

January 2022

Founding journal announces Open Access transformation in its 75th year

As the Microbiology Society's founding journal, *Microbiology*, begins its milestone 75th year, the Council of the Microbiology Society is delighted to announce that *Microbiology* will be the first in the Society's journal portfolio to transition from a hybrid model to fully Open Access. The transition to Gold Open Access will happen in 2023 and follows two years of unprecedented growth in the proportion of Open Access articles published in the journal, particularly following the introduction of a new Publish and Read licence in 2020.

In 2022, the Society has for a second year doubled the number of institutions benefiting from [Publish and Read](#). It anticipates that this will result in another significant uplift in the proportion of Open Access articles in the journal in 2022, its last hybrid year. Whilst *Microbiology* is not formally in cOAlition S's Transformative Journal status, the Society has benchmarked growth and achieved 15% absolute and 52% relative Open Access growth in 2021.

Originally titled *Journal of General Microbiology*, the Society launched its first journal in 1947, publishing papers across fundamental microbiology and bringing microbiologists together into a broad scientific community. The journal today reflects the diversity and importance of microbiology in addressing current global challenges, such as food security, environmental sustainability, and health.

During its 75 year history, the landscape of microbiology research has changed dramatically and the profile of publications, authors, and research topics in *Microbiology* has changed with it. The early years of the journal saw a number of significant publications on improved methods for the isolation and characterization of microbes, and bacterial classification was the subject of many major articles. In 1953 the emerging field of bacterial genetics was showcased and insights into the mechanisms of microbial pathogenesis were covered in depth by many authors. *Microbiology* has seen the first descriptions of important microbes while in the 1990s, the rise of molecular methods fundamentally altered approaches to typing and differentiation of bacteria. Moving into the 21st century, the journal suggested that the CRISPR locus was involved in resistance to phage attack via antisense RNA inhibition of phage gene expression, since confirmed. Today *Microbiology* has published over 20,000 articles from authors across the world and, as we look to the future, publishing high-quality, rigorously reviewed articles will remain at the core of the journal.

Gavin Thomas, Editor-in-Chief said: "The future for *Microbiology* must be a strong journal that people want to publish in and the benefit for that is manifold – both to members of the Society and also the community more generally. That's really what I hope we'll be able to see as we transition to Open Access and lead as an Open Access journal."

Tracy Palmer, Deputy Editor-in-Chief said: "*Microbiology* will be the first journal in the Microbiology Society stable to [change from paywalled to] become fully Open Access and I

think to do that in its 75th year sends a really important message to say that we're at the forefront of Open Access and we want everyone to be able to read the articles that are in the journal. For me, the future is Open Access and I think *Microbiology* offers a really good home for lots of microbiology work."

In celebration of the journal's 75th anniversary, the Society will be exploring the journal's history in articles throughout the year. Other activities will look forward, considering where the field of microbiology is going and the research that is influencing that future. Article collections and events will be added to the dedicated [Microbiology 75 hub](#).

Microbiology Society

The Microbiology Society is a membership charity for scientists interested in microbes, their effects and their practical uses. It is one of the largest microbiology societies in Europe with a worldwide membership based in universities, industry, hospitals, research institutes and schools.

Our principal goal is to develop, expand and strengthen the networks available to our members so that they can generate new knowledge about microbes and ensure that it is shared with other communities. The impacts from this will drive us towards a world in which the science of microbiology provides maximum benefit to society.

Society website: microbiologysociety.org/

Journals site: microbiologyresearch.org/