

# RSC Member Networks Conference 2023

## International Local Sections Meeting

17 October 2023

*Professor Patricia Forbes*

*Chair, International Local Section  
Representative, Member Networks  
Committee*



ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF CHEMISTRY

# Impact of Open Access on authors from low- and middle-income countries

**Laura Fisher**

RSC Member Networks Conference

17–19 October 2023



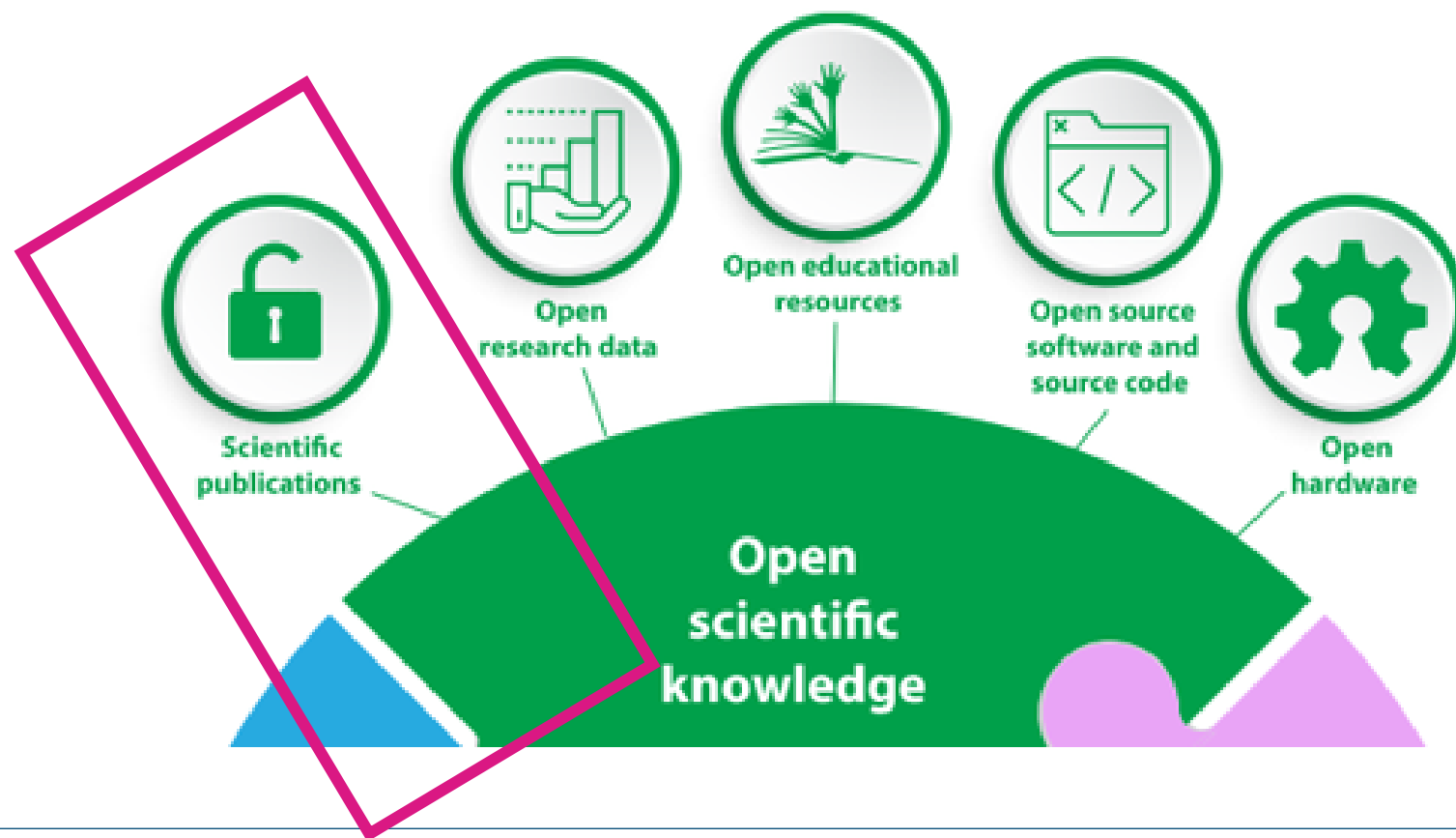
# About me

- **2003 – 2011** Undergraduate degree and PhD at University of Bath, UK
- **2012 – 2013** Postdoc at Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- **2014 – 2015** Publishing Editor, *Soft Matter*, *Biomaterials Science*, *Polymer Chemistry*, *Reaction Chemistry & Engineering*, and *MSDE*
- **Sept 2015 – March 2016** Supplier Relations Executive – working with external editors and typesetters across all RSC journals
- **April 2016 – June 2019** Deputy Editor, *Soft Matter*, *Biomaterials Science*, *Polymer Chemistry*, *Reaction Chemistry & Engineering*, and *MSDE*
- **July 2019 – present** Executive Editor, *RSC Advances*



# Open Science & Open Access

**Open Access** to scientific publications is a **key component** of **Open Science**



# What is Open Access?

A research output is Open Access (OA) if it is:

- Digital
- Online
- Available to access free of charge
- Free of most copyright and licensing restrictions



# Why Open Access?

Open Access is part of our mission at the RSC to help chemists to make the world a better place.

The benefits of Open Access are clear:

- **Fairness** – everyone has the same potential to read and build upon cutting edge research
- **Visibility and Impact** – the more people that can access research, the more people will read it and ultimately cite it
- **Interdisciplinary collaboration** – when work is OA, researchers are more likely to read work that is out of their research area and think outside the box
- **Transparency** – research integrity is strengthened by the free availability of research.

**Open Access is the best and most efficient way to help chemists exchange knowledge and to make the world a better place.**

# Open Access is the future

- The publishing landscape is moving further and further towards a fully Open Access environment
- All cOAlition S and UKRI funded research is now Open Access. Plan S funding for 'Transformative Journals' and Transformative Agreements ends in 2024
- The US will require *immediate access* to federally funded research after it is published, starting in 2026
- Japan will require *immediate access* to research after it is published, starting in 2025

NEWS | 26 August 2022 | Correction [30 August 2022](#)

## US government reveals big changes to open-access policy

Biden administration instructs all US agencies to require immediate access to federally funded research after it is published, starting in 2026.

[Jeff Tollefson](#) & [Richard Van Noorden](#)

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-02351-1>

The question is no longer *if* Open Access, but *when* (and *how*).

# Publishers are adapting

**Cambridge University Press** have publicly committed to transitioning their entire journal portfolio to OA **by 2025**

**ACS** have committed entire portfolio to 'Transformative Journal' status, effectively committing to fully transition to OA (most likely in the **next 3–5 years**)

**Large publishers are investing heavily in** growth (to prep for OA future), acquisition and **transformative agreements**

**Large OA publishers** are growing exponentially – and **investing heavily in growing institutional level agreements**

**Royal Astronomical Society** have committed to 100% OA **by 2024**

De Gruyter commits to mostly OA (320 journals!) **by 2028**

Health

26 APR 2022 11:02 PM AEST

## ACS Publications commits its entire hybrid journal portfolio to become transformative journals

This development represents a major step in ACS' long-standing commitment to open science, signaling a future in which all publications are open access (OA).

Royal Astronomical Society announces all journals to publish as open access from 2024

1 Mar 2023 — The **Royal Astronomical Society** (RAS) has today announced that all journals published by the Society will be **Open Access** (OA) from January 2024.



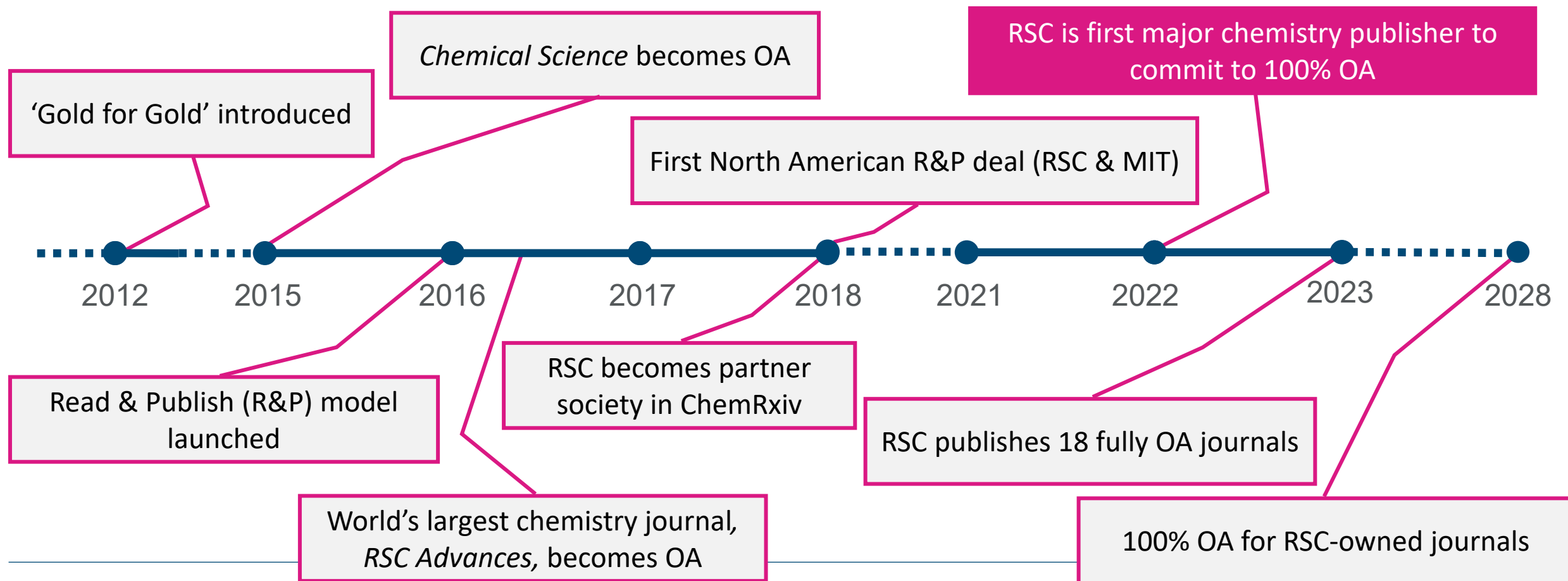
# The RSC's vision of an Open Access future

Everyone, everywhere has the same potential to access critical knowledge and build upon it, **accelerating the pace of innovation and discovery**

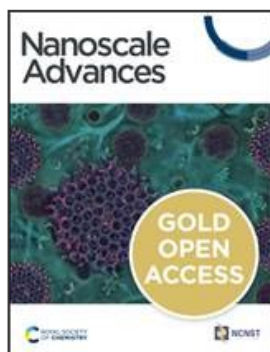
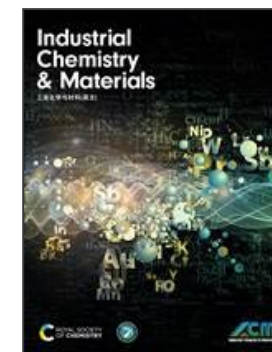
**Authors should not pay for Open Access**; libraries, governments and funders should reinvest subscription funds to cover these costs through new Open Access business models

A global understanding that **Open Access = quality, integrity and transparency**

# RSC Open Access Timeline



# RSC Open Access Portfolio



# Chemical Science; Diamond OA

*Chemical Science*, our flagship journal, is Diamond Open Access. This means that it's **free both to read and to publish in *Chemical Science***.

This is possible because we, the RSC, cover the cost of publication in *Chemical Science*.

The costs associated with this are covered by the revenue we make from our other journals – either via subscriptions or Open Access charges.



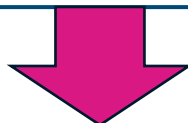
# Why APCs?

The majority of gold Open Access journals charge an article processing charge (APC) for publication. **Why does this charge exist?**

**Publishers incur costs** – managing peer review, typesetting and production, article promotion, digital development and management, ethical investigations



**No income from subscription** – in the subscription model, institutions paid publishers for access to articles. With OA this income is gone.



**APCs replace subscription charges** – APCs mean that publishers can still cover their costs, but the income comes from publishing instead of reading

**As a society publisher, any surplus is directed towards the RSC's charitable activities**

# What about LMICs?

Open Access is beneficial for authors from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs):

- **Greater access to research** – many do not have access to the full range of journals and publishers
- **Ability to access own research** – in subscription model, an author's own research is often behind a paywall, making it harder to share
- **Increased collaboration** – greater access to research means better opportunities to find out about complementary work and look for collaborations

**But**, there is a huge downside:

- **Financial barriers** – authors from LMICs cannot afford APCs and do not have funding to cover them

**For Open Access to be truly effective, it must be accessible to everyone**

# RSC publications from LMICs

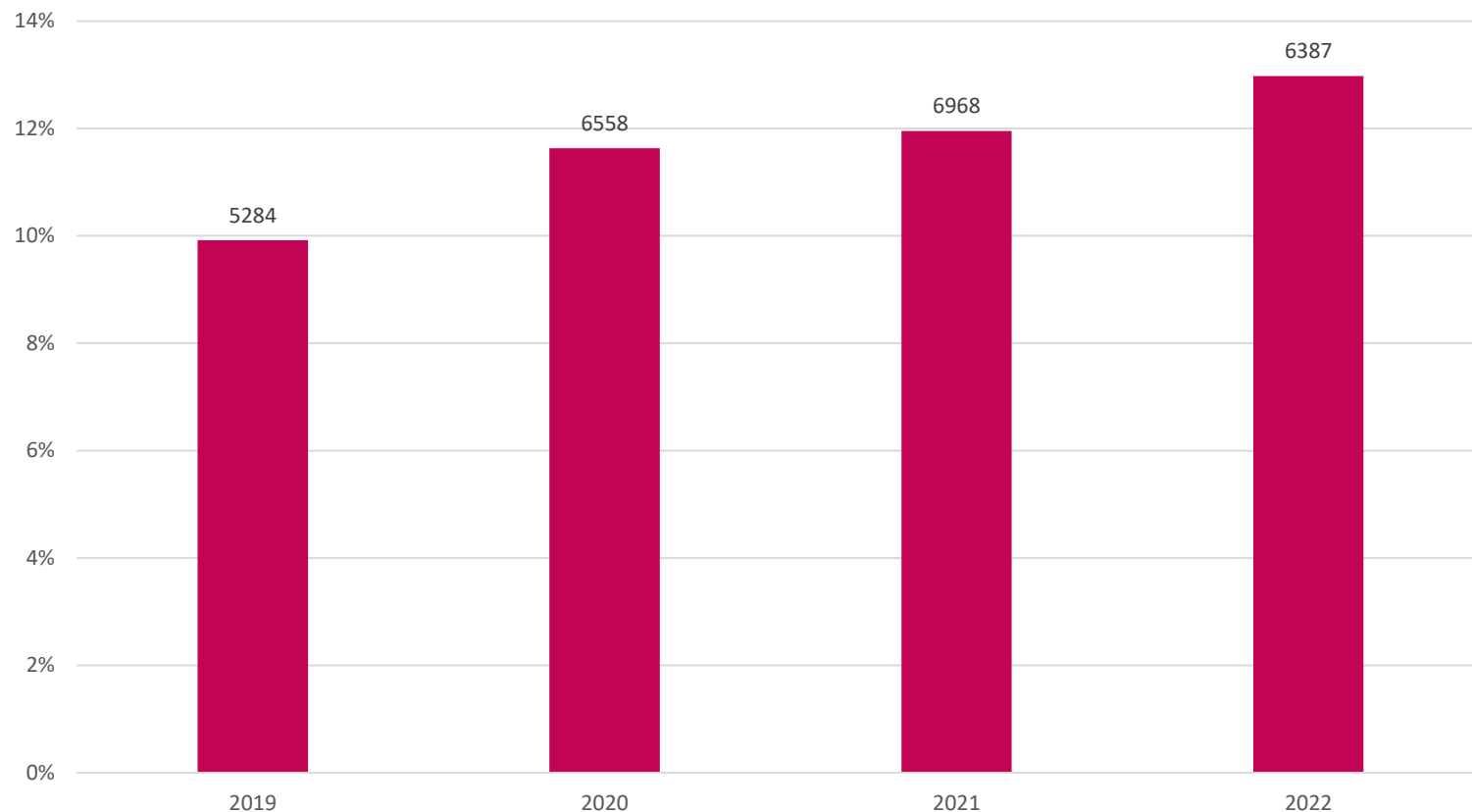
Various definitions:

- **Research4Life** – 125 countries, 83 in Group A (free access), 42 in Group B (low-cost access)<sup>1</sup>
- **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** – 141 countries classified by those receiving official development assistance<sup>2</sup>
- **World Bank** – 134 countries, 26 low-income economies, 54 lower-middle income economies, 54 upper-middle income economies<sup>3</sup>

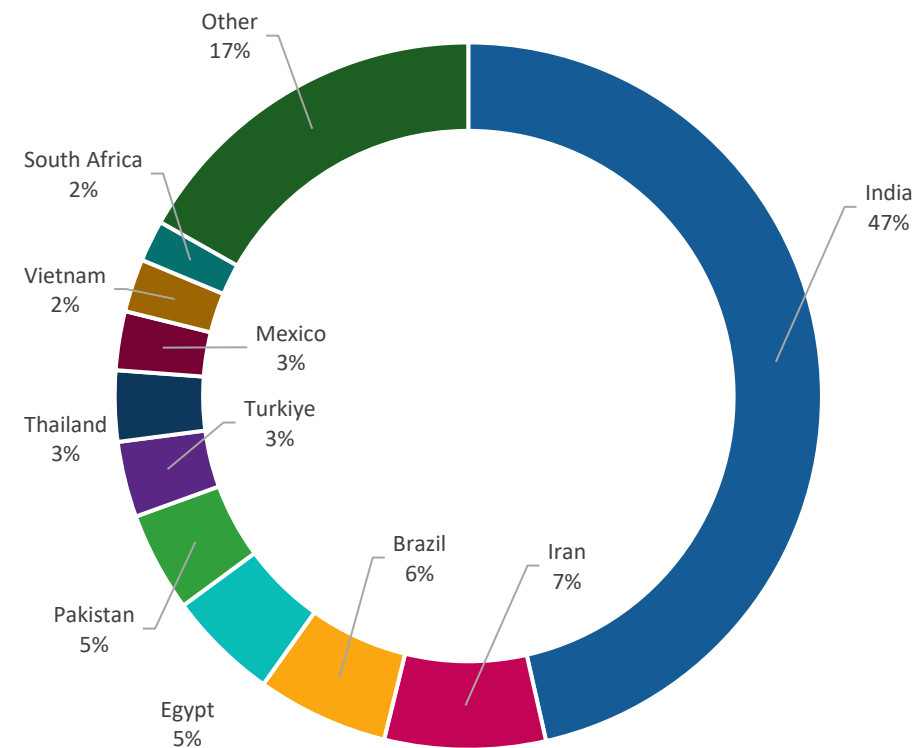
The following data uses the OECD definition, as this is the broadest, and includes the most countries where authors are unlikely to be able to cover article processing charges (APCs)

# RSC publications from LMICs

Proportion of RSC content from LMICs



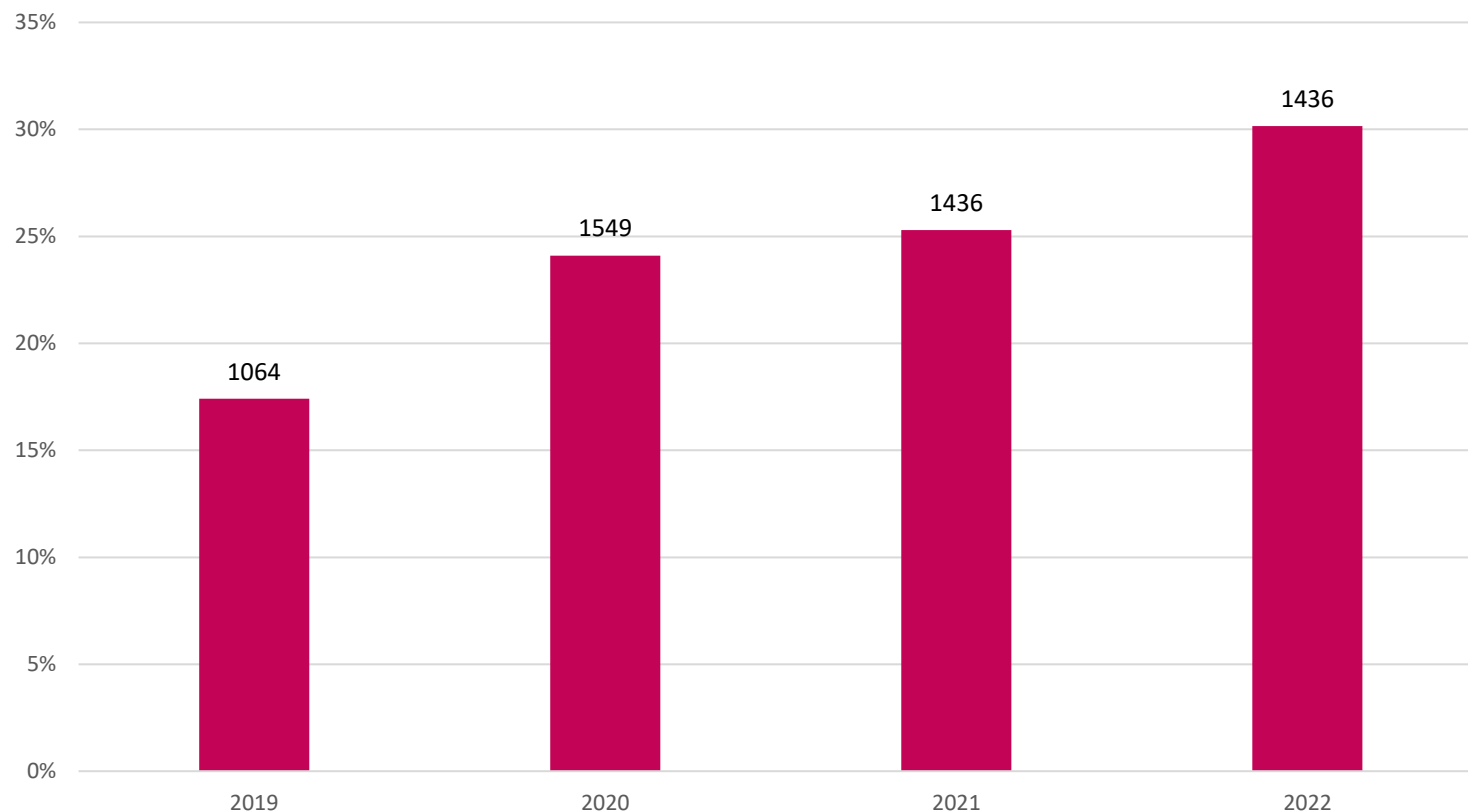
RSC LMIC publications 2022



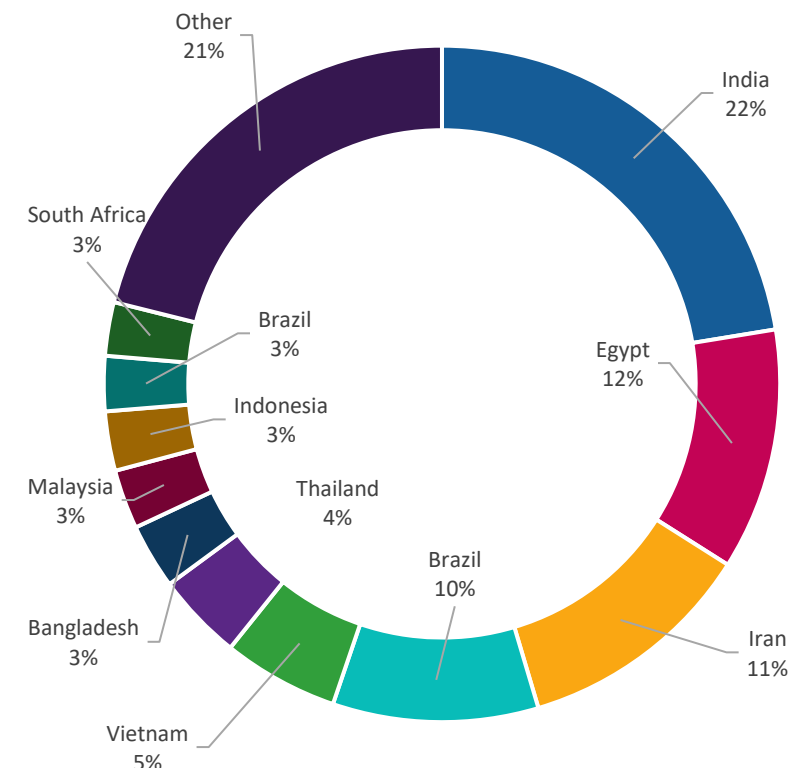


# RSC Advances publications from LMICs

Proportion of RSC Advances content from LMICs



RSC Advances LMIC publications 2022



**20–25% of the RSC's LMIC content is published in RSC Advances**

# How the RSC supports LMIC authors now

## Waivers and discounts:

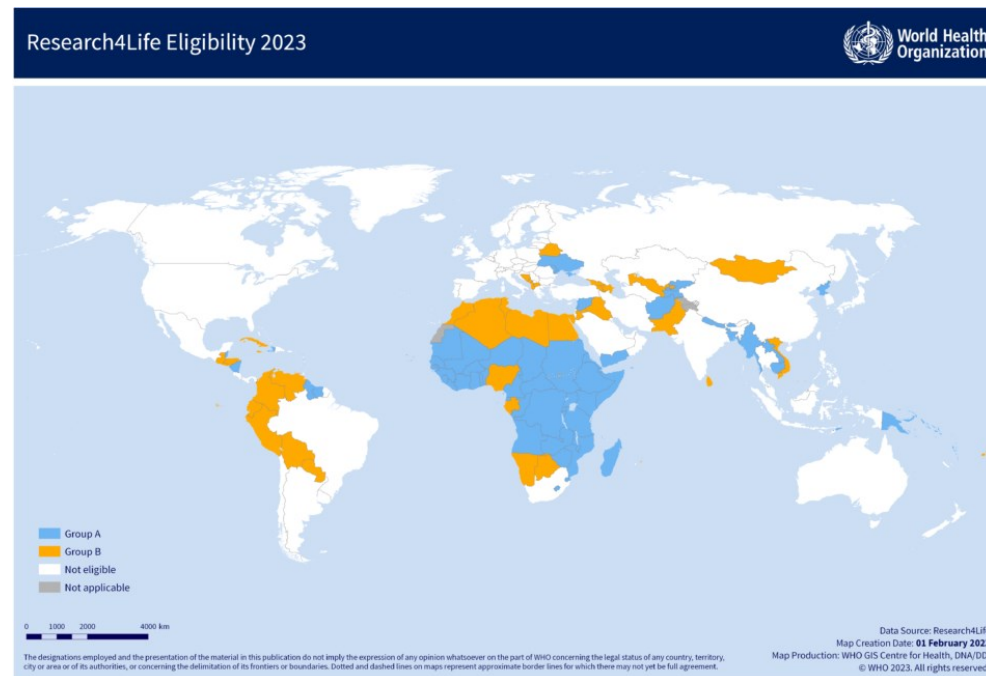
- **Research4Life** – corresponding authors from all 125 countries in Groups A and B get 100% APC waiver
- **APC discount** – corresponding authors from India, Indonesia, and Philippines get a 40% APC discount
- **Member discount** – RSC members get a 15% APC discount (on the full APC only)
- **Author membership** – corresponding authors entitled to 1 year free RSC membership
- **Ad hoc waivers** – all authors can apply for a waiver on acceptance if they cannot pay the APC

# How the RSC supports LMIC authors now

## Research4Life

*“Research4Life provides institutions in low-and middle-income countries with online access to academic and professional peer-reviewed content.”*

- Offers access to paywalled content to researchers from LMICs
- RSC offers APC waivers to authors from all countries on their lists
- 125 countries in Groups A and B, but does not include India, Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Africa...
- **Many authors in LMICs do not know about this – please spread the word!**
- Other publishers have similar lists, but all differ



# How the RSC supports LMIC authors now

**APC discounts** – in practise these are not very effective as most authors can either afford the full APC or can afford nothing (<1% of our articles are published with a discount)

## **Ad hoc waivers**

- Any author can apply for a waiver after their paper is accepted
- Decision made outside editorial team (separate from editorial decisions)
- Authors asked to demonstrate lack of APC funding
- Majority of waiver requests come from authors from LMICs (>60% from India)
- >90% of waiver applications approved in 2022
- >80% of papers from India got a full waiver in 2022

**RSC Advances**

# The RSC's fully OA future

The RSC has committed to achieving 100% Open Access by 2028.

<https://www.rsc.org/news-events/articles/2022/oct/rsc-oa-commitment/>

English version of our **press release** went out on **31 October 2022**.

The announcement was shared in several industry **news outlets** including *Chemistry World*, *The Chemical Engineer*, *Chemical & Engineering News*, *Research Professional News*, *Knowledge Speak*, *Library Learning Space*

## Royal Society of Chemistry commits to 100% Open Access

31 October 2022

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) announced today that it aims to make all fully RSC-owned journals Open Access within five years, making it the first chemistry publisher and one of the first society publishers to commit to a fully Open Access future.

Open Access is at the core of the RSC's mission to help the chemical sciences make the world a better place. Free, unrestricted global access to all of the cutting-edge research published in Royal Society of Chemistry journals is a key component of this, aligning with the RSC's organisational strategy, which highlights the crucial role of collaboration and the open sharing of scientific knowledge in addressing global challenges, from disease to climate change. Nations in the "Global South", which will be the worst affected by these issues, are those with the least access to such crucial information. Open Access ensures that everyone, everywhere has the same potential to read and contribute to the latest discoveries, leading to a better future for us.



英国皇家化学学会将以实现完全开放获取为远景目标

Original RSC英国皇家化学学会 2022-11-01 02:10 Posted on 上海



## The Chemical Engineer

Search the site



Business

8th November 2022

The RSC commits to 100% open access within five years

Article by Kerry Hebden



版 50 余种高水平的化学及相关学科领域的学术期刊以及图书。期刊不仅以前沿的科研论文和权威的研究综述享誉全球化学界的同行评审、迅速的出版速度而广受好评。

布了在学术期刊开放获取方面的远景目标，即在科研单位和同行推动下，计划在未来五年内 RSC 自有期刊陆续实现完全开放获取，承诺实现开放获取的化学科学类学术出版机构。

# Our goals for achieving 100% OA

## Ensuring that everyone, everywhere can still publish with us

- We want to remove barriers so **all authors have the same potential to access and publish research**

## Partnering with institutions to develop new Open Access models

- We want to **transform our current subscriptions to new OA models** that cover as much of our global author community as possible
- We are spending the next 2 years speaking to our community and in particular librarians, to understand their priorities, requirements and goals for OA; **our aim is to move away from models that rely solely on authors paying article processing charges – we want these to be covered by institutions & funders.**

# Our goals for achieving 100% OA

## Expanding our waiver program

- So that authors at institutions that do not have deals with us can still **publish with us, free of charge**

“The transition to Open Access will mean the RSC can ensure that everyone across the globe has the same ability to read and build upon all of the important research published in RSC journals while continuing to maintain the high-quality standards and reputation our community relies on.”

**Professor Duncan Graham, Chair of RSC Publishing Board**

# Progress so far

We already have some new deals in place that include OA journals:

- **India** – 6 institutions
  - Siksha O Anusandhan University
  - Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Berhampur
  - Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram
  - Indian Institute of Science Education and Research-Tirupati
  - Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad
  - Manipal Academy of Higher Education
- **Czechia** – 13 institutions
- **USA** – 23 institutions
- **Spain** – 39 institutions
- **Sweden** – 8 institutions
- **Hungary** – 4 institutions
- **Canada, Italy, Greece, UK** – 1 institution each



# Other equitable OA initiatives

## OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association)

*“encourage and enable open access as the predominant model of communication for scholarly outputs”*

- OASPA has committed to working with publishers to make OA more equitable.<sup>1</sup>
- Recognising that APCs and transformative agreements are inequitable.
- Convening workshops on equity in pricing models, discounts, subsidies, and waivers.
- Encouraging libraries and publishers to work together to look at new policies and models.
- Annual conference on progress in OA, with speakers from across the globe.
- The RSC is a member and our Head of OA journals Sara Bosshart is on the OASPA board.

# Other equitable OA initiatives

## Coalition S

- Launched PlanS in 2018: *“all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional and international research councils and funding bodies, must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo.”*
- Organising workshops on *Global equity in open access publishing*<sup>1</sup> in conjunction with African Association of Universities, EIFL, International Science Council, OA 2020 Initiative, Science Europe, and UNESCO.
- Generating proposals for transparent pricing based on purchasing power parity
- Noting that waivers can be perceived as patronising, and are unilaterally controlled by publishers
- Commissioning a study on how a globally fair pricing system would work.<sup>2</sup>

# Other equitable OA initiatives

## Elsevier – Geographical Pricing for Open Access

- Yesterday Elsevier announced their Geographical Pricing for Open Access pilot across 142 of their gold OA journals.<sup>1</sup>
- “Elsevier will structure its article publishing charges for this subset of journals based on countries’ local economic conditions and average income”<sup>1</sup> – using a similar approach to how Research4Life create their country lists.
- Elsevier will continue to waive APCs for authors in “the lowest economic band”, and to provide access to subscription content through Research4Life.
- 5 groups with staggered APC pricings, from 0% of APC, to 20%, 45%, 65%, 90%, and 100% depending on gross national income per capita

# Other potential initiatives at the RSC

There are some other initiatives we are considering to support authors whose institutions do not have OA deals:

- **Reviewer reward scheme** – researchers would collect tokens when they review for RSC journals, and could add these up towards APC discounts and possibly full waivers. Other publishers already do this.
- **Frequent author reward scheme** – authors would collect tokens for each publication with the RSC, and get e.g. the 5<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> free
- **APC support fund** – funders and researchers from better funded institutions could donate money to a fund that covers APCs for those who cannot afford them (like a “pay it forward” coffee scheme)
- **APC in different currencies** – APC payable in different currencies, so that authors can pay in their own currency and aren't impacted by currency fluctuations

**We welcome your feedback on these, as well as other suggestions**

# Leading the way forward

We are the first major chemistry publisher to commit to 100% Open Access.

By signalling our commitment to Open Access, we want to show the world (and our institutional partners) that we value Open Access and are **openly inviting key stakeholders across the globe to partner with us towards achieving this goal.**



## What can *you* do?

Get in touch and let us know your thoughts, encourage your librarians to get in touch, keep an eye out for future RSC OA community initiatives. And keep talking about Open Access!

Thank you!

Any questions?

[fisherl@rsc.org](mailto:fisherl@rsc.org)



# International Engagement at the RSC



**Dr Andrew Shore MRSC**  
Senior Programme Manager, International Engagement  
[shorea@rsc.org](mailto:shorea@rsc.org)

# The International Engagement team



part of Global Inclusion team, headed by Ale Palermo





PAN AFRICA  
CHEMISTRY NETWORK



**Commonwealth  
Chemistry**  
Federation of Chemical Sciences Societies



**I U P A C**

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF  
PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY

# The RSC International Ambition

- Internationally, RSC is the ambassador for UK chemical science community
- Strengthen the reputation of UK science and its role as part of a global role
- Set and maintain professional standards for RSC members within the global chemical science community
- Convene the global science community through a programme of conferences and events

# The RSC International Ambition

- We amplify and enrich our community engagement and advocacy by working with other national chemical societies to address our shared ambitions for science culture, I&D and ethical practice.
- We bring together groups of chemical scientists to address global challenges, enable collaboration, recognition, nurturing talent and leadership.
- Key markets: UK, China, India, USA, Japan, Ireland and Europe
- Key partnerships: Commonwealth Chemistry, Pan Africa Chemistry Network (PACN), EuChemS, IUPAC

# Pan Africa Chemistry Network – who we are

- Established in 2008, owned by the RSC, PACN has invested over £2m in Africa
- Its purpose is **“To promote a sustainable science base in Africa to solve local challenges and contribute to global knowledge”**
- 3 pillars are “advancing excellence”, “enhancing skills and knowledge” and “integration of African chemistry into the global chemistry community”
- Set-up as a “hub and spoke” model with four active hubs in partnership with leading universities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Ghana.
- University of Nairobi, Kenya hosts the main hub coordinating activities across the continent

For more information, visit

[www.rsc.org/pacn](http://www.rsc.org/pacn)

# Pan Africa Chemistry Network – what we do

- Enables access to all RSC journal articles free of charge through Research4Life
- Allows authors from most African countries to publish open access with no charges
- Supports African scientists to attend international conferences and sponsor conferences in Africa
- Fund equipment and maintenance costs for analytical facilities within Africa
- Connecting individuals and programs to stakeholders across Africa

## Who we work with



# International engagement – partner societies



# Chemical Sciences and Society Summit (CS3)



Theme: **Chemistry for Sustainable Food: Challenges and Perspectives**”

September 2023, hosted by CSJ

- Chemistry for Sustainable Food Engineering
- Chemistry for Revolutionary Food Production
- Circular and Sustainable Chemistry for Food Sustainability

Chair of UK delegation is Dr Julian Braybrook CChem FRSC (Government Chemist)



# EuChemS

European Chemical Society



## EuChemS

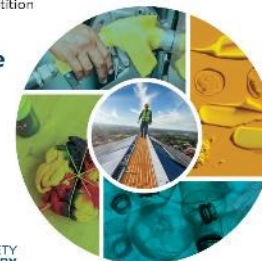
European Chemical Society  
—European Young Chemists' Network—

**Photochimica** chemistry photography competition  
2022 Theme  
**Chemistry in Everyday Life**

Upload your photo to social media and tag [@YoungChemists](#) and [@RoySocChem](#) with [#Photochimica2022](#) by **13 November** to enter.

 **EuChemS**  
European Chemical Society  
—European Young Chemists' Network—

 **ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY**





## Vision

One community, one voice,  
catalysing equality for all

## Guiding principles

Equal and inclusive representation from all Commonwealth nations with the recognition that those with greater resources will contribute more in order to support those with fewer resources.

## Mission

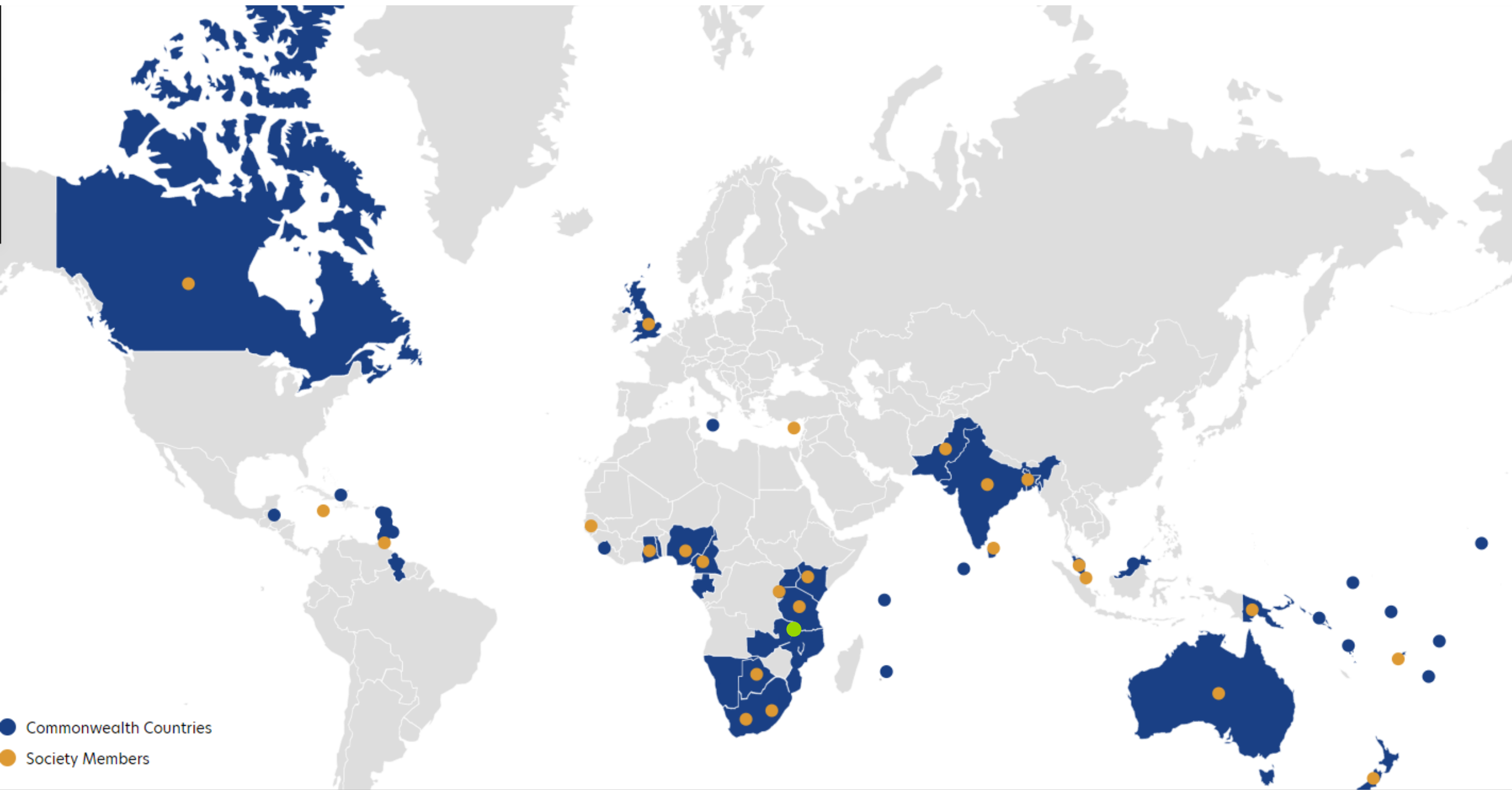
To inspire, celebrate and elevate the role and practice of the chemical sciences for the benefit of Commonwealth nations and their people.

- RSC provides the Secretariat function
- Commonwealth Chemistry Day
- Commonwealth Chemistry Congress

<https://commonwealthchemistry.org/event/coc2023/>

- Commonwealth Chemistry Posters Event
- Early Career Network







I U P A C

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF  
PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY



RSC-IUPAC Committee



IUPAC Young Observers  
Programme



# Key dates

- 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023: One-day symposium with Korean Chemical Society, Korea
- 13-17 November 2023: LC-MS: A Hands-on Approach, Kenya
- 21<sup>st</sup> November: CC Early Career Network “Pathways to Success” webinar (virtual)
- February 2024 EYCN Delegates Assembly at Burlington House
- May 2024 Commonwealth Chemistry AGM (virtual)
- 7-11 July 2024 9<sup>th</sup> EuChemS Chemistry Conference, Dublin
- 30<sup>th</sup> October-1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 PACN Congress, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 FASC General Assembly, Senegal

# 2025 plans....and beyond

- February: RSC-CRSI symposium
- April-June: 3<sup>rd</sup> Commonwealth Chemistry Congress, Stellenbosch, South Africa
- 30 June- 5 July 2025: Asian Chemical Congress and FACS General Assembly, Thailand
- 11-18<sup>th</sup> July 2025: 53<sup>rd</sup> IUPAC General Assembly and 50<sup>th</sup> World Chemistry Congress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2026: 10<sup>th</sup> EuChemS Chemistry Congress, Antwerp
- 2026: RACI National Symposium

# Thank you

# Refreshment break

# Financial reports and annual grants

17 October 2023

*Debbie Dekker*

*Member Networks Specialist*



# Changes to financial reports and grants

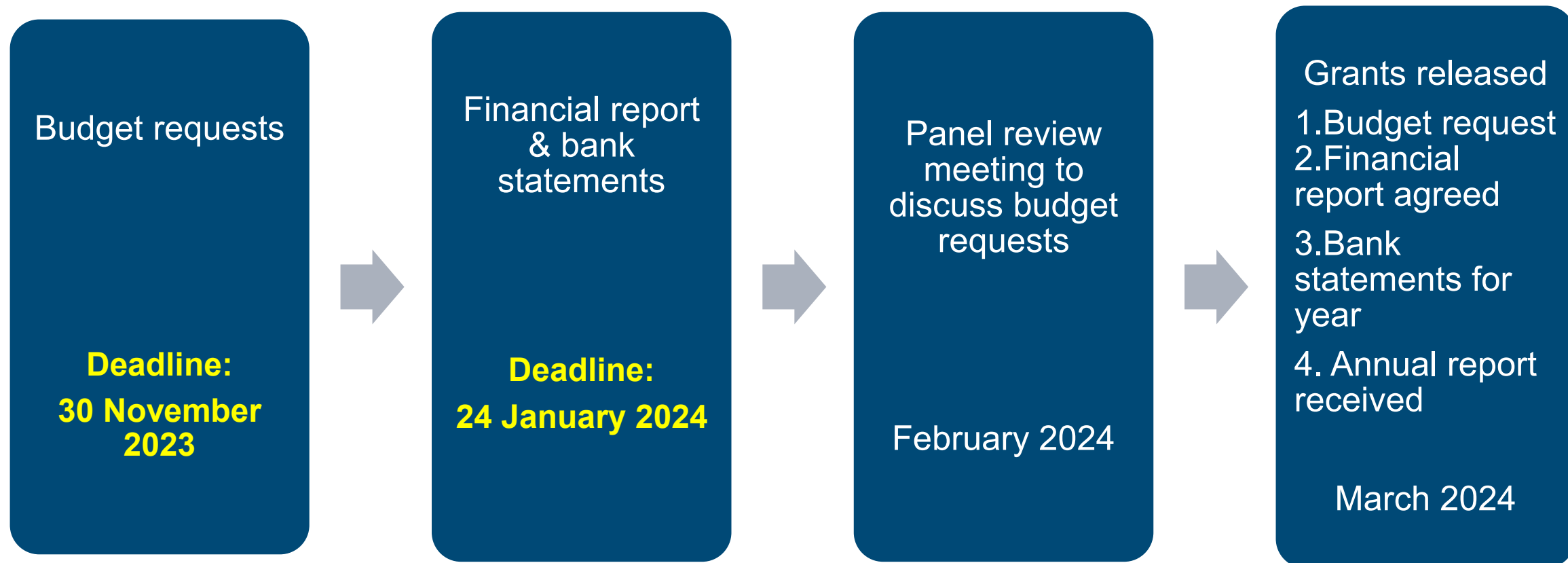
- Budget requests now reviewed by a panel from Member Networks Committee (MNC)
- Budget request submitted earlier & more information required
- Stricter deadlines for budget requests and financial reports
- Trial cash book format
- Volunteer hub pilot for Treasurers

# Budget requests

	How will the funds be used? Show the fees charged for RSC members and non members	
ry	Catering = £450. Members will pay £10 each, and non-members £15 each.	Fa
bout	Cover transport expenses of speakers = £50.	Fa
	Venue = £500, catering = £2000, AV equipment =	

Panel will not consider requests after 30 November 2023

# Financial reports timeline



# Cash book trial - 2024

cashbook for year-ending:		31/12/2022	Bahamas Local Section		<b>EXAMPLE ONLY - DO NOT USE THIS PAGE</b>			
<b>Account Summary</b>	<b>Brought Forward</b>	<b>Transactions</b>	<b>Carried Forward</b>	<b>Bank statement</b>				
	31/12/2021		31/12/2022	31/12/2022				
Current Account	154,555.90	-1,851.00	152,704.90	152,704.90				
Cash in hand	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00				
Deposit Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,555.90</b>	<b>-1,751.00</b>	<b>152,804.90</b>	<b>152,804.90</b>	<b>US Dollars</b>			
Account Used	Transaction Date	Amount (receipts)	Amount (payments)	Detail (other party & a very brief description)	Cheque No.	Event Name	Event Number	Transaction Category (receipts)
	<b>totals</b>	<b>1,049.00</b>	<b>2,800.00</b>					
Current Account	01-May-22	500.00		RSC grant				Grant - Annual
Current Account	30-Jul-22	200.00		sponsorship of annual newsletter (Big Fish Ltd)				Other Income (please describe in the 'Detail' column)
Current Account	01-Sep-22		1,000.00	Winners hotel - venue		RSC carbon conference - Hawaii	1	N/A
Current Account	01-Sep-22		900.00	Dr Who - speaker		RSC carbon conference - Hawaii	1	N/A
Current Account	01-Sep-22		750.00	Winners Hotel - dinner		RSC carbon conference - Hawaii	1	N/A
Current Account	01-Sep-22		50.00	Tasty Cakes - coffee and cake		RSC carbon conference - Hawaii	1	N/A
Current Account	01-Sep-22	49.00		Williams Electricals		RSC carbon conference - Hawaii	1	Events - Sponsorship
Cash in hand	05-Oct-22	200.00		contributions		Anniversary dinner	2	Events - Other Events Income
Cash in hand	30-Dec-22		100.00	deposit cash into current account				N/A
Current Account	30-Dec-22	100.00		deposit cash into current account				Transfers between accounts

# Volunteer hub – Pilot for Treasurers

The screenshot displays the 'RSC Treasurers' community hub. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the title 'RSC Treasurers' and a 'Settings' button. Below the header, navigation tabs include 'Community Home', 'Threads 3', 'Library 10', and 'Members 126'. The main content area features a descriptive paragraph: 'The Community for all treasurers of our member networks committees. This Hub community is a space for sharing best practice and asking for advice from fellow volunteers, discussing important financial matters that may impact the wider volunteer sphere, and accessing RSC resources to support financial responsibilities in networks committees.' To the right of this text are four blue buttons: 'Guidelines for Treasurers', 'Finance FAQs', 'Interest group top up fund form', and 'Local section top up fund form'. Below the main text is a section titled 'LATEST DISCUSSIONS LIST' with an 'Add' button and a dropdown menu set to 'Most Recent'. A discussion entry is visible: 'TA Second Treasurers thread' by 'Temporary Admin', posted 2 months ago. On the right side, there is a 'COMMUNITY ADMINS' section showing a profile for 'TA Temporary Admin' and a 'POLLS' section below it.

# Questions?

[networks@rsc.org](mailto:networks@rsc.org)

[Networksfinance@rsc.org](mailto:Networksfinance@rsc.org)

# Sharing experiences roundtable discussions

*Professor Patricia Forbes*

*Chair, International Local Section  
Representative, Member Networks  
Committee*

What does your Local Section do well, what are your successes?

What are your main challenges as an International Local Section?