

**Program of the 3rd Kavli Symposium on Science Journalism
Transforming International Science News Coverage**
U.S. National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC, USA
February 15th -17th 2016

Organized by the
World Federation of Science Journalists,
The Kavli Foundation and
the U.S. National Academy of Sciences

International science news can be extraordinarily challenging – especially when stories have human consequences. Difficulty in accessing sources due to language barriers makes information hard to assess and disseminate; geopolitical influences can color the information that's provided; the veracity of information can range from the trustworthy to the manipulative or even to the corrupt. Coverage can also be complicated by a wave of restricted and/or conflicting information from international, national and even local sources. Further convoluting already complex stories: the inability (and sometimes unwillingness) to share and cross-check information, especially at the local level. Even a publication with overseas bureaus may lack the network and expertise its science reporting team needs to properly cover a region.

This symposium will use a combination of science news “case studies” and “out of the box” speakers to introduce new ideas, tools, strategies and models aimed at better empowering science journalists facing these complicated issues. Particular attention will be focused on:

- Identifying international collaborative opportunities for improving coverage of cross-border science stories.
- Empowering science journalists to better analyze, confront and circumvent the pressures and influences that come from covering science stories in varied and often unfamiliar regions.
- Equipping science journalists to better access and accurately appraise relevant evidence from a range of regional sources.

Four case studies will spark this conversation:

- Case Study One: Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) – International Collaboration
- Case Study Two: Ebola, Zika and International Story Tracking
- Case Study Three: Clinical Trials - Appraising information
- Case Study Four: Nuclear News Coverage - Accessing information

AGENDA

Monday, 15th February 2016

The Melrose Georgetown Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC
18:00 Cocktail –Potomac room
Welcome Reception hosted by ESOE EuroScience Open Forum Manchester 2016

19:00 Dinner - Potomac room

20:00 **Evening Speaker**

Master of ceremony: [Deborah Blum](#), Pulitzer Prize-winning American journalist, Director of the Knight Science Journalism program at the MIT.

Title: "Team Science for the 21st Century"

Speaker: [Noshir Contractor](#), Director of the Science of Networks in Communities (SONIC) Research Group at Northwestern University. He is also the Jane S. & William J. White Professor of Behavioral Sciences in the McCormick School of Engineering & Applied Science, the School of Communication and the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Applying 30 years of expertise in social network analysis, Noshir will discuss the conditions under which teams can become successful and have the greatest impact.

Tuesday, 16th February 2016

7:30 Breakfast-William Penn Room, The Melrose Georgetown Hotel

8:20 Departure Shuttle to National Academy of Sciences – Hotel Lobby

8:45 Shuttle drop off on 21th St NW - Parking

Entrance National Academy of Science, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC

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Registration - East Court

9:00 **SESSION I:** International Collaboration-Lecture Room
Case study one: FOOD: (GMO'S) (CRISPR)

Session Leader: [Fred Guterl](#), Executive Editor, Scientific American. Journalist and author who has been writing about science for 25 years, he has also worked, among other titles, for Discover magazine (senior editor, 1994 -1998) and Newsweek (deputy editor, 2000- 2010).

Speaker: [Nina Fedoroff](#) is an American molecular biologist known for her research in life sciences and biotechnology. Appointments include serving as the Science and Technology Adviser to U.S. Secretaries of State Condoleeza Rice and Hillary Clinton, as well as to the U.S. Agency for International Development. Awarded the National Medal of Science in 2007, she is a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the European Academy of Sciences, and the American Academy of Microbiology. She served as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Speaker: [Sasha Karberg](#), is a German geneticist turned freelance science journalist, writes for a variety of newspapers and magazines, like Tagesspiegel, Handelsblatt, bild der wissenschaft, MIT Technology Review, Geo, ZeitWissen, Cell, BBC-Future.

Speaker: [Stephen S. Hall](#). Journalist and author who has been reporting and writing about science for nearly 30 years, he has published numerous cover stories in The New York Times Magazine, where he also served as a story editor, as well as published in The New Yorker, The Atlantic Monthly, National Geographic, Discover, and many others.

Summary: Too often, the public's grasp of GMOs is tarnished by misinformation and misunderstanding. Part of this is a visceral reaction to "Frankenfoods," but it is also because the public's understanding of GMOs is influenced by the interests of industry, governments and even local communities. (That's along with simply weak reporting and misinformation on the web.) For a topic that is global, and whose risks and promises are also global, science journalists would benefit from **greater international collaboration** to help assure accuracy of reporting. This session will launch a discussion about the possibilities of greater international collaboration by focusing on how science journalists are covering this important topic. It will include a primer and update for science journalists on GMOs, and a discussion of how the story looks from the European side — and particularly the challenges of reporting on GMO. It will also include a critical evaluation of what journalists get right, what they get wrong, and what they need to know about the current GMO debate and the new gene-editing technologies.

10:30 Coffee break – East Court

10:45 **SESSION II: International Story Tracking – Lecture Room**
Case study two: Ebola, Zika and International Story Tracking

Session Leader: [Mohammed Yahia](#), Editor, Nature Middle East, he started reporting and editing for the Health & Science section at IslamOnline.net. Since then he has written for many different outlets, including The Daily Star Egypt and IDRC. Prior to joining Nature Middle East, he was the MENA region coordinator for the website SciDev.Net.

Speaker: [Erika Hayden](#), Science Correspondent, Nature, specializing in biomedical and biology research, she has reported for a variety of publications, including award-winning coverage of the Ebola epidemic for Wired.

Speaker: [Larry Maddof](#), Editor of ProMED (the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases) and Professor of Medicine at University of Massachusetts Medical School, whose international network collaborated to develop a tool to track down infectious diseases: promedmail.org.

Summary: Whether it is Ebola, Zika, or other highly contagious diseases, the ability to track down and communicate accurately the spread of a disease is vital. This session will discuss how tools can help build international network to **track and provide surveillance** of evolving stories. Focusing on Ebola, a discussion will explore whether tools of global surveillance for tracking diseases could serve in tracking other developing phenomenon in other fields of science. An overview will also detail what it was like to track the spread of Ebola from the field, highlighting the difficulty to access and appraise timely information and sharing thoughts on what went wrong in terms of communication break down.

12:00 **A Global Strategy to Counter the Zika Virus and Priorities for U.S. Research Presented by the National Academy of Sciences**

Speaker: [Diane E. Griffin](#), Vice President of the National Academy of Sciences and University Distinguished Service Professor and Alfred and Jill Sommer Chair of the W. Harry Feinstone Department of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Speaker: [Mary Wilson](#), adjunct professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and visiting professor of epidemiology and biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco

Speaker: [Victor Dzau](#), President of the National Academy of Medicine

Summary: The rapid spread of the Zika virus is the most serious global public health emergency since the Ebola crisis, largely because of an association between Zika infection in pregnant women and babies born with severe birth defects. Glaring deficiencies in international public health preparedness exposed by the Ebola pandemic prompted the National Academy of Medicine to convene an independent commission to identify more effective responses for future health crises. At this session, learn more about how international efforts to fight Zika could be strengthened by the commission's recently released findings and recommendations. In addition, get an update on today's discussions at a concurrent National Academies workshop, being held at the request of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to identify real-time research priorities that could help minimize the likelihood of local transmission of Zika in the U.S. and inform public health responses.

12:20 Lunch-East court

13:30 **SESSION III:** Appraising information-Lecture Room
Case Study three: Clinical Trials

Session Leader: [Ivan Oransky](#), Vice President and Global Editorial Director, MedPage Today and Co-Founder, Retraction Watch. Vice President of the Association of Health Care Journalists, past assignments include serving as Executive Editor of Reuters Health, Managing Editor (Online) of Scientific American, Deputy Editor of The Scientist and Editor-in-Chief of the Praxis Post.

Speaker: [Trudo Lemmens](#), Professor, University of Toronto. Scholl Chair in Health Law and Policy at the university, his research focuses on the complex interaction between law, other governance tools, and ethical norms and values in the context of health care, biomedical research, health product development, and knowledge production

Speaker: [Charles Seife](#), Faculty Member, NYU Department of Journalism. Journalist and author, he has been writer for Science magazine, U.S. correspondent for New Scientist and has written for The Economist, Scientific American, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Washington Post, The New York Times and other publications.

Summary: With the numerous and complex barriers to accessing information, it becomes all the more important to effectively critique and appraise the evidence that is available. When information comes from a limited number of official sources, including government sources it becomes difficult to **appraise information**, as well as whether the information is complete or selective, or in some other way is being manipulated or even suppressed. This session will look at principles of ethics, laws and regulations in order be able to evaluate research fairly, as well as present the result of a year-long

investigation into the Food and Drug Administration's clinical trial "approval process" – along with reveal how the investigation was conducted.

15:00 Coffee break-East Court

15:15 **SESSION IV:** Accessing information-Lecture room
Case study four: Nuclear News Coverage

Session Leader: [Richard Stone](#), International News Editor, Science, has been with Science for 25 years. During this time, his assignments have included five years as Asia news editor in Beijing, launching Science's daily news service, ScienceNOW, and serving four years as European news editor.

Speaker: [Pavel Machalek](#), Co-Founder and CEO of Spaceknow Inc – a satellite imagery analytics VC-funded company based in San Francisco, CA. Previously, he was Head of Remote Sensing at the Climate Corporation. He has also worked with numerous NASA observatories including Spitzer, Hubble and Kepler Space Telescopes as Principal Investigator.

Speaker: [Pouria Nazemi](#), is a science journalist f Tehran, Iran. He has been senior a science editor at the daily newspaper Jam-e since 2004 and is editor-in-chief of SIB, a science weekly. He has written extensively for science web sites and magazine in Iran, particularly for Nojum (Astronomy) Magazine.

Speaker: [R. Jeffrey Smith](#), Managing Editor, National Security, Center for Public Integrity, Smith worked for 25 years in a series of key reporting and editorial roles at The Washington Post. In 2006, he was a co-recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting for articles on House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and lobbyist Jack Abramoff)

Summary: Whether it is a disaster like Fukushima or a diplomatic achievement like the Iran nuclear agreement, journalists face obstacles both in identifying and laying hands on critical data and unprejudiced scientific voices. With a focus on three important nuclear stories, this session will explore the difficulties of **accessing reliable scientific information** when it is unclear where the credible information necessary to tell the story can be obtained. This includes delving into how journalists achieved their recent groundbreaking coverage of nuclear smuggling from Russia, how journalists used satellite imagery to shed light on North Korea's nuclear program (and how journalists can use this in the future), and a review of science coverage of the Iran nuclear agreement – along with a discussion of the the potential opportunities for collaboration between science journalists inside and outside Iran.

17:00 Shuttle pick up on 21th St NW-Parking lot

18:00 Dinner - Potomac room
Melrose Georgetown Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC

19:00 **Evening Speakers**

Title: Tool box for science journalists: Protection of Sources and Data

Speaker: Katy Scoggin, co-producer of "Citizenfour"

Speaker: Ewen MacAskill Defence and Security Correspondent, The Guardian

EVENING DISCUSSION

Discussion of the day's presentations led by Robert Lee Hotz, science writer at The Wall Street Journal, president of the Alicia Patterson Foundation, elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and past president of the National Association of Science Writers.

Wednesday, 17th February 2016

7:30 Breakfast – Potomac I and II, The Melrose Georgetown Hotel

8:20 Shuttle to National Academy of Science-Hotel Lobby

8:45 Shuttle drop off on 21st NW

Entrance National Academy of Science, 2101 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC

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Lecture Room

9:00 **BREAKOUT GROUPS**

Breakout sessions take a closer look at the four case examples. In small workgroups, participants examine the opportunities, roadblocks, potential uses the tools presented, and how they can contribute to enhance international collaboration amongst science journalists.

Participants will also consider the following: key lessons/principles learned and to be shared; new opportunities for collaboration and tool development; next steps to advance ideas central to advancing reporting of key science international reporting.

Group I: International Story Tracking
Leader: Mohammed Yahia

Lecture room

Group II: Appraising information
Leader: Ivan Oransky

Board Room

Group III: International Collaboration **Room 125**
Leader: Fred Guterl

Group IV: Accessing information **Room 118**
Leader: Richard Stone

10:00 Coffee break-East coast

10:15 Breakout groups (Continuation)

12:00 Lunch

13:00 **PLENARY DISCUSSION AND GOAL REVIEW - Lecture Room**
Discussion moderated by Robert Lee Hotz

14:00 Closure

14:10 Shuttle pick up on 21th St NW –Parking

Thanks for additional support from:



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