



Science Needs More Science Communicators in 2023

Science has been politicized to the detriment of society and our collective futures. Better communication about science is needed, and now is the time for more people to see themselves and be accepted as science communicators

Science is spoken daily from your local TV meteorologist to your trusted car mechanic to your neighborhood garden shop green thumb. But most of these people who speak cold weather troughs, mechanical engineering, or plant biology professionally would never define themselves as science communicators. A disconnect exists between science and how people identify and talk about science in their lives. That needs to change.

Why is it important to broaden the definition of who can be a science communicator? Science is a human right. As leaders in the science communication community, we are very aware of the barriers that block access to science and that separate science from the everyday experience. We work to dismantle these obstacles because we know it will increase the availability of societally valuable opportunities. We need more people to identify with and take part in this effort. We need more ambassadors of science to build stronger connections between science and society.

Democratizing and increasing access to science worldwide is unquestionably more important than ever before. Most of the critical issues we are dealing with now, and the world's most pressing problems going forward, are directly tied to science: climate change, the global pandemic, healthcare, agriculture, sustainable energy, and more. However, the political and social responses to our problems are based on people's understanding and trust of the science behind those issues. We've seen the heavy influence of often subjective and self-selected resources and individuals. While some are likely to trust scientific publications, the majority turn to the people they know: family, friends, teachers, doctors, etc. These personal connections open doors to science communication.

Who *is* a science communicator? The researchers and the students making scientific discoveries are science communicators. Doctors, nurses, dentists, and other medical professionals are science communicators. Journalists writing on everything from climate change and life sciences, to politics, sports, and space are science communicators. Illustrators creating scientific drawings for textbooks or art for children's books about tardigrades are science communicators. Chocolatiers leading tour groups on the chemistry behind chocolate are science communicators. Social media personalities. Government officials. Bartenders. Actors. Authors. These wide-ranging science communicators connect science to each person's lived experience.

It's more than just scientists communicating science, and we're looking to empower those science communicators who might not yet realize they are one.

Now, as we enter 2023, is the time to band together. We are halfway through the [UNESCO International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development](#), which aims to connect people to the concept that curiosity is the driving force for innovation. In the US, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy has identified the importance of increasing [public access](#) and engagement with federally funded research, and 2023 is [NASA's Year of Open Science](#). How can we truly achieve "open science" without open science communication as well?

We invite science communicators from all walks of life to unapologetically embrace the communication of science to people around the world and support the universal right to science. Together, we pledge to build and energize an inclusive, diverse community of trusted experts and everyday science communicators. Join us in creating a dependable resource for science communicators to connect, gain

inspiration and be empowered, so science communication can expand its potential to positively impact our world.

I am a science communicator.

Science communicators joining this letter do so in their individual capacities and not on behalf of the institutions with which they are affiliated.

Our non-profit organization, the Association of Science Communicators, provides resources and community for the people practicing and communicating science inside and outside of the lab. Our mission is to allow everyone to benefit from science communications research and collaborate on new solutions to tear down barriers to impactful science communications.

Initial Signatories



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Please consider adding your name, title and email to sign this [Open Letter through this form](#).

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