

---

## January

Start of the International Competition for Science Journalists to attend the **Kavli Prize Awards** in Oslo, Norway in September 2016.

---

## February

The **3<sup>rd</sup> Kavli Symposium on Science Journalism** (Washington, DC – 15-17 February 2016) had the ambitious goal of addressing ways to facilitate coverage of science through international collaboration. The fifty-five participants from ten countries were particularly interested in opportunities that collaboration can offer to alleviate challenges in accessing, appraising and tracking stories on some of the most pressing issues that face the world. The symposium presented **four case studies of sensitive science topics**: food, nuclear, clinical trials and infectious diseases. The discussions aimed at exposing the level of complexity specific to each theme, as well as introducing new ideas, tools, strategies and collaborative models to empower science journalists. The symposium's final report can be viewed [here](#).

---



### **Training Journalists: Covering infectious diseases – 3<sup>rd</sup> local workshop in Conakry, Guinea.**

After two local workshops in Freetown and Monrovia, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final local workshop sponsored by the Canadian International Development and Research Center (IDRC) was organized in collaboration with Fondation Hirondelle in Conakry, 15-19 February 2016. A total of sixteen local journalists participated in the training: four from the capital Conakry and twelve from the rural community radio stations. The workshop was a success, overcoming the

challenge of technological shortcoming of many of the rural radio journalists. It increased the participants' knowledge in health and science to better cover these topics in the media.

---

**Announcement of the five winning journalists** from a total of thirty-one very strong applications to attend the 2016 Kavli Prizes awarding in Oslo, Norway (3-9 September). The winners were **Tanja Rudez** (Croatia), **Martin De Ambrosio** (Argentina), **Adjo Doubidji** (Togo), **Dinsa Sachan** (India) and **Kameilla Pillay** (South Africa). Short biographies of the winners can be found [here](#).

---

## April



Call for [session proposals](#) for the **10<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ2017)** in San Francisco, 26–30 October 2017. All science journalists, writers, broadcasters, bloggers, etc. were invited to submit expertly crafted proposals that considered professional development and scientific issues from an international perspective.

---

Panel led by the WFSJ at the **2016 International Liver Congress** (Barcelona, 13-17 April): **“Keeping HCV High on the Public and Political Agenda”**. WFSJ developed in 2015 a [Toolbox for journalists on Hepatitis C](#). Two of the contributing science journalists to the toolbox, **Roberta Villa** and **André Picard**, participated on April 13 in a panel discussion on keeping Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) high on the public and political agenda. In the discussion, leading HCV stakeholders exchanged on effective strategies to combat the disease and talked about ways to mobilize HCV efforts at the national level and beyond.

---

## May

A Roundtable was organized in Paris, 30-31 May to discuss the development of **Digital Tools for African journalists** within the IDRC-funded project. The steering committee members were **Serusha Govender** (Freelance journalist, South Africa), **Kahofi Suy** (Science journalist, Ivory Coast), **Violet Otindo** (Citizen TV reporter, Kenya), **Cecile Kingler** (Health journalist, France), **Igor Strauss** (Journalist, Radio France International, France), **Libby Powell** (Program manager, On Our Radar, UK), **Mark Irungu**

(Program manager, AGRA, Kenya), **Damien Chalaud** and **Anouk Beauvais** (Executive Director and Project Manager, WFSJ). Key discussions of the steering committee included: the communication challenges during the Ebola Crisis, data projects existing in Sub-Saharan Africa, and a working plan to develop WFSJ's Digital Platform for African Journalists.

---

## July

The **Norwegian Organization for Science Journalists (NOSJ)** is the 51<sup>st</sup> Member Association to join the WFSJ. This professional network of Norwegian science journalists has currently 56 members. Its purpose is to promote comprehensive, impartial and critical investigative research journalism, foster the sharing of knowledge among members, stimulate an ongoing debate regarding professional ethics and encourage pertinent international cooperation.

---

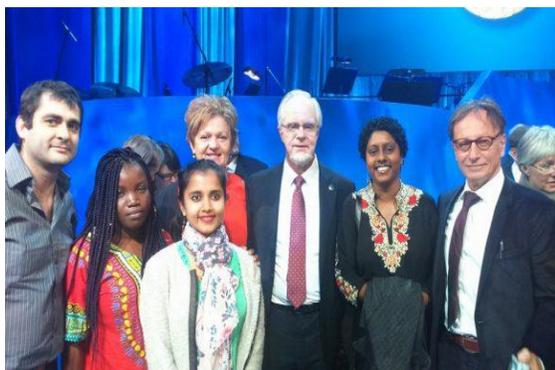
The WFSJ's **Annual General Meeting** was held in Manchester, UK on Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 during the **European Science Open Forum (ESOF)**. Seventeen WFSJ's members' representatives and Executive Board gathered to discuss the past activities and future direction for the Federation.

---

## September

The **Balkan Network of Science Journalists (BNSJ)** joined the WFSJ as the 52<sup>nd</sup> member association. The BNSJ is a group of twenty science journalists, writers and communicators from across South-East Europe, or the Balkans, and anyone interested in promoting quality science in the media in the Balkan region.

---



The five winners of the **International Competition for Science Journalists** attended the **Kavli Prize Awards** in Norway (3-9 September), together with the WFSJ Board's Secretary, **Wolfgang Goede**. The five journalists had the opportunity to interview the three Kavli Prize 2016 laureates in astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience. They also attended the Award Ceremony, the Kavli Prize Laureate Lectures and the Kavli Prize Symposia.

---

WFSJ partners with the **Unesco Institute for Statistics (UIS)** in the launch of UIS tool to help policymakers, researchers and journalists visualize key trends and benchmark a country's commitment to R&D from a global perspective.

---

WFSJ partners with the **Science Media Awards & Summit in the Hub** (20 – 22 September, held at WGBH, Boston). More than 300 science media stakeholders gathered to celebrate exceptional media, cutting-edge discoveries and explore new ways of communicating the wonders of science to a global audience in a rapidly-changing media landscape.

---

## October



**Training Journalists: Covering a health crisis** – A regional workshop in English was organized in Nairobi, Kenya (24-28 October) within the post-Ebola crisis project supported by IDRC. The workshop offered twenty non-specialized journalists from English-speaking African countries a health and science reporting toolbox tailored to cover on-going outbreak situations. The workshop was organized in partnership with WFSJ member association in Kenya, MESHA (Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture).

---

**Twitter for a week** was hosted from October through November. Five WFSJ member associations (Argentina, Australia, Indonesia, Kenya, USA) guest-edited the WFSJ Twitter feed.

---

## November

Workshop on the **Culture for Nuclear Safety & Journalism** organized by WFSJ in Munich, Germany (7-8 November) during the EUROSAFE Conference, in collaboration with the European Nuclear Education Network Association (ENEN). A platform with resources for journalists who cover nuclear energy is being developed and will be launched in May 2017.

---





Panel led by the WFSJ at the **Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC 2016)**, Ottawa, Canada on November 9: **“Back to the future: What Ebola taught us about risk communication”**. The panelists were **André Picard** (Public Health Reporter, The Globe and Mail), **David Secko** (Associate Professor of Journalism, Concordia University), **Alpha Daffae Senkpeni** (Liberian Journalist), **Dr. Theresa Tam** (Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health Agency of Canada) and **Damien Chalaud**

(Executive Director, WFSJ). The discussion highlighted the need for more cooperation and communication between all the stakeholders: international humanitarian community, health/scientific community, government agencies, media, etc.

---

The WFSJ organized the conference **How Virtual Reality Is Transforming Healthcare** at Notman House, Montreal, Canada on November 23. It was an opportunity to explore the future of Virtual Reality (VR) in healthcare as well as its applications in learning, medical interventions, and clinical evaluations. International and Canadian speakers unpacked the concepts, recent research, and explored the future of VR in the health sector. Among the speakers were **Philippe Fuchs** (Head of the research team Réalité Virtuelle & Réalité Augmentée (RV&RA) at the Centre de Robotique of the Ecole des Mines ParisTech), **Stéphane Bouchard** (Creator of the Laboratoire de cyberpsychologie at Université du Québec en Outaouais), **Emmanuel Durand** (Researcher at the SAT/CHU Sainte-Justine living lab), **David Schacter** (Chief Operating Officer at Jintronix), **Thomas Talbot** (Principal Medical Expert, USC Institute for Creative Technologies), **Frédéric Guarino** (VR Valley Network Montreal), **Dr. Susan Rogers** (Project Manager of the eHealth Initiative at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research).



## December

**Training Journalists: Building and sharing good practices in science reporting in Central America** (12-16 December). United Nations Universities and WFSJ held this workshop at the City of Knowledge in Panama.



**Training Journalists: Covering a health crisis – A regional workshop** was organized in Yaounde, Cameroun (5-9 December). The workshop offered non-specialized African Francophone journalists from Western and Central African countries a health and science reporting toolbox tailored to covering on-going outbreak situations. The workshop was organized in partnership with WFSJ member association in Cameroun, SciLife (Science for Life).

WFSJ's Executive Director, Damien Chalaud, participated in the **Workshop on Building Communication Capacity to Counter Infectious Disease Threats**, an activity organized by US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (the National Academies) at the National Academies Keck Center in Washington, DC, 13-14 December. He shared WFSJ's experience with building communication capacity, particularly developing and conducting the training of trainers' workshops.

**Survey on Ebola Communications Crisis:** A 15-minute survey in French or English addressed to journalists, communicators, healthcare practitioners, NGOs and all other stakeholders involved in the 2014 Ebola (EVD) epidemic in West Africa. 137 responses were received. The survey was developed in collaboration with Concordia University and the IDRC. Publication of results and report is expected in May 2017.



## About the WFSJ

The World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) is a not-for-profit NGO and an officially registered Canadian charitable organization that represents 54 member associations and 10,000 science journalists around the world. WFSJ supports strong, critical coverage of scientific issues through initiatives that train, mentor and educate science journalists internationally. In the past eight years, we run thematic training courses to educate hundreds of journalists about the proper way to provide information on Ebola, Hepatitis and other infectious diseases for the WHO, IDRC, DFID, etc.

Since 2013 the WFSJ is an **officially registered Canadian charitable organization** with registration number: 831911748RR0001.

---

## Contact

### World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ)

1124 rue Marie-Anne Est | Suite 33  
Montreal (QC) H2J 2B7 | Canada  
[wfsj.org](http://wfsj.org) | [info@wfsj.org](mailto:info@wfsj.org) | +1 514 508 2777



@wfsj



World Federation of  
Science Journalists



2016  
YEAR IN REVIEW

