

ASAPbio Fellows program Handbook version 4.0 January 2023



<https://asapbio.org/>

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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 drive adoption of preprints in the life sciences.

In addition to the work on preprints, ASAPbio also promotes initiatives to increase transparency in peer review.

To raise 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 Fellows 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 to act as a resource around preprints for their own communities.

In order to support those goals, ASAPbio runs a [Fellows program](#), with two main aims: connect community members who want to go further in their understanding and engagement with preprints, and help them develop skills to drive activities within their institutions and research communities.

The Fellows program started in 2020 and will run its fourth cohort in 2023. You can read about previous Fellows and their accomplishments on our blog posts ([2020 Fellows](#), [2021 Fellows](#), [interview with 2022 Fellow](#)).



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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.’

2020 ASAPbio Fellow

The program runs for eight months and requires an [application](#). Those selected for participation in the program will engage in a schedule of activities, including the following:

Orientation

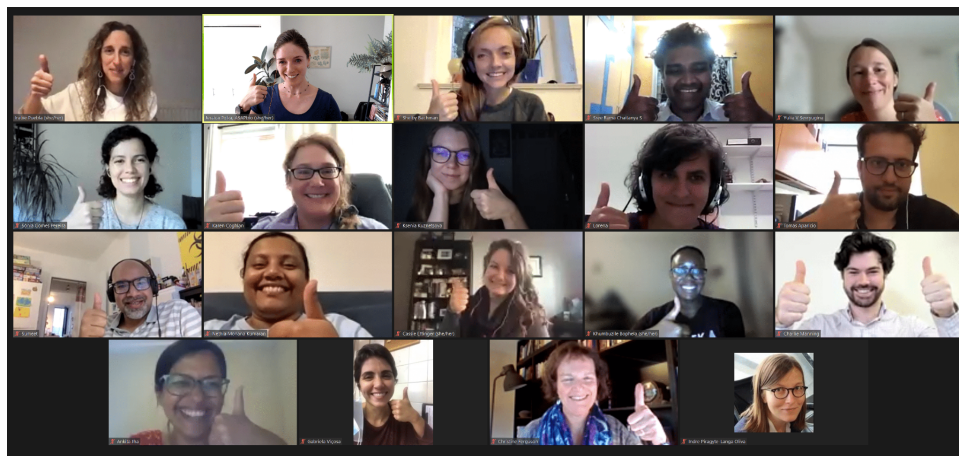
Three orientation sessions covering:

- Overview of the Fellows program
- Overview of the preprint landscape: context, trends, preprint servers
- Selection and initial scoping of preprint projects the Fellows will work on

Monthly group calls

The monthly calls will explore preprint-related topics and outreach:

- Preprint review and commenting initiatives
- Preprints in the broader publishing context
- Handling conversations about preprints, principles and practice
- Preprints & open science



Preprint projects

The ASAPbio Fellows work on a preprint project during the program, the project work will be carried out in small groups. Fellows will be invited to contribute to ASAPbio’s strategic initiatives for 2023, or they can develop a project of their choice.

In 2023, ongoing ASAPbio initiatives include:

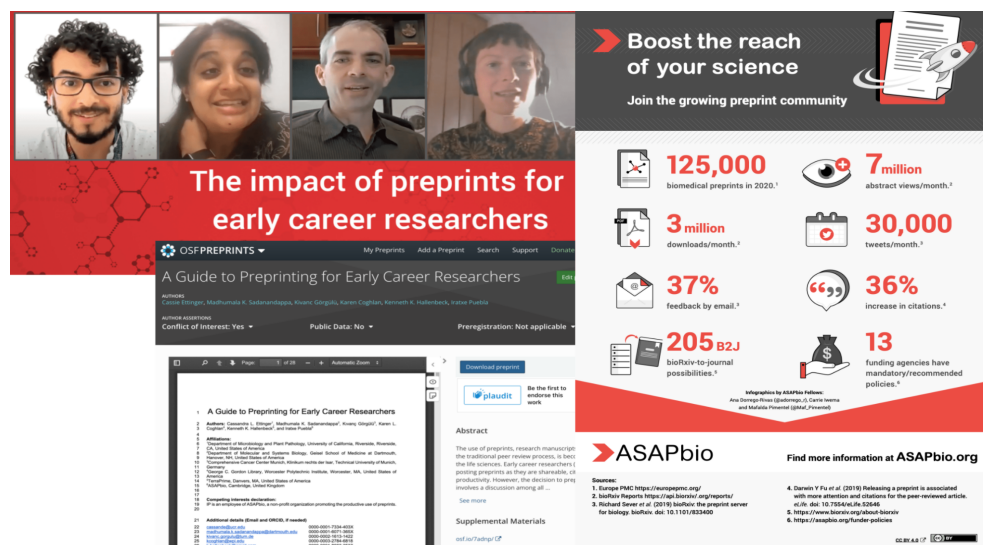
- [Preprints in Progress](#): support the use of preprints beyond the traditional journal article
- [Crowd preprint review](#): collaborative review of preprints leading to group-authored public reviews



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- [Publish Your Reviews](#): encourage peer reviewers to post their reviews alongside preprints
- ASAPbio Local Hubs: foster local preprint communities through activities in/around Lisbon (Portugal), São Paulo (Brazil) and Pretoria (South Africa)
- Awareness and recognition of preprints in India
- Developing outreach campaigns (e.g. via social media) to support adoption of preprints

The Fellows can also develop their own project; examples of projects by previous ASAPbio Fellows include the running of a preprint event (at their local institution or online), developing [training resources](#) or writing a [preprint](#) containing a guide to preprinting by ECRs.



The program supports strengthening an understanding of the productive use of preprints and the development of outreach and leadership skills. The program also aims to provide recognition to the members of our community for their contributions, and opportunities to expand the participants' networks.

'The ASAPbio Fellows program was a great way to make the time to think and discuss about the future of scientific publications and research. This program made me consider different perspectives and opened my horizons into ways that each of us can take action, and make a small change in the current publication system.'

2021 ASAPbio Fellow

Responsibilities and expectations

ASAPbio Fellows

The participants in the program are part of the larger ASAPbio Community. The Fellows will be signed up for ASAPbio newsletter and the ASAPbio Slack to engage with the broader



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ASAPbio Community. All Fellows are expected to abide by the [ASAPbio community guidelines and the ASAPbio Code of Conduct](#).

The Fellows program lasts for eight months and requires a time commitment of about 5 hours/month. Participants are expected to attend the initial orientation sessions as well as the monthly group calls scheduled as part of the program. The monthly group sessions have a length of 60 or 90 minutes and take place online (over zoom).

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. review training materials, draft 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.

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 orientation sessions and monthly cohort calls during the eight-month period. ASAPbio will also provide project management support to participants as they work on their project assignments.

ASAPbio may ask participants to complete a survey at the end of the program; this is intended to help us review and update the program based on participant feedback. Upon completion of the program, ASAPbio will encourage Fellows to provide recommendations for participants in future cohorts, and to engage in future ASAPbio activities.

ASAPbio will post information about the program and program participants on the ASAPbio website (e.g. asapbio.org/fellows).

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

ASAPbio Community guidelines and Code of Conduct

All participants of the ASAPbio Fellows program are expected to abide by the ASAPbio community guidelines and Code of Conduct, available here: 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



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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 our community members, 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.

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 (Director of Strategic Initiatives & Community), Jennifer Lin (ASAPbio Board of Directors) and Chiara Bertipaglia (ASAPbio Community member).

I have applied for the Fellows program: What next?

The ASAPbio team will review applications and will aim to follow up with applicants within two weeks following closure of applications. Those selected for participation will be invited to join the ASAPbio Slack group (if not already a member) and will be sent details for the initial orientation sessions for the program. The 2023 program will run from April to November, 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.

'The program was terrific. It is my first experience with such online activity well planned and executed. Indeed, it helped me understand the importance of preprints better. Moreover, the preprint review was a completely new learning for me.'

2022 ASAPbio Fellow



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Appendix: Additional resources

Fellows program information on ASAPbio website: asapbio.org/fellows

ASAPbio Community: asapbio.org/asapbio-community

ASAPbio preprints FAQ (and translations to Spanish, French and Chinese):
asapbio.org/preprint-info/preprint-faq

ASAPbio preprint infographics: asapbio.org/preprint-info#infographics



Take action to support preprints

Have 5 minutes?	Have 30 minutes?	Have 2 hours?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Tweet the last preprint you read, retweet a colleague's post about their preprint➤ Set up an email alert to a preprint server➤ Sign up to a newsletter  listing recently posted preprints mentioned on Twitter➤ Choose a sticker or share an ASAPbio infographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Read a preprint➤ Write a Twitter thread about a preprint discussing the study's findings➤ Organize a discussion in your next lab meeting about pros and cons of preprinting your work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Review a preprint and post your review publicly➤ Participate in a podcast e.g. Preprints in Motion ➤ Write a blog post about your interest in preprints, or about the last preprint you read➤ Invite the author of a preprint to present at your journal club or at your institution

Want to learn more?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Check the ASAPbio website asapbio.org for upcoming events about preprints or sign up to the ASAPbio newsletter: asapbio.org/newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Visit ASAPbio's Preprint resource centre for preprint resources, infographics, preprint FAQ and more: asapbio.org/preprint-info
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