

RSC Member Networks Conference 2023

International Local Sections Meeting

17 October 2023

Professor Patricia Forbes

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

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

Laura Fisher

RSC Member Networks Conference

17–19 October 2023



ROYAL SOCIETY
OF CHEMISTRY



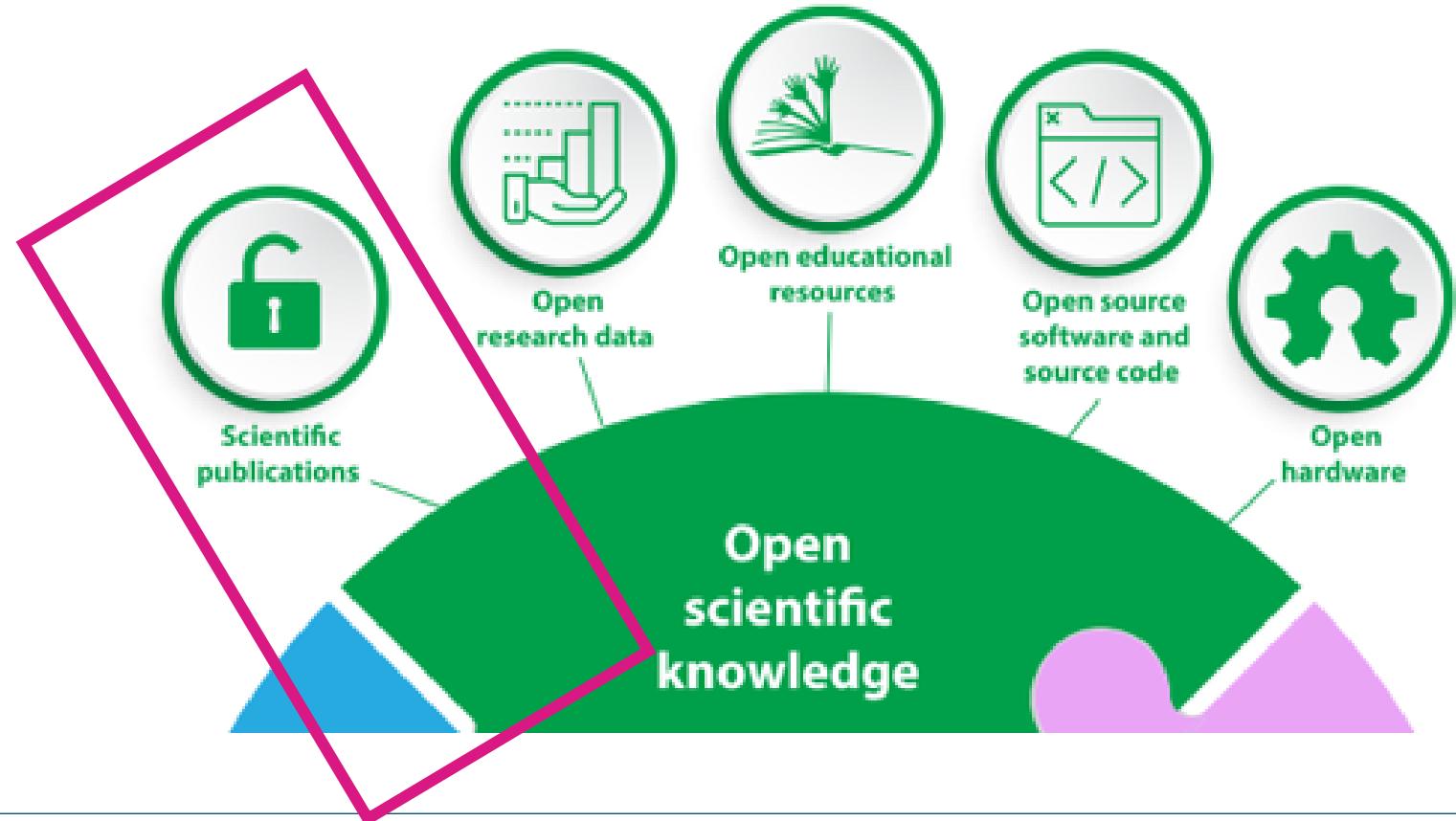
About me

- **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.

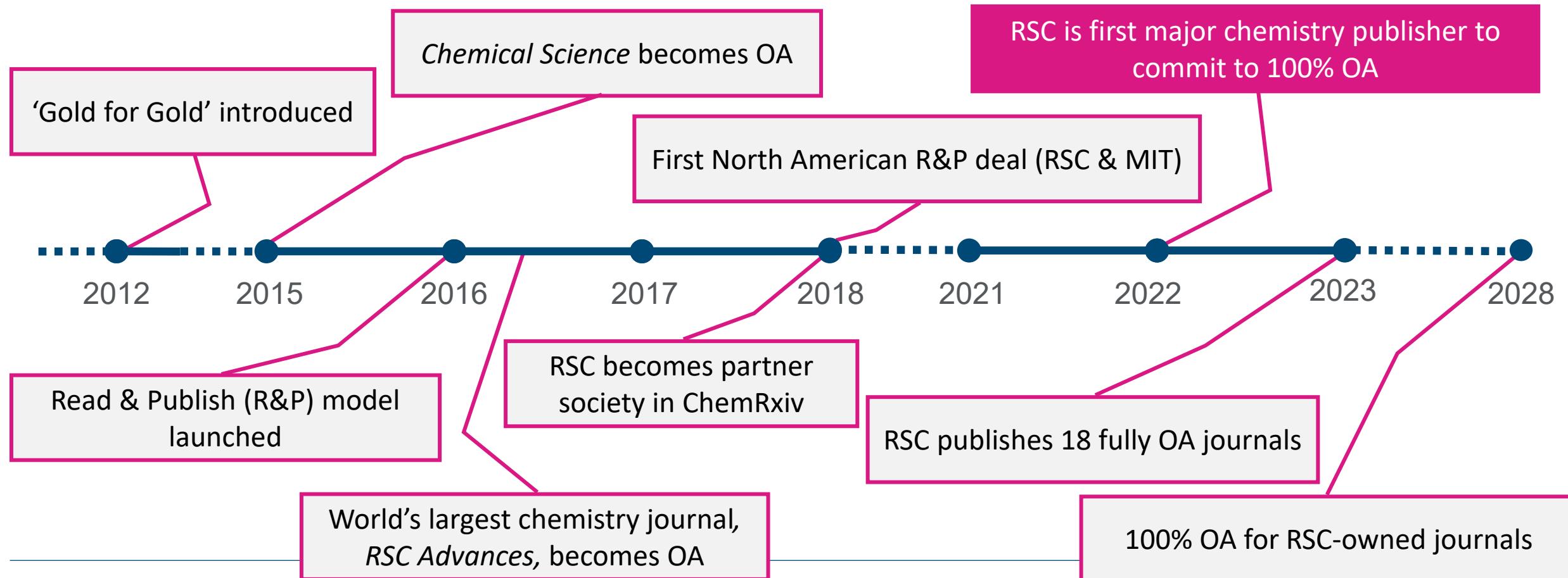
The RSC's vision of an Open Access future

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

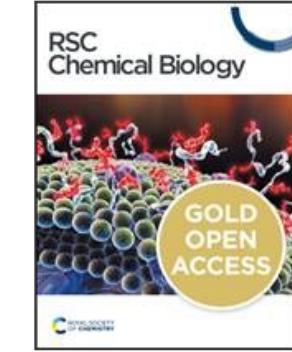
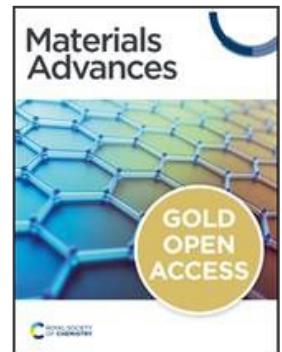
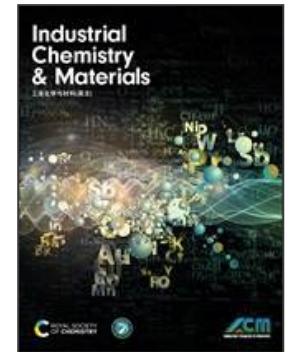
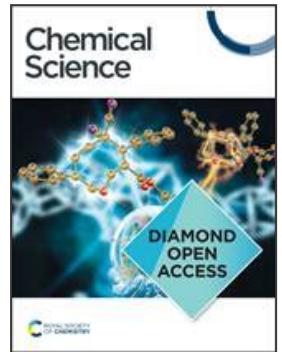
Authors should not pay for Open Access; libraries, governments and funders should reinvest subscription funds to cover these costs through new Open Access business models

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

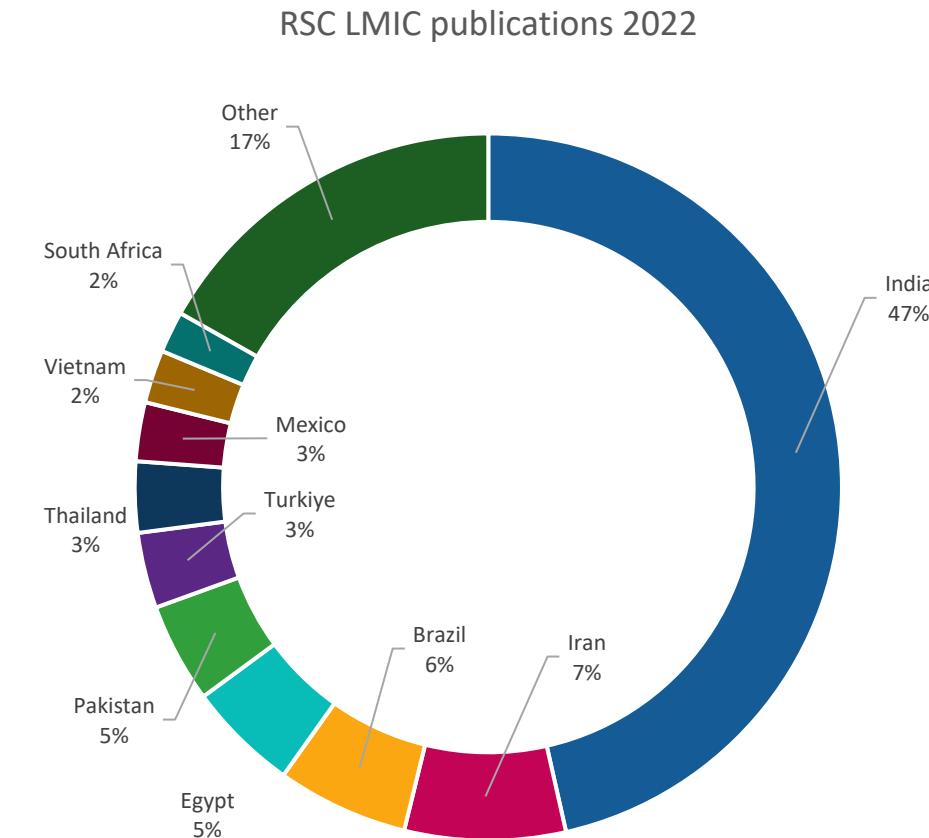
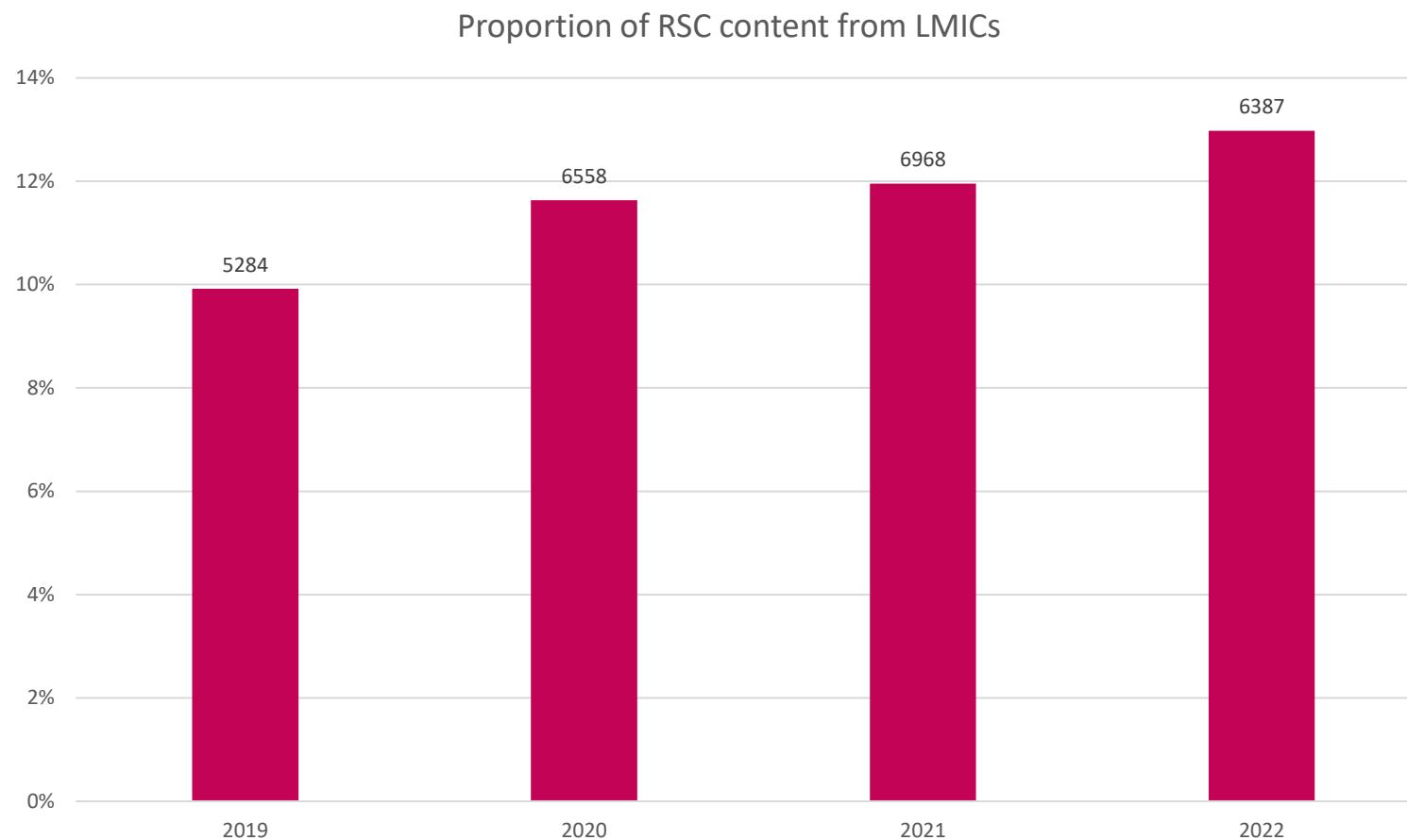
RSC publications from LMICs

Various definitions:

- **Research4Life** – 125 countries, 83 in Group A (free access), 42 in Group B (low-cost access)¹
- **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** – 141 countries classified by those receiving official development assistance²
- **World Bank** – 134 countries, 26 low-income economies, 54 lower-middle income economies, 54 upper-middle income economies³

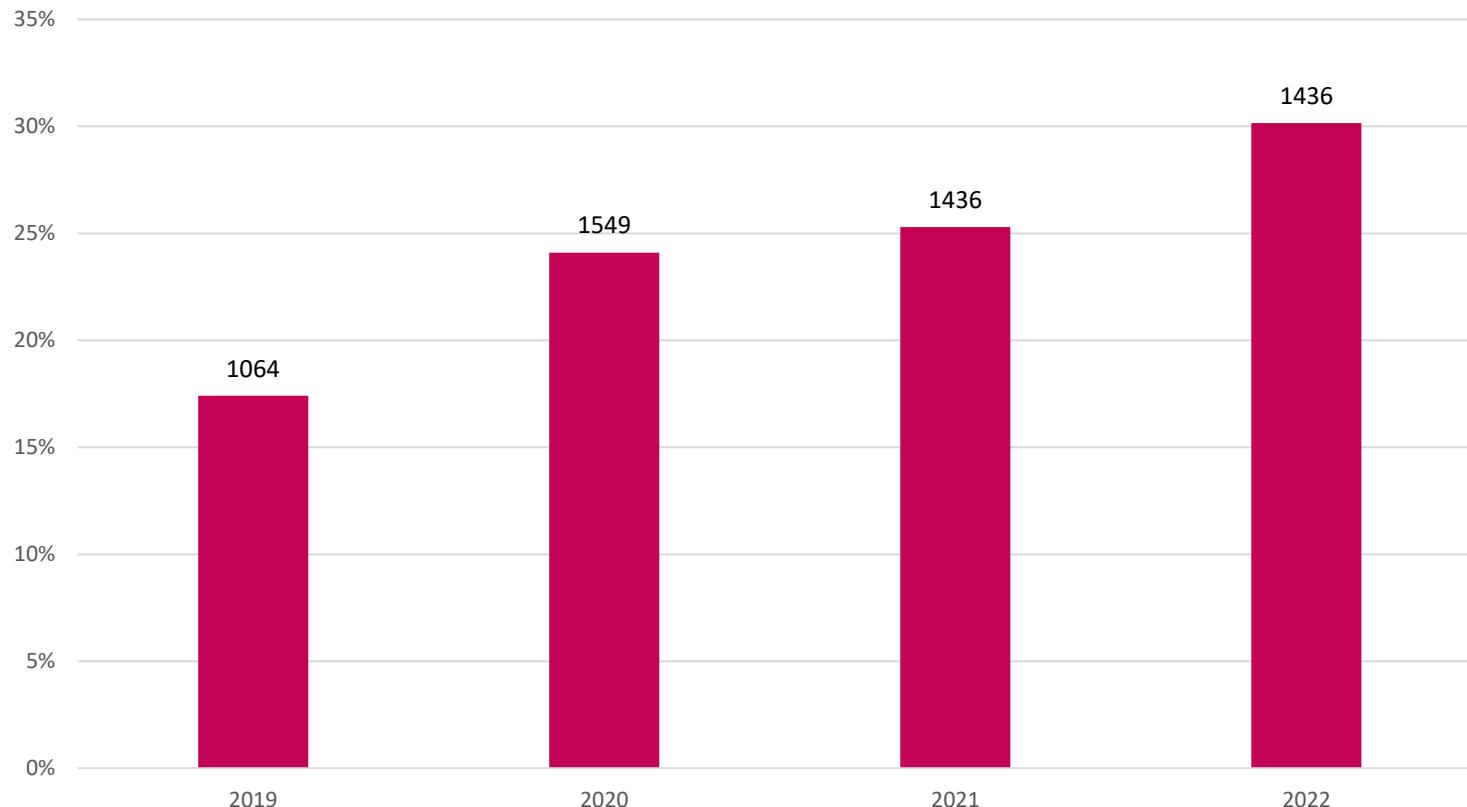
The following data uses the OECD definition, as this is the broadest, and includes the most countries where authors are unlikely to be able to cover article processing charges (APCs)

RSC publications from LMICs

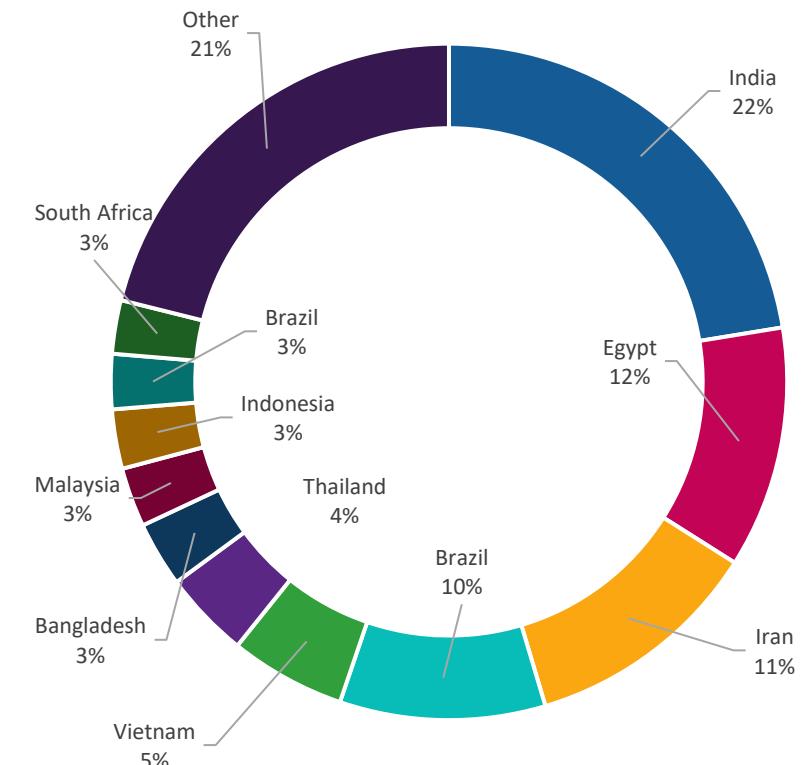


RSC Advances publications from LMICs

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:

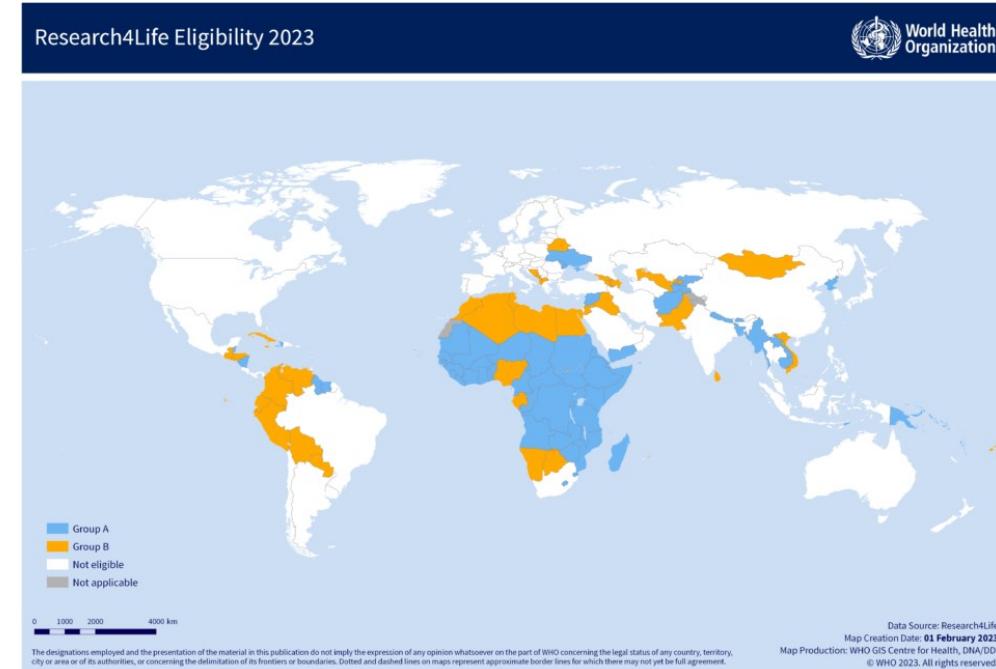
- **Research4Life** – corresponding authors from all 125 countries in Groups A and B get 100% APC waiver
- **APC discount** – corresponding authors from India, Indonesia, and Philippines get a 40% APC discount
- **Member discount** – RSC members get a 15% APC discount (on the full APC only)
- **Author 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 often those with the least access to such crucial information; Open Access ensures that everyone, everywhere has the same potential to contribute to the latest discoveries, leading to a better future for us.



英国皇家化学会将以实现完全开放获取为远景目标

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



The Chemical Engineer

Search the site

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，不仅以前沿的科研论文和权威的研究综述享誉全球，而且同行评审、迅捷的出版速度而广受好评。



Business

8th November 2022

The RSC commits to 100% open access within five years

Article by Kerry Hebdon



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.¹
- 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*¹ 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.²

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.¹
- “*Elsevier will structure its article publishing charges for this subset of journals based on countries’ local economic conditions and average income*¹” – 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 5th or 10th 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



International Engagement at the RSC



Dr Andrew Shore MRSC
Senior Programme Manager, International Engagement
shorea@rsc.org

The International Engagement team



part of Global Inclusion team, headed by Ale Palermo



ROYAL SOCIETY
OF CHEMISTRY

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

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



CHINESE
CHEMICAL
SOCIETY



国家自然科学基金委员会
National Natural Science Foundation of China



The South African Chemical Institute

Promoting chemistry, chemists, the chemical industry and
chemical education in South Africa



Chemical Sciences and Society Summit (CS3)



CHINESE
CHEMICAL
SOCIETY



THE CHEMICAL
SOCIETY OF JAPAN



Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council

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)



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.



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.

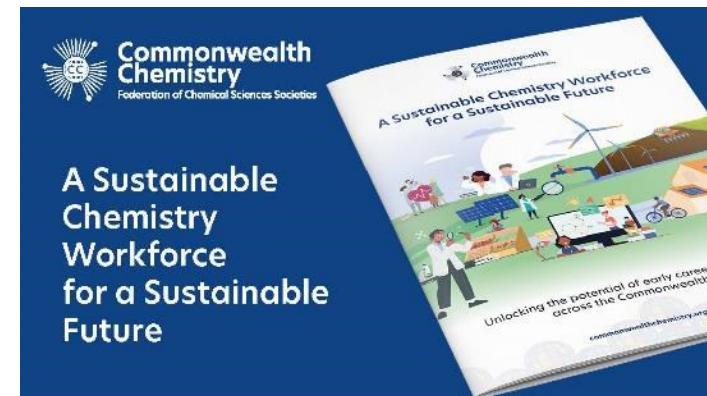
Mission

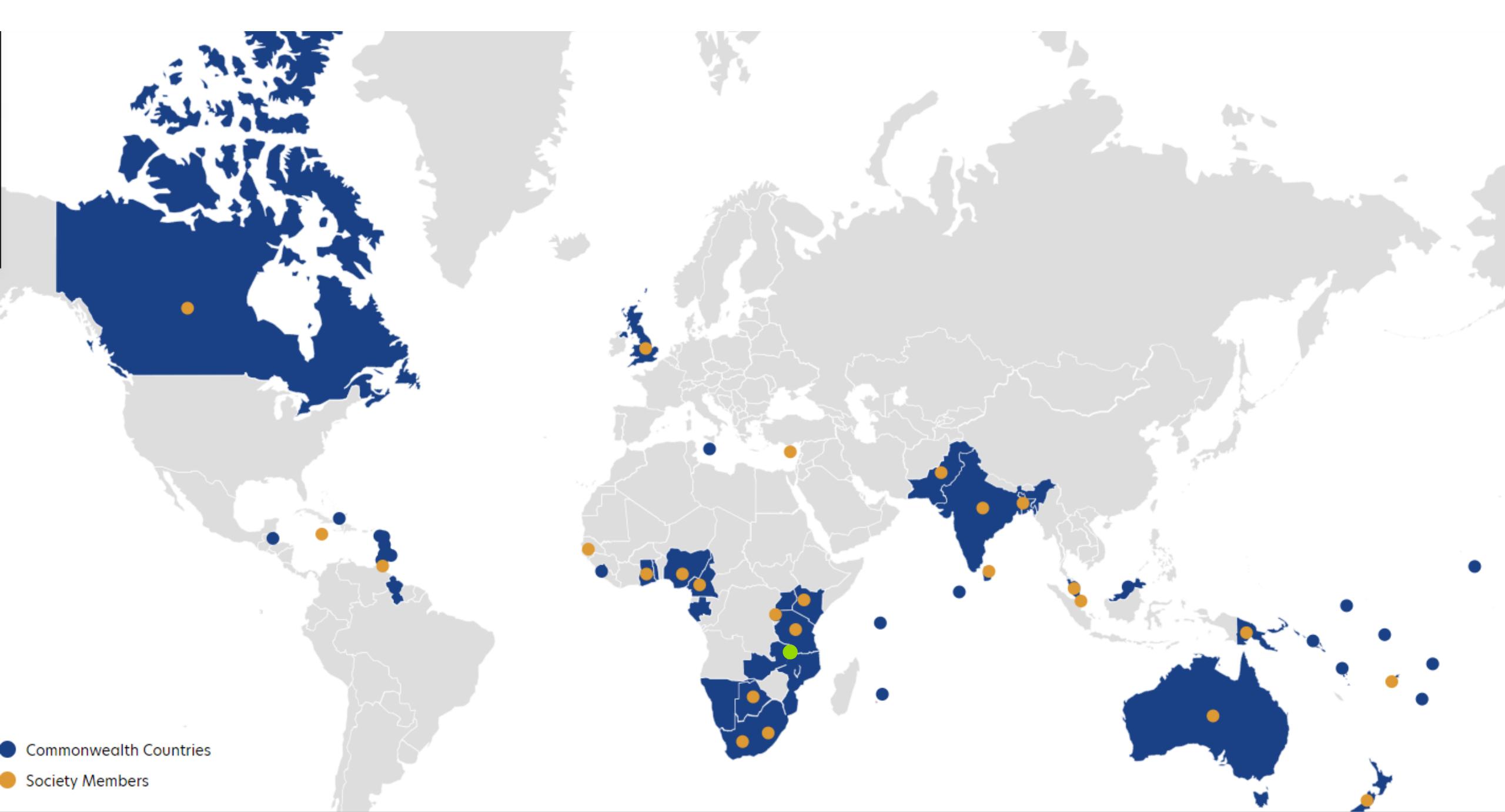
To inspire, celebrate and elevate the role and practice of the chemical sciences for the benefit of Commonwealth nations and their people.

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

<https://commonwealthchemistry.org/event/ccc2023/>

- Commonwealth Chemistry Posters Event
- Early Career Network







I U P A C

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF
PURE AND APPLIED CHEMISTRY



IUPAC Young Observers
Programme



RSC-IUPAC Committee



Key dates

- 27th October 2023: One-day symposium with Korean Chemical Society, Korea
- 13-17 November 2023: LC-MS: A Hands-on Approach, Kenya
- 21st 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 9th EuChemS Chemistry Conference, Dublin
- 30th October-1st November 2024 PACN Congress, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- 19th-21st November 2024 FASC General Assembly, Senegal

2025 plans....and beyond

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

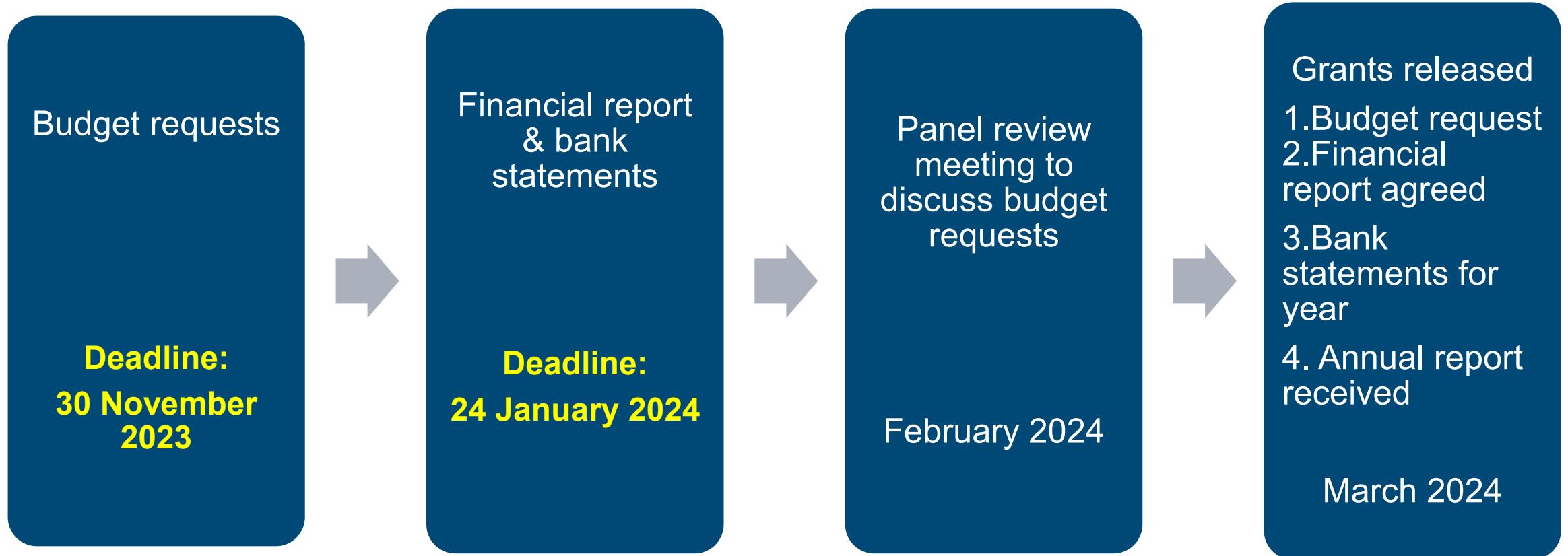
- Budget requests now reviewed by a panel from Member Networks Committee (MNC)
- Budget request submitted earlier & more information required
- Stricter deadlines for budget requests and financial reports
- Trial cash book format
- Volunteer hub pilot for Treasurers

Budget requests

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

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		EXAMPLE ONLY - DO NOT USE THIS PAGE				
Account Summary		Brought Forward 31/12/2021	Transactions	Carried Forward 31/12/2022	Bank statement 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					
Total		154,555.90	-1,751.00	152,804.90	152,804.90	US Dollars				
Account Used	Transaction Date	Amount (receipts)	Amount (payments)	Detail (other party & a very brief description)		Cheque No.	Event Name		Event Number	Transaction Category (receipts)
	totals	1,049.00	2,800.00							
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			RSC carbon conference - Hawaii		1	Events - Other Events Income
Cash in hand	30-Dec-22		100.00	deposit cash into current account			Anniversary dinner		2	N/A
Current Account	30-Dec-22	100.00		deposit cash into current account						Transfers between accounts

Volunteer hub – Pilot for Treasurers

The screenshot shows the 'Community Home' page for the 'RSC Treasurers' group. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Community Home', 'Threads 3', 'Library 10', and 'Members 126'. A 'Settings' button is also present. Below the navigation, a main content area contains a brief description of the community: 'The Community for all treasurers of our member networks committees.' It explains that the hub is a space for sharing best practice, asking for advice, discussing financial matters, and accessing RSC resources. To the right, there are four blue rounded rectangles with white text: 'Guidelines for Treasurers', 'Finance FAQs', 'Interest group top up fund form', and 'Local section top up fund form'.

RSC Treasurers Settings

Community Home Threads 3 Library 10 Members 126

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.

Guidelines for Treasurers

Finance FAQs

Interest group top up fund form

Local section top up fund form

The screenshot shows the 'LATEST DISCUSSIONS LIST' section. It includes a green 'Add' button and a dropdown menu set to 'Most Recent'. Below this, a thread by 'Temporary Admin' titled 'Second TRreasurers thread' is listed, posted '2 months ago'. To the right, there's a 'COMMUNITY ADMINS' section featuring a profile for 'Temporary Admin' with the initials 'TA' in a purple circle. Further down, there's a 'POLL'S' section.

LATEST DISCUSSIONS LIST Add

Most Recent

TA Second TRreasurers thread
By: Temporary Admin, 2 months ago

COMMUNITY ADMINS

Temporary Admin

POLL'S

Questions?

networks@rsc.org

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?