



World Conference
of Science Journalists
Lausanne 2019



Press release

Registration open for World Conference of Science Journalists, WCSJ2019

Washington DC, 16 February 2019 // Registration is open for the world's foremost event for science journalists in 2019: the World Conference of Science Journalists, WCSJ 2019, which will be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, from 1-4 July 2019. Conference organisers have also announced the support of two new major sponsors, Johnson & Johnson and the European Commission, which join the Bertarelli Foundation, first top sponsor of WCSJ2019.

"We are very proud of the program we've put together for WCSJ 2019," said Conference chair, Olivier Dessibourg, speaking at the AAAS annual meeting in Washington DC. *"We have a fantastic line up of top journalists and scientists, backed up by some exciting science visits and field trips."*

The main themes of the conference programme have been published on the www.wcsj2019.eu website, along with details of opportunities to have lunch in the many labs of one of Europe's most dynamic higher education and research campuses, shared by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, EPFL, and the University of Lausanne, Unil. A preliminary programme of field trips to scientific institutions in the region and further afield is also available as of today: registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

WCSJ2019 is organised by the Science journalists' associations of Switzerland, France and Italy under the umbrella of the World Federation of Science Journalists, WFSJ, and enjoys support from prestigious academic partners CERN, EPFL, Unil and the University of Geneva. The conference has benefitted from generous support from several sponsors, joined recently by Johnson & Johnson and the European Commission.

"Johnson & Johnson is pleased to continue our long-standing support for the World Conference of Science Journalists," said Seema Kumar, Vice President, Innovation, Global Health & Science Policy Communication, Johnson & Johnson. *"Our tradition of supporting initiatives for the professional development of science writers all over the world is rooted in our belief that science needs champions, and that science communication and journalism are key to enhancing public engagement in science, which is necessary for continued scientific advancement and innovation."*

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, who will open the conference, said: *"Science is inspiring, exciting, and it has the power to capture the public imagination. Yet, it is also complex stories that do not tell themselves. The world needs excellent science journalists and communicators to knock down the walls between scientists and citizens and I am excited to be joining the world's finest in Lausanne this Summer."* Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, who will deliver a keynote speech, added: *"Without science journalists, who will tell it as it is? The internet gives us unprecedented access to opinion that's increasingly masquerading as fact, but to whom should we turn if we want our opinion to be based on reliable knowledge and clearly explained evidence? This is what science journalists do, and this is why we need to support them. They don't speak for scientists, they speak for science and speak up when it is misrepresented."*

The conference is expecting around 1000 participants. It is open not only to established science journalists, but also to students in journalism, especially science journalism, and to journalists of all disciplines for whom science is an increasingly important element of their reporting.

The programme will include seven pre-events and workshops, four plenaries, six keynotes, and about 50 parallel sessions, featuring about 220 speakers from the science journalism, science communication, science and technology, and science policy worlds.

Among the science journalists invited to talk are: **Deborah Blum** (Director, MIT Knight Fellowship in Science Journalism and Pulitzer Prize winner), **Elisabeth MacGowen** (*Inside Climate News*, Pulitzer Prize winner), **Emily Wilson** (Editor in chief, *New Scientist*), **Ivan Oransky** (Founder, *Retraction Watch*), **Monika Bauerlein** (CEO, *Mother Jones*), **Uzodinma Iweala** (CEO, *Ventures Africa magazine Nigeria*, and CEO, The Africa Center), **Francesca Unsowrth** (Head of news, *BBC*), **Peter Aldhous** (*BuzzFeed*), **Carl Zimmer** (*New York Times*), **Nathalie Wappler**, (Director *SRF*, Swiss public broadcaster), **Jérôme Fenoglio** (director, *Le Monde*), **Marc Walder** (CEO, Ringier Group), **Nina Fasciaux** (European ambassador, Solution Journalism Network), **Prasad Ravindranath** (science editor, *The Hindu Times*), **Christie Aschwanden** (*538*), **Martin Enserink** (International news editor, *Science*), **Jeremy Merrill** (*ProPublica*), **Stéphane Foucart** (*Le Monde*), **David Rotman** (Editor at large, *MIT Technology Review*), **Victoria Jaggard** (*National Geographic Magazine*), **Laura Helmuth** (*Washington Post*), **Pallab Ghosh** (*BBC*), **Natasha Mitchell** (*Australian Broadcasting Corporation*), **Maryn McKenna** (columnist, *WIRED*), **Ben Deighton** (Managing editor, *SciDev.net*), **Dominique Leglu** (Director *Sciences&Avenir* and *LaRecherche*), **Sharon Begley** (*STAT News*), **Mohammed Yahia** (Editor, *Nature Middle East* and President, WFSJ), **Cecilia Rosen** (Freelance journalist, Mexico), **Cynthia Graber** (co-host, *Gastropod* podcast), **Izumi Koyabashi** (Manga artist), **Harry Surjadi** (Society of Indonesian Science Journalists), **Alison Abott** (Editor at *Nature*).

The scientist and science policy makers include: Swiss Federal Councillor **Simonetta Sommaruga** (Switzerland's vice-president, head of the Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications), **Carlos Moedas** (European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation), **Jean-Eric Paquet** (DG for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation), **Audrey Azoulay** (DG, UNESCO), **Robert Watson** (IPBES Chair), **Cedric Villani** (Field Medalist, Member of the French Parliament), **Andrea Ammon** (Director, ECDC), **Bernhardt Url** (Executive director, European Food Safety Agency), **Fabiola Gianotti** (DG, CERN), **Nigel Lockyer** (Director, FermiLab), **Richard Horton** (Editor in chief, *The Lancet*), **Daniel Ropers** (CEO, Springer Nature), **Kamila Markram** (CEO, Frontiers), **Naomi Oreskes** (Professor of history of science, Harvard University), **Miguel Castro** (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), **Martin Vetterli** (President, EPFL), **Nouria Hernandez** (Rector, University of Lausanne), **Seema Kumar** (VP Innovation, Global Health & Science Policy Communication, Johnson & Johnson), **Earl Lane** (Executive director, AAAS), **Jeffrey Bohn** (Director, SwissRe Institute).

Registration starts at 289 CHF (255 euros) for active journalists, and 140 CHF (124 euros) for students in journalism.

For further information and conference registration details: www.wcsj2019.eu

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