the

by **Martyn Jones**

news@ResearchResearch.com

plan could significantly slow down the regulatory process. On 7 October, Felix Prinz zu Löwenstein, the chairman of the BÖLW, an organic food association, criticised the need for six federal ministries to agree to every national opt-out decision.

"The agriculture ministry alone has needed two years of negotiations to agree on a draft bill for GM cultivation bans. It is completely incomprehensible that the research ministry will be able to co-decide on cultivation for commercial use," he said.

If a nationwide ban on a particular crop fails, individual states can still push for a ban in their territory. In a statement on 17 October, Moldenhauer criticised the federal government for ultimately passing responsibility on to the states and leaving the door open for a situation in which states that are free of genetic technology could potentially be contaminated by others.

Robert Habeck, a Green MP and environment minister for Schleswig-Holstein, echoed this concern. "With this bill there are such high hurdles to overcome that a widespread ban on genetic engineering is actually hindered and a patchwork of individual state regulations is more likely."

The draft law is under consideration by all federal ministries. Changes may still be made before it comes into force, which is expected to be in spring 2017.

### nations in brief

#### Mers sample import 'broke rules but was safe'

The Pasteur Institute has admitted that it broke French regulations in

transporting biological samples from its South Korean outpost using airplane check-in baggage in 2015. However, Christian Bréchet, the institute's president, told *Science* magazine that there was no risk to public health. *The Korea Times* newspaper has alleged that the samples contained Middle East respiratory syndrome (Mers) coronavirus.

#### '€26bn gap' in facilities funding

Germany's university leaders have said that they need an extra €26 billion in infrastructure funding. A collection of surveys by the Stifterverband association of research funders found that the perceived need for investment was five times higher at public than private institutions.

#### Doctorate holders switch to industry

The proportion of people with a doctorate from a Parisian university who work in industry increases as time passes after their graduation. A survey by the employment agency Adoc Talent Management found that 69 per cent of doctorate holders were working in the public sector

or in academia one year after graduation, but that this dropped to 63 per cent two years later.

#### Universities told to embrace knowledge transfer

Knowledge transfer and innovation should become a larger part of university activity in Germany and be recognised accordingly, the Wissenschaftsrat advisory council of scientists has said. The council called on universities to embed knowledge transfer in their strategies and to take responsibility for it at management level.

#### Russia targets ICT, genetics and energy

The Russian government plans to spend an additional 3.5 billion roubles (€51 million) on research in 2017. Priority areas are genetics, ICT and energy-saving technologies. The funding will be targeted on laboratories and early-career scientists working in these areas.

#### Helmholtz launches big data network

The Helmholtz Association of German research centres is to spend €49.5 million over the next five years on the storage and management of big data. It has launched a federation of data centres and plans to work more closely with the international Research Data Alliance.

## nordic

## Union rejects plan to alter university funding

The Norwegian Association of Researchers has raised concern that changes to the way in which university funds are allocated may stifle the quality of research and teaching.

Petter Aaslestad, head of the NAR union, spoke to the Norwegian parliament at a budget hearing on 25 October. He raised concern about a government proposal to increase the amount of funds distributed through competitive grants, which he said would weaken universities.

Changes outlined by the government in July include the introduction of a new indicator, under which funding is distributed based on activities such as industry interaction. It also includes plans to tie funding allocations to the number of graduates.

The changes will be introduced from 2017, and the government reiterated its proposal in a spending plan, published on 6 October.

"The government should be commended for continuing real growth in appropriations for research and higher education, but we believe it is unwise to weaken the basic allocation to universities," Aaslestad told the parliament hearing.

Referring to the new indicator, Aaslestad said: "In the long run it will affect the quality of research and teach-

by Jenny Maukola

news@ResearchResearch.com

ing, and the possibility for institutions to develop good career paths for scientists."

In its 6 October budget proposal, the government set out plans to allocate 34.5 billion Norwegian kroner (€3.8bn) to R&D in 2017—equivalent to 1.05 per cent of GDP. This is an increase of kr555 million compared with spending in 2016.

Of this amount, 22 per cent will be allocated to basic grants for universities and university colleges; 30 per cent to the Research Council of Norway, to be allocated via competitive calls; 10 per cent for research at public health organisations; and 9 per cent for international research collaboration.

Some of the additional funds will go to support 120 research fellows and postdoctoral researchers, as well as building support for Norwegian researchers applying to the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, the government said.

The plan will, however, cut the Research Council of Norway's infrastructure programme by kr300m in 2017, because the council had not previously spent its full allocation, leaving a kr3.2bn budget surplus. "It is not good that money is piling up at the research council," said Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, Norway's research minister.



# Unity

Where universities work together

\*Unity is the new way to work with anyone in universities and research.

It's a simple place to form groups, share files and work on them together.

Built by universities, for universities, with some help from us at \*Research

Try \*Unity now at [www.unity.ac](http://www.unity.ac)



# From Dalarna to Denmark: University autonomy under fire

Two separate events in recent weeks may threaten the autonomy of academic institutions in the Nordic region.

On 13 October, the Swedish government released a statement detailing its decision that Dalarna University—a university of applied sciences—should continue to operate across two locations 20 kilometres apart. The decision appeared well-intentioned: retaining both campuses would help to maintain strong communities in two locations, rather than concentrating jobs and services, it said.

But the statement proved inflammatory. As the Dalarna board rightly observed, it clearly encroaches on the capacity of institutions to govern their own affairs, and take their own decisions in the best interest of staff, students and communities.

One of the biggest backers of the campus merger had been the student body, with the Dalarna Student Union arguing it would make for a more unified environment and a better student experience. In 2015, the university board agreed to compare the benefits of a merger with the existing two-site arrangement. Now, such an analysis would be superfluous.

Responding immediately in the national paper *Svenska Dagbladet*, 35 rectors representing universities and colleges in Sweden said that the government should have waited for the assessment before pushing through its decision. “It may not be reasonable for the government to use its power to put a municipality’s interests ahead of an institution’s own assessment,” they wrote.

**nordic  
outlook**

by Laura Greenhalgh

lgnews@ResearchResearch.com

The response from research minister Helene Hellmark Knutsson on 15 October was that the decision is about more than one single institution. “People and places should not be abandoned by the state,” she wrote.

In Denmark, meanwhile, tensions are mounting after it emerged that science minister Ulla Tørnæs may be seeking to give ministers a role in selecting the heads of university boards. The government’s justification was a lack of ministerial oversight for higher education in the existing governance system. But the head of the Danish professional academies Lars Qvistgaard, writing in the newspaper *Berlingske*, called it a “ministerial crusade against the country’s universities” intended to keep institutions in line.

As higher-education budgets tighten and politicians walk a fragile tightrope of electoral support, it is not surprising that challenges to the long-enjoyed autonomy of relatively wealthy academic institutions are emerging.

But the proposals in Sweden and Denmark go to the essence of university autonomy. In countries that have been academic world leaders, ministers should recognise the need to listen and discuss, rather than instruct.

“The principle of the autonomy of universities is very old. It is celebrated throughout the world as a prerequisite for academia to fulfil its fundamental task in a democracy and dare to be critical to power,” the rectors wrote in *Svenska Dagbladet*. “It requires two-way respect and trust between politicians and institutions. Now, it’s becoming a monologue.”

## nordic in brief

### Nordic researchers strengthen ties with Harvard

Academics from Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark are set to

increase cooperation with their colleagues at Harvard University through the Nordic Scandinavian Consortium for Organizational Research. The Scancor network, established to promote collaboration with Stanford University, opened an office on the Harvard campus on 19 October. The network funds post-doctoral researchers and organises visits and workshops.

### Blue-sky funder gets broader remit

The government has widened the mandate of the Danish Council for Independent Research to permit it to run targeted calls. It was previously confined to funding investigator-driven research, but the government said it should now also run challenge-based funding calls.

### Degrees face axe at Tromsø

A review of course programmes at the Arctic University of Norway in Tromsø has suggested discontinuing 13 bachelors degree programmes. These include courses in archaeology, drama, philosophy and Russian studies. The report concluded that these programmes have a low uptake of students, are of limited quality, and overlap significantly with other courses.

### Tel Aviv centre opens doors

An innovation centre to help Danish companies cooperate with investors and universities in Israel was inaugurated on 27 October. The centre, based at the Danish embassy, is run jointly by the ministry of foreign affairs and the ministry of research and education. It is the seventh innovation centre that Denmark has launched abroad, following initiatives in Shanghai, Silicon Valley, Munich, Sao Paulo, New Delhi and Seoul.

## usa

## US opens door to Cuban research collaboration

The United States treasury is lifting restrictions on medical research collaboration between US and Cuban scientists.

President Barack Obama visited the Caribbean nation in March as part of his efforts to normalise relations between the US and Cuba. Cuba's 1959 communist revolution and alliance with Russia led to America formally severing ties in 1961.

The two countries restarted their diplomatic relationship in 2015 for the first time since then. The Obama administration has been relaxing parts of the US's embargo, although it will take Congress's approval to fully dismantle the restrictions.

As part of that effort, the treasury department agreed to expand the authorisation of research grants, scholarships and awards between the two countries from 17 October, giving US researchers more freedom to work with Cuban scientists. The decision covered both commercial and non-commercial research. Researchers from Canada, Europe and elsewhere already collaborate with Cubans.

In 1999, President Bill Clinton decided to allow US scientists more freedom to communicate with Cuban researchers and travel to the country, but the restrictions on spending money in Cuba remained. One way around them was to apply for a special licence, but this

by Sam Lemonick

news@ResearchResearch.com

was an arduous process, and the exception only lasted for up to two years.

In addition to opening up collaboration, the Obama administration's new rules will allow Cuban drug companies to seek approval for their products and sell approved medicines and devices in the US. Many Cubans live in poverty, but the nation has a thriving medical system. Advocates had long called for the US to allow the import of Cuban biomedical products, and some have already been working on bringing them to the country before the rule changes were announced.

The Roswell Park Cancer Institute in New York has been trying to get US trials of the Cuban cancer vaccine CIMAvax approved. The medicine is already in use in South American countries and elsewhere, although it has not been approved by the EU. The institute hopes that the new rules will allow it to pursue trials of CIMAvax, *Science* magazine reported on 14 October.

"If it's truly feasible to use federal grants to support Cuban research, then everybody wins," said Thomas Schwaab, Roswell Park's chief of strategy, business development and outreach.

### usa in brief

#### NSF wants universities to help pay for secondments

The National Science Foundation has announced changes to the rules governing the salaries of faculty members on short-term appointments to the agency, in a bid to reduce costs. The agency said that universities should pay 10 per cent of the salaries of the so-called rotators, who spend up to four years at the NSF's headquarters as temporary programme officers, helping to make funding decisions.

#### CIRM opens contract office

California's stem-cell agency has appointed a contract research and consulting company to run its preclinical acceleration programme. The so-called translating centre will help researchers move their stem-cell work towards a clinical trial faster. The move is part of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine's CIRM 2.0 strategy, unveiled in November 2015, under which the state agency pledged to halve the time it takes to get drug candidates into clinical trials.

#### Largest NIH grants don't lead to most-cited papers

The National Institutes of Health has found that bigger grants don't correspond to higher-impact journal articles. The evaluation of what the agency gets for its money was based on an impact metric developed by NIH staff called the relative citation ratio. NIH's deputy director for

extramural research Michael Lauer used it to judge the impact of papers and the grants that pay for them.

#### Number of NSF-funded postdocs up

National Science Foundation-funded labs hired more postdoctoral researchers in 2015 than the year before, after two years of decline. Labs receiving NSF grants hired 2,696 postdocs in 2015—83 more than in 2014, according to the NSF's National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics.

#### Academies resume work for spy agencies

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine have agreed to work with the White House's Office of the Director of National Intelligence to review research and technology that could assist their work. The Intelligence Communities Studies Board held its first meeting on 18 October in Washington, DC. It is composed of researchers from physical and social science fields, lawyers, businesspeople and retired military officers.

#### EPA under fire over herbicide ruling

An Environmental Protection Agency decision to delay its safety assessment of glyphosate, one of the most used herbicides in the US, has prompted angry complaints from Lamar Smith, the chairman of the House science committee. The agency cited the availability of experts whom it wanted on the board as the cause of the delay.

## South African budget addresses fee crisis

South Africa's National Treasury has committed an additional 16 billion South African rand (€1.06bn) to the country's higher education system for the next three years, amid continuing violence at universities.

A total of R8bn will be allocated to universities to subsidise fee increases in 2017 for students whose families earn less than R600,000 per year, finance minister Pravin Gordhan said on 26 October.

The remaining R8bn will be allocated to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, which Gordhan said amounted to an 18 per cent increase in the programme's annual budget.

Protesters and police clashed outside parliament as Gordhan spoke, continuing weeks of violence over university tuition fees. On 20 September, the government issued guidelines suggesting universities could raise fees by as much as 8 per cent. The decision brought to the fore a long-running debate over inequality of access to higher education for the country's black population, which persists more than two decades since the end of white minority rule.

In his speech, Gordhan said that higher education was the government's second fastest growing budget line, and that this illustrated the government's commitment

by **Christiaan van der Merwe** [news@ResearchResearch.com](mailto:news@ResearchResearch.com)

to quality education. However, he admitted that there was a problem meeting demand.

"At the heart of the issue is that access has expanded faster than resources. As a result, many students face financial hardships that undermine their ability to succeed academically," he said.

Gordhan did not say whether the government was planning to give in to the protestors' demand for free higher education—a move that would raise severe problems for government financing. As it stands, tuition fees contribute 34 per cent of the total income for the higher education system, figures published by Statistics South Africa on 25 October showed.

The National Research Foundation, a research funder, has admitted that it has begun drawing up contingency plans for funded students and research programmes, in case the academic year is curtailed. Most universities have said they hope to be able to complete the academic year, albeit under a heavy security presence.

Meanwhile, the Academy of Science of South Africa has suggested an emergency national summit to take the focus away from campus-based violence and find a way forward.

### world in brief

#### Cancer agency justifies glyphosate privacy

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has defended

its decision to advise scientists not to publish preliminary material from its assessment of the safety of the weedkiller glyphosate. An investigation by the news agency Reuters found that IARC had told its scientists to refuse freedom of information requests for draft material. The IARC said its advice aimed to ensure that scientists were "free to openly and critically debate the scientific evidence".

#### Concern over Brazil's science spending

Researchers in Brazil have said that plans to prohibit a rise in public spending for two decades would drain the country's R&D system. The PEC 241 proposal, approved in a preliminary vote in the Chamber of Deputies on 11 October, would see the national budget capped in line with inflation for up to 20 years to balance the economy. The science budget hit a ten-year low of \$1.5 billion (€1.4bn) in 2016.

#### Turnbull omits UK from science ties

Australia is focusing on science and innovation ties with Israel, Italy, Japan, New Zealand and the United States, prime minister Malcolm Turnbull told a meeting in Canberra on 19 October. The lack of reference to Commonwealth ties sparked speculation over Australia's future relations with the UK following the Brexit vote.

Parliamentary sources said that recent science agreements with Germany and France may influence the government's attitude to post-Brexit negotiation with the UK.

#### Indian institutes seek overseas talent

The Indian Institutes of Technology have launched a recruitment drive to attract academics and students from abroad. The initiative is aimed at the United States, the UK and Canada. They are also lobbying for a change in visa rules, to help overseas academics take up teaching posts.

#### Australia axes support for 'lifestyle' diplomas

About 500 tertiary diplomas will no longer qualify for government-subsidised student loans as part of federal reforms to Australia's vocational training system. They include diplomas in circus arts, fashion styling, screen acting, floristry design, pilates, social media marketing, aromatherapy and reflexology. The government cited data that indicated one in five students were using government supported training courses to pursue lifestyle interests.

#### Social media use quantified

A survey of 587 scientists in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and the UK found that 88 per cent used Twitter and 82 per cent read "science-themed" Facebook pages. Less than a third used the academic networks Research Gate or Mendeley. The survey, led by a researcher at Otago University, was published in *PLOS One*.

**FOOT IN MOUTH** Günther Oettinger's rise from the digital brief to taking on Commission budget responsibilities following the resignation of Kristalina Georgieva as vice-president ought to have been a moment of triumph for the German. Instead, Oettinger has been trying to explain a bizarre speech he gave at an industry event in Hamburg, just days before his promotion, in which he referred to Asian people as "schlitzaugen" (slotted eyes) and mocked the physical appearance of a Chinese delegation. "Do we want to export values?" he also asked attendees that night. Er, maybe not?

**WHAT NOT TO READ** A glowing profile of Estonian MEP Kaja Kallas was published this month by the news website Politico. This member of the Parliament's Industry, Research and Energy Committee has become "a force to be reckoned with on digital issues", the piece gushed. Reasons not to feel the force? The profile was sponsored content, paid for by Kallas' Parliament group, the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe. Money well spent, surely.

**TRAIN CRASH** The Parliament has set up a 'legislative train schedule' website to help the public keep track of legislative proposals arising from the Commission's 10 priorities. The website's launch was accompanied by an animated video of brightly coloured locomotives

chugging merrily through verdant fields. Sadly the site is completely incomprehensible, with no apparent connection between information for 'departures', 'on hold', 'expected arrivals', 'arrived' and 'derailed'. On the other hand, if the aim was to replicate the frustrations of train travel...job done.

**SAVING TIME** A meeting of the full Parliament this month set aside two whole hours to debate the use of daylight-saving time across the EU; a subject guaranteed to divide early birds and night owls pretty much equally. In the opening statement, the culture commissioner Tibor Navracsics declared that several studies into the effects of daylight saving on health and energy use have been inconclusive. MEPs would have been forgiven for taking the remainder of the two hours for an afternoon nap.

**LEGISLATORS BEWARE** We were intrigued to see, in the League of European Research Universities' submission to the interim review of Horizon 2020, a suggestion for a 'research principle' to be considered in the development of any EU legislation. This would sit alongside the 'innovation principle', which was adopted earlier this year in part to balance the 'precautionary principle', which aims to protect health and the environment. Perhaps policymakers could adopt a principle of agreeing a principal principle, principally to avoid any confusion?



## Subscribe now

*Research Europe* is the leading independent source of news, analysis and funding opportunities for researchers and policymakers in Europe. We offer a range of subscription options in print and online.

### Multi-user subscriptions

Universities, Research Institutes, Learned Societies and other Membership Organisations, Government Departments and Funders can subscribe to *Research Europe* via our online platform **\*Research Professional**.

### Subscriptions for Individuals

Individual researchers or policymakers can subscribe to the paper edition of *Research Europe* only. Published fortnightly, 22 issues a year, €585.

Register me as a subscriber to *Research Europe* paper edition for one year. I understand that if I am not entirely satisfied, I can cancel my subscription during the first 60 days and get a 100% refund.

Name	Postcode	Country
Position	Telephone	
Organisation	Email	
Address	Signed	
	Date	

Fax this form back to +44 20 7216 6501 or order online at [www.ResearchResearch.com/subscribe](http://www.ResearchResearch.com/subscribe)

**Payment** We will invoice you. Or call +44 20 7216 6500 for credit card payments **Enquiries** +44 20 7216 6528 or [subs@ResearchResearch.com](mailto:subs@ResearchResearch.com)