



American Society of Plant Biologists

Cultivating a better future through plant biology research.

ASPB NEWS
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Scholarly Publishers Join Forces to Launch Scientific Society Publisher Alliance (SSPA) *Initiative Aims to Promote Awareness and Support of Society-Sponsored Journals*

Rockville, MD – A group of prestigious not-for-profit scientific membership societies today announced the launch of the Scientific Society Publisher Alliance (SSPA) (byscientistsforscience.org), an initiative focused on building awareness of and support for publication of scientific research by scientist-run scientific societies.

The SSPA started as a collaboration of scientific societies that came together to reinforce and communicate the excellence, importance, and uniqueness of their journals. The launch of the SSPA today formalizes this collaboration. The SSPA seeks to emphasize the value of publishing vital scientific research in scholarly journals managed by working scientists, and edited and peer reviewed in a fair and supportive manner by working scientists. Publishing in a society journal supports researchers and the scientific community, through reinvestment of revenues in the scientific community, in science advocacy, and in the careers of scientists at all stages, as part of the not-for-profit society mission.

"I'm proud of ASPB's role as a founding member of the Scientific Society Publisher Alliance and its efforts to highlight the very real impact that authors have on their communities when they choose to submit their best work to society-owned journals like Plant Physiology and The Plant Cell," said Crispin Taylor, PhD, ASPB CEO.

"We began this collaboration to promote our editorial principles, processes, and practices, and to communicate the value of our journals," said Mark Johnston, Editor-in-Chief, *Genetics* (published by the Genetics Society of America), and Chair of the SSPA. "In a world where new scholarly journals are continually being launched, we wanted to ensure that researchers are aware of the core values and strengths of our journals – peer-editing, transparent community governance, advocacy for science, and a rich history of investing in the scientific community – when making decisions about the best place to publish their findings."

The SSPA Founding members are

- American Physiological Society (APS)
- American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB)
- American Society for Microbiology (ASM)
- American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)
- Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB)

- Genetics Society of America (GSA)
- Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution (SMBE)
- Society for Neuroscience (SfN)
- American Association of Immunologists (AAI)
- American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB)
- American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)

The SSPA wants researchers to understand the value of publishing in society-sponsored journals, and to submit their best work for publication in society-sponsored journals. "Submission to a professional society journal helps me as a researcher. I know that highly knowledgeable peers will evaluate my paper and help me improve them. And I also know that publishing in society journals supports the important work they do," said Martin Chalfie, University Professor, Columbia University, and 2008 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. "I am a member of four professional societies and have benefited from publishing in journals of each one of them."

For more information about the Scientific Society Publisher Alliance (SSPA), including information on membership, visit us at <byscientistsforscience.org>.

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ABOUT AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS

ASPB is a professional scientific society, headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, devoted to the advancement of the plant sciences worldwide. With a membership of some 4500 plant scientists from throughout the United States and more than 50 other nations, the Society publishes two of the most widely cited plant science journals: *The Plant Cell* and *Plant Physiology*. For more information about ASPB, please visit <http://www.aspbo.org/>. Also follow ASPB on Facebook at facebook.com/myASPB and on Twitter [@ASPB](https://twitter.com/@ASPB).

ABOUT SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY PUBLISHER ALLIANCE

The Scientific Society Publisher Alliance (SSPA) is dedicated to identifying and disseminating vital scientific research, by scientists for science. Our not-for-profit societies provide authors with the opportunity to have their work validated by peers in a fair manner for publication in a prestigious journal managed by working scientists. By reinvesting in the community, the members of the SSPA are committed to delivering important discoveries worldwide.

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