

ASAPbio Fellow program Handbook version 2.0 January 2021



<https://asapbio.org/>

Introduction to ASAPbio

[ASAPbio](#) (Accelerating Science and Publication in biology) is a scientist-driven nonprofit working to facilitate quick and efficient sharing of scientific work by promoting innovation and transparency in life sciences communication.



In 2016 ASAPbio convened a meeting with members of the science community to discuss ways in which preprints might facilitate the communication of biological research.

Following that meeting, ASAPbio has been working to coordinate efforts that facilitate the adoption of preprints in the life sciences.

In addition to the work on preprints, ASAPbio also supports and facilitates initiatives around increasing transparency in peer review.

To support raising awareness about preprints, we work with a community of researchers and others involved in research communication, the [ASAPbio Community](#). This is a network for sharing information and updates about ongoing and new initiatives on preprints, and where community members can share experiences and resources with each other.

The ASAPbio Fellow program

We want to support the ASAPbio Community members in their understanding about the productive use of preprints in the life sciences, and ensure they have the tools and skills they need to participate in community outreach and act as a resource around preprints for their own communities.

In order to support those goals, ASAPbio runs a Fellow program, with two main aims: connect those community members who want to go a bit further in their engagement with the latest developments around preprints, and help them develop skills that they can use to drive activities within their institutions and their research communities.

The initial cycle of the Fellow program took place in 2020, you can read about the first cohort of participants and their accomplishments on our website

<https://asapbio.org/fellows> and on this blog post: <https://asapbio.org/first-cohort-of-asapbio-fellows>.



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'Being an ASAPbio fellow has been a fantastic opportunity to actively engage in discussion about science policy under the guidance of a leading organization. It has also been very encouraging to meet with several like-minded people eager to volunteer their time and discuss pressing issues for the scientific community.'

ASAPbio Fellow program 2020 cohort participant

The Fellow program runs for six months and requires an application. Those selected for participation in the ASAPbio Fellow program will engage in a schedule of activities facilitated by ASAPbio, including the following:

- Initial orientation session covering an overview of the program
- Monthly group calls covering preprint-related topics and outreach about preprints:
 - Overview of the landscape of preprints in the life sciences, context, trends, preprint servers
 - Overview of preprint review and commentary initiatives
 - Handling conversations about preprints, principles and practice session
 - Community engagement options and tips for driving engagement initiatives
 - Communication and outreach skills
- Work on a project in collaboration with other Fellows, examples of possible projects include the running of an online event, writing of blog posts or developing training resources
- Sign up for ASAPbio newsletter and Slack, to engage with the broader ASAPbio Community

ASAPbio
Online panel discussion
The past, the present and the future of preprints
October 19 2020
 3pm London | 4pm Berlin | 10am New York | 7:30pm Mumbai
 Join us for a panel discussion with Chairs **Marco Fumasoni** (Harvard University) and **Yemini Ravichandran** (Institut Pasteur and Institut Curie) and our five guest speakers.
 Register at <https://bit.ly/32RbKoX>

PREPRINTS

Boost the reach of your science
 Join the growing preprint community

- 60,000 Biomedical preprints in 2019.¹
- 4 million abstract views/month.²
- 1.5 million downloads/month.³
- 30,000 tweets/month.⁴
- 37% feedback by email.⁵
- 36% increase in citations.⁶
- 169 B2J bioRxiv-to-journal possibilities.⁷
- 13 funding agencies have mandatory/recommended policies.⁸

ASAPbio Find more information at [ASAPbio.org](https://www.asapbio.org)

Source:
 1. Polka, Jessica K., & Pfeiffer, Aaron C. (2020). Biomedical preprints per month, by source and as a fraction of total literature (version 2.0) [Data set]. Zenodo. doi: 10.5281/38065037984144120199
 2. Richard Siegel et al. (2019) bioRxiv: the preprint server for biology. bioRxiv. doi: 10.1101/833400
 3. Danciu, Y. Yu et al. (2019) Submitting a preprint is associated with more attention and citations for the peer-reviewed article. eLife. doi: 10.7554/eLife.52648
 4. <https://www.biorxiv.org/about/bioRxiv>
 5. <https://www.asapbio.org/funder-policies>



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The program supports strengthening an understanding of the productive use of preprints in the life sciences and the development of outreach and leadership skills. The program also aims to provide recognition to the members of the community for their contribution to resource building and outreach activities, and provide opportunities to expand the participants' networks.

'I was already interested in preprints, and participating in the ASAPbio fellows program helped me build a support network for continued work and advocacy efforts. Definitely well worth the time and effort!'

ASAPbio Fellow program 2020 cohort participant

Responsibilities and expectations

ASAPbio Fellows

The participants in the ASAPbio Fellow program are part of the larger ASAPbio Community. All participants of the ASAPbio Fellow program are expected to abide by the [ASAPbio community guidelines and the ASAPbio Code of Conduct](#).

The Fellow program lasts for six months and requires a time commitment of about 5 hours/month. Participants are expected to attend the initial orientation session as well as the monthly sessions scheduled as part of the program. The monthly group sessions will have a length of 90 minutes and will be delivered in an online format. As part of the project assignment within the program, participants are expected to meet in smaller groups as required and to complete tasks (e.g. input on a training material, drafting of a blog post) within designated deadlines.

At the end of the program participants will provide an overview of their project deliverables and may be asked to complete a survey on their experience participating in the program.

If as part of the program a Fellow is put in touch with another ASAPbio Community member, the Fellow is expected to abide by the community participation guidelines and ASAPbio Code of Conduct and to keep all appointments made with the Community member while participating in the program.

If any information shared during participation in the program is confidential, the Fellow should clearly indicate so, any requests for confidentiality will be honored.

ASAPbio

ASAPbio will coordinate events and activities as part of the program, including an orientation session at launch as well as monthly activities during the six-month period.



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ASAPbio will also provide project management support to participants as they work on their project assignments.

ASAPbio may request participants to complete a survey at the end of the program, this is intended to help us review the program based on participant feedback and inform updates for future program cycles. Upon completion of the program, ASAPbio will encourage Fellows to provide recommendations for participants in future cohorts, and to engage as facilitators for future program participants.

ASAPbio posts will post information about the program and program participants on the ASAPbio website (see <https://asapbio.org/fellows>).

ASAPbio will act on any reports of breaches of the ASAPbio Code of Conduct, these will be handled by the ASAPbio Code of Conduct Committee, per the Committee's process for such concerns.

ASAPbio Community guidelines and Code of Conduct

All participants of the ASAPbio Fellow program are expected to abide by the ASAPbio community guidelines and Code of Conduct, available on the ASAPbio website: <https://asapbio.org/coc>.

ASAPbio's Community guidelines outline the behavior and the values that we aim to uphold as a Community, they represent the way in which we commit to engage with each other. The guidelines represent ASAPbio's commitment to providing a welcoming and productive experience for all members of our community.

The good practice guidelines are:

- Show respect for other members of the ASAPbio community, as well as the larger research community
- Use collegial, professional and inclusive language
- Value and respect different viewpoints and experiences, including constructive feedback
- Encourage diversity
- Share information, resources, requests or experiences that are of relevance to the broader ASAPbio Community and align to the goals of ASAPbio

To honor our duty in facilitating a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community, ASAPbio has also developed a **Code of Conduct** that outlines behavior that deviates from our best practice guidelines, how ASAPbio can be alerted to any such concerns and the steps that ASAPbio will take to act on any report related to deviation from the expected behavior.



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Any report of concerns about a breach of the Code of Conduct is handled by the ASAPbio Code of Conduct Committee which includes Jessica Polka (Executive Director), Iratxe Puebla (Associate Director), Jennifer Lin (ASAPbio Board of Directors) and Chiara Bertipaglia (ASAPbio Community member).

I have applied for the Fellow program: What next?

The ASAPbio Associate Director and the ASAPbio Executive Director will review applications and will aim to follow up with applicants within two weeks following closure of applications.

Those selected for participation will be signed up for the ASAPbio Slack group and the ASAPbio newsletter and will be sent details for the initial orientation session for the program. The 2021 Fellow program will run from April to October, additional details on the program schedule and activities will be provided as the program starts.

If you have any questions about the program, please do reach out to Iratxe Puebla at iratxe.puebla@asapbio.org.

'I found that being an ASAPbio Fellow exceeded my expectations. I think that a program like this, for me feels like the right direction for us to change the current landscape of scientific publication, which seems to be a concern of the current generation of scientists. I loved being part of it and learned a lot.'

ASAPbio Fellow program 2020 cohort participant



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Appendix: Additional resources

Fellow program information on ASAPbio website: <https://asapbio.org/fellows>

ASAPbio Community: <https://asapbio.org/asapbio-community>

ASAPbio preprints FAQ: <https://asapbio.org/preprint-info/preprint-faq>

ASAPbio resources, including information about preprints, templates and slide decks:
<https://asapbio.org/resources>



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