

# Notes for ASAPbio Ambassadors Advocacy Toolkit OpenCon 2017 do-a-thon

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## Summary of aims

To facilitate the progression of science and open access to research outputs, ASAPbio strives to engage the biology community in discussion about preprints: scholarly manuscripts that have not yet gone through editorial peer review.

We have a few ideas of ways we can support ASAPbio Ambassadors (and preprint advocates) in educating scientists about preprints, but we would love to hear your thoughts. We would welcome your help with generating a database of preprint stakeholders who are willing to support ASAPbio Ambassadors in preprint advocacy events worldwide, and to develop accompanying educational materials (e.g. detailed answers to preprint FAQs, transcripts for preprint slide decks, example workshop activities, and follow-up materials).

## Ideas

Create a Google form to allow users to request help with advocacy events and say who they would like help from, and what type of support they are looking for. This request would be sent to Jessica and Sam, who will forward the request to the stakeholder.

Creating resources (such as script or companion blogpost for the talk), and possible training course/webcasts with info about preprints and how to host a preprint advocacy event.

## Do-a-thon Contributors

Luci Moore (OHSU)

Leah Rodriguez (PLOS)

Sam Hindle (UCSF/ASAPbio)

Jessica Polka (ASAPbio)

Rayna Harris (UT, Austin)

## Brainstorming notes for preprint advocacy resource toolkit

- Leah - How do we help people feel comfortable talking about preprints?
- General fear of public speaking (do you have to do public speaking? This is why a speaker bureau is valuable)
- What about a whole course for preprints? First give people resources and tips. Then the course would culminate in meeting with a mentor one on one to practice the talk. This would provide a valuable public speaking professional development experience.
- Graduates can become mentors!
- Subject Matter is important! No need to convince physicists - this is important to include in the database
- How to get faculty in the room?
- What kind of info do people want?
  - Just getting info available
  - Have a training course
  - Counterpoint: training course takes too much time.
  - Different tracks: low entry barrier, then get people to increase their investment over time (if they want). Knowledge and comfort level are two complimentary components.
  - Hosting a webinar - record the webinars
    - Information - a summary of the meetings, stakeholder involvement and opinions
    - How to get involved to support preprints (ASAPbio ambassador), what kinds of events they can do
    - How to talk to more senior people about preprints (ie your supervisor)
    - Building people up
- promo ideas
  - Design a tshirt activity : I support preprints because \_\_\_\_\_
  - User stories: I preprint because....
  - Table napkins for coffee breaks

- What resources would preprint advocates want to help them host an event?
  - Sponsorship to buy snacks/pizza etc
  - Help with ideas for event activities/type of event: ECRs webinar event...hook to bring people there
  - A hook person to get people in the door “Cori Bargman/Leslie Vosshall will be here” ...then talk about preprints

## Examples for how to get involved in preprint advocacy. What kinds of events can they do? **(please add other ideas)**

- Discuss a preprint at your next journal club session. This is a great place to start with preprint advocacy as you don't need to know a lot about the history/policies behind preprints, and can just discuss the preprint as you would at a normal journal club. If you are comfortable with this, we have a short powerpoint that you could present at the beginning to introduce your participants to preprints. You can also ask us for [ASAPbio](#) and PREreview (preprint journal club resource) stickers to give out at your preprint JC.
- Guest speaker: invite a speaker from the Open Preprint Advocacy Bureau list, ask them to do a short talk 10-15 mins and then open up to the audience for Q&A
- Panel event (for example: <http://bit.ly/2BygasD>): invite several speakers from the Open Preprint Advocacy Bureau list, ask them each to do 5 mins opening remarks and include a vision statement at the end (vision for the future of preprints) and then open up for audience Q&A
- World cafe-style workshop: designed to provide an opportunity for ECRs (in particular) to practice holding discussions about preprints, to provide them with skills and confidence to have those conversations with their colleagues/PIs. If you have several volunteers to help you (maybe from the Bureau list), set up one table/volunteer and have a few different preprint-related questions at each table, e.g. “I fear my work will be scooped if I post a preprint. Is that a risk?” or “I don't see what the problem is with the current publishing system/I don't see the point of preprints.” Participants will discuss possible answers to these questions (with the guidance from the Table Volunteer; also see [ASAPbio FAQ](#)) and then practice having those conversations in pairs. The participants will then move to the next table to tackle new preprint questions. This would work for a crowd who already know about preprints, but who are not yet ready to discuss the issues around preprints.

- Hijack an organized event at your institutions and try and set up a booth where you can loop the Preprint Stories and provide information (and [ASAPbio stickers](#)) for those who pass by.

## List of potential questions to kick start the Q&A (**please add to this list**):

- What is your vision for preprints in the future of scholarly communication, and more broadly in how we measure scientific progress and success?
- Follow up with how we can increase the use/adoption of preprints
- Ask each panelist (or the speaker, if only one) to state 1 obstacle to preprinting, and how might we overcome it. Are there any initiatives out there that are working on this?
- Can you discuss the future of preprint commenting: should it be open? Should this commenting/review become part of the publishing peer review process? Should comments be signed/author identities disclosed?
- What role do you see for Publishers if/when preprints become the norm for how we communicate research?
- The current publishing model still has an archaic focus on the final published PDF document. Can preprint help to revolutionize the format for how we communicate our research?
- How, if at all, do you think preprints can impact the rigor and reproducibility issues in science?
- In a (future) world where preprints are (more) common, how do scientists filter what to read? Is there room for journals to facilitate promotion, peer-review, and quality checks that is less prone to biases and gatekeeping than the current system?
- Please give a small but concrete step that interested audience members can take to get involved in making preprint the norm in how we communicate science

### **To include in the database**

- Willing to mentor people in speaking?
- How many presentations the person is willing to give
- The discipline (highly relevant)

## **Potential Stakeholders for Open Preprint Advocacy Bureau**

ASAPbio Ambassadors:

Samantha Hindle (UCSF)

Daniela Saderi (OHSU)

Vinodh Ilangovan

Stephen Floor (UCSF & bioRxiv affiliate)

Prachee Avasthi (University of Kansas Medical Center & bioRxiv affiliate)

Dasapta Erwin

Adriana Bankston

Graham Steel

Jessica Polka (ASAPbio)

Robert Kiley (Wellcome Trust)

Carly Strasser (Moore Foundation)

Titus Brown (bioRxiv affiliate)

Kristen Ratan (COKO)

Cori Bargman (CZI)

Jeremy Freeman (CZI)

Greg Tananbaum (CZI/Meta)

Katja Brose (CZI)

Neil Thakur (NIH)

Patricia Flatley Brennan (NIH/NLM)

Phil Bourne (NIH)

Josh Greenberg (Sloan)

John Inglis (bioRxiv)

Richard Sever (bioRxiv)

Justin Kinney (bioRxiv affiliate)

Kevin-John Black (bioRxiv)

Erika Shugart (ASCB)

Stefano Bertuzzi (ASM)

Darla Henderson (ACS)  
Meagan Phelan (AAAS/Science)  
Chris Pickett (Rescuing Biomedical Research)

Tracy Teal (Data Carpentry)  
Greg Wilson (Former Software Carpentry)

Louise Page (PLoS)  
Leah Rodriguez (PLoS)  
Naomi Penfold (eLife)  
Steve Burgess (eLife)  
Thomas Lemberger (EMBO)  
Michele Garfinkel (EMBO)

Cynthia Wolberger (JHMI)  
Ron Vale (UCSF)  
Jaime Fraser (UCSF & bioRxiv affiliate)  
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Erin McKiernan (UNAM)  
Gautam Dey (UCL, London)  
Leslie Vosshall (Rockerfeller & bioRxiv Advisory Board)  
Daniel Colon-Ramos  
Harold Varmus  
Mike Eisen (UCB)  
Jonathan Eisen (UC Davis & bioRxiv Advisory Board)  
James Noonan (Yale)  
Ethan White (Florida University)  
Casey Greene (Dartmouth)  
Lauren O'Connell (Stanford)  
Jon Tenant (Science Open)

Robin Champieux (OHSU)  
Ashley Farley (Gates Foundation and University of Washington)

## Template email to invite potential preprint advocacy bureau members

Subject: Share your expertise about preprints

Body:

Hello,

I'm writing to invite you to participate in a preprint advocacy resource we are developing with ASAPbio.

Preprints are growing rapidly in the life sciences, but they are still unfamiliar to many communities. ASAPbio wants to change that by enabling [ambassadors](#) and others to organize events about preprints in their institutions and scientific societies.

To do this, we'd like to create a open preprint advocacy bureau. Would you be interested in being part of this bureau? You have been selected because of your dedication to preprints and the open communication of scientific outputs. We hope you will say yes and, if you do, you can stipulate how frequently you would like to get involved, and with what type of preprint advocacy activities e.g. as a speaker on a panel, or as a mentor for an Ambassador who is embarking on an advocacy project.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,  
[your name]  
ASAPbio Ambassador

Preprint FAQ - <http://asapbio.org/preprint-info/preprint-faq>

Preprint stories: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B-TGzynEIXw4czZkRFhuVmN3ejQ>