Medical and Scientific Communications Network

Welcome to this week's newsletter. We offer the chance to pause, take stock as we share a few things that caught our attention over the past few days—ideas, articles, and observations worth a moment of consideration before the next deadline calls. In a field rarely short of information our aim is to filter out the background noise and share topics that deserve a second look.

In the news

Staggering 90% of biomedical papers now show signs of AI help: The figure, which is much higher than previous estimates of Large Language Model use, is for papers published in December and archived in PubMed (more).

Can we stop AI from flooding scientific journals? AI detectors may never beat fraud. Changing how science rewards its researchers might be the only fix that does (more).

Should Patients Be Co-authors on Research About Them? Personal Perspective: Elevating patient voice in peer-reviewed journals. Patient involvement should be meaningful from research conception through to publication. Patient authorship should reflect meaningful intellectual contribution, not tokenistic involvement (more).

Updated Guidance for Author Use of AI in Medical Publication: Recognising that transparency is central to the integrity JAMA shares recommendations for more uniform disclosure of AI use, highlighting what is permitted and not permitted and what needs to be disclosed (more).

Reimagining the Role of Communication in Medical Consensus to Address Medical Mistrust and Disinformation: Medical consensus is a critical element in deriving and substantiating evidence-based approaches to guide patient communication and care delivery. However, in recent years, mistrust in medicine has deepened, driven in part by the recent politicization of public health guidance and the spread of disinformation, as well as by historically siloed and opaque public engagement practices (more).

Editorial: Research ethics and integrity in the artificial intelligence era. As the boundaries between human effort and machine input blur, maintaining integrity, transparency, and fairness becomes a challenge. This introduction identifies key ethical concerns in each phase of the publishing life cycle, proposing strategies for navigating these issues while preserving the trustworthiness of academic knowledge production (more).

Validity of a Patient Communication Scale: Since the 1960s, standardized patients (SPs) have

been used to prepare medical students for clinical work for these patients provide a controlled domain for learners. Specifically, these type of formative experiences provide a low stakes environment for practice and feedback, thereby increasing learner comfort in communicating with patients (more).

Rediscovering Audiences: The Transformation of Media Distribution in a Platform-Dominated and AI-Mediated Environment: The rise of global digital platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, Google Search, Apple News, and other aggregators, has fundamentally altered the ecology of media creation, circulation, and consumption (more).

Generative AI and Critical Literacy: Authorship, Media, and Education in an Era of Synthetic Content: Media and information literacy education has traditionally emphasized critical consumption: evaluating sources, verifying claims, and recognizing authorship. These approaches are increasingly insufficient in contexts where people are simultaneously creators and audiences of algorithmically generated content, and where provenance and credibility can be difficult to trace (more).

Reimagining Journalism: Production, Distribution, and Consumption in the Age of Platforms, AI, and Immersive Media: Journalism is being reshaped from production to consumption. The way news is made, distributed, and encountered is no longer determined only by news organizations, journalists, and audiences. Platforms, algorithms, artificial intelligence, synthetic media, immersive technologies, and changing audience habits now play an equal role in shaping what journalism is and how it works (more).

Health Communication, Trust, and Inequality in a Changing Media Landscape: How people encounter, interpret, and act on health information is shaped, at least in part, by the dynamics of an increasingly fluid media environment. The rise of digital platforms, the fragmentation of traditional media, and the proliferation of health misinformation have fundamentally altered the relationship between health institutions and the publics they serve (more).

Censorship of medical journals infects journalism too: Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. seems better suited as the subject of medical research than its arbiter. He’s not an editor or peer reviewer, and he’s definitely (and thankfully) not a judge. So why is he issuing veiled threats to scientific publications — in the process eroding vital source material for journalists (more)?

3 myths about cursive handwriting: It's not faster, and it's not legally required for signatures (more).

Ten Years of EMA Post-Authorization Data Reveal a System Running on Incomplete Evidence: Analysis has put empirical weight behind what regulatory teams across Europe have quietly understood for years: the EMA’s post-authorization study ecosystem, designed to fill evidence gaps at approval, is generating a structural backlog of unfulfilled commitments with consequences that reverberate through clinical development strategy, patient access, and regulatory credibility (more).

“Looking at the Big Picture”: A Qualitative Study of Ethics in Science Communication and Engagement: Ethical issues arise in many communication and engagement settings. Such

issues can, however, fall into the gaps between what is seen as “research” and what is seen as “dissemination” (more).

Communicating certainty in public science communication—some observations: Public science communication should be as clear and simple as possible, giving unequivocal answers to the questions the general public is interested in. The issues of clarity and certainty are particularly heightened in cases where members of the public are directly affected by what science has to say on a particular issue, such as the precautions to be taken during a pandemic (more).

How Listeners Evaluate Credibility in Science Podcasts: A Qualitative Focus Group Study of Affective Closeness and Cognitive Transparency: Science podcasts are increasingly prominent in public-facing science communication, but little is known about how listeners evaluate their credibility under everyday audio conditions (more).

Stop pushing junk science! User corrections of misinformation in science are common and sophisticated: Misinformation is often equated with blatant falsehoods from dubious sources, overlooking that scientific sources, too, can accidentally publish inaccurate information to large online audiences. This article explores how social media users share, evaluate and address misinformation in science, defined as unreliable research rejected by relevant experts for violating scientific integrity (more).

The Irony of Clarity

What happens when the qualities that made you a professional scientific writer suddenly make you look like a machine?

After four decades of learning to write with clarity, precision and objectivity, I was

recently told that my blogs were starting to sound like they had been written by AI.

At first, it was irritating. Then I realised the accusation contained a rather uncomfortable truth. The very characteristics scientists have spent generations being trained to value are precisely those that AI now reproduces effortlessly.

So perhaps the question is not whether AI writes like us, but whether we unwittingly trained ourselves to write like AI before the advent of LLMs. And what, ultimately, makes a human voice human?

Read on: https://niche.org.uk/irony-clarity

Upcoming Events

Redefining Healthcare in the Age of AI**,** September 8 - 10, 2026, Paris, France, https://natureconferences.streamgo.live/healthcare-ai/lobby

Health optimisation conference: 11-13th September, London https://uk.healthoptimisation.com/

A Question Time Panel on Weight-loss Drugs and the Future of Obesity Care, 14th September from 5:30-7:30PM. Organised by the RSM, London, UK.

Innovation in MedTech and Diagnostics Conference: 6th October 2026, London https://shorturl.at/cyHs4

CancerCare 2026: The NHS Oncology Conference: A Strategic Conference on Advancing Oncology Pathways Across the NHS. 6TH OCTOBER 2026 https://sehta.co.uk/Events/?permalink=cancercare-2026-the-nhs-oncology-conference

Crick Cancer Symposium 2026 Monday, October 5-Tuesday, October 6, 9 AM-5 PM, London, UK

Life sciences and the NHS: delivering the next generation of health innovation: 13th October, London: https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/life-sciences

Reframing Precision Medicine: Innovation to Implementation**, October 13-15, 2026, The Royal Institution, London, England,** https://precision-medicine.conferences.nature.com/

Delivering cancer care now and for the future (in-person conference), Wednesday 21 October, London, UK

ESMO 2026 Madrid, Spain, on 23-27 October 2026, https://www.esmo.org/meeting-calendar/esmo-congress-2026

AMWA 2026 Medical Writing & Communication Conference, November 4-7, 2026, Washington USA https://www.amwa.org/event/2026annualconf

Extracellular Vesicles: Engineering the Future of Precision Medicine Porto, Portugal, 13-14th November
https://targeting-exosomes.com/

Medica 16-19 November 2026: Dusseldorf, Germany https://www.medica-tradefair.com/en/Visit

The King's Fund Annual conference 2026: good health for all**:** 17th November , London: https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/events/annual-conference

Conference: London Biotech 2026 Conference: 18-19th November Excel Register For The Leading Global Biotech Event | London Biotechnology Show

DIA-MHRA Global Summit November 16-17, 2026 | London, UK: D*eveloped in collaboration with the MHRA, is designed to showcase how the UK ecosystem brings innovation to life across the full pathway.* https://shorturl.at/qQ9nU

International Celiac Disease Symposium: 17-20 November 2026, Melbourne, Australia ICDS2026 - International Celiac Disease Symposium

The MAD World Summit 2026, The UK's leading event dedicated to workplace culture, health and wellbeing. **Thursday 26th November 2026 | Convene, 155 Bishopsgate, London** https://madworldsummit.com/venue-2/

Shaping the future of Diabetes Prevention *Sitges*, Spain, 30th November -2nd December 2026 Home - The Lancet Summit: shaping the future of diabetes prevention

Titbits

When people of different generations create together, brain activity changes: Policymakers and health practitioners are working on methods to create meaningful social interactions that bring people together, especially between generations. But while intergenerational interactions can increase well-being in older adults, the physiological changes resulting from them are unknown (more).

The Quiet Destruction of Curiosity by AI Assistants: Curiosity is a "superpower" linked to low anxiety, success at work, and a host of other pro-social behaviours. The "knowledge gap" between posing a question and finding answers is where true learning occurs. AI assistant design must better align with cognitive processes such as cultivating curiosity (more).

Sleuth identifies dozens of studies that used the wrong antibody: The case is the latest example of a scientific workhorse being misused in experiments (more).

Twenty-two easy ways to power up your lab meetings: Scientists share help and advice on how they got their research discussions flowing. Not just helpful for lab meetings (more).

Commercial self-testing is misleading and over diagnosing healthy people: Screening programmes can find things sooner, potentially giving patients better long-term outcomes. For example, a newborn baby whose hearing loss is detected through screening has a better chance of normal language development than one whose deafness is discovered later. But many people with conditions identified through screening won't reap any benefits (more).

What is a thought made of? Scientists look beyond neurons—and raise new questions about AI: A familiar song can bring back a memory from decades ago. A particular smell can recall a person or place. And a frightening memory can trigger a simultaneous emotional and physical response almost instantly. Computers, too, can store and retrieve information. But is biological memory fundamentally different (more)?

Turns Out, AI Has a Herd Instinct. It's Even More Pronounced in Stronger AIs: AI agents spontaneously follow majority (herd) opinion — and smarter models do this more strongly (more).

Researcher, heal thyself: meet the scientists studying their own diseases: Studying a condition after being diagnosed with it can be rewarding but also presents some ethical and psychological challenges (more).

Medical researcher who touted Covid 'cure' and was hailed by Dr Oz under fire over ethics: New findings further call into question scientific judgment of current health leaders in the Trump administration (more).

Steven and Tim

Two friends, each running a business on opposite sides of the pharmaceutical and medical communications industry, have joined forces to rescue and sustain the MedComms networking group.
Our shared vision is not just to preserve the community but to create a lasting legacy that supports future generations of communicators.

Read our privacy policy here. To unsubscribe please manage your subscription using the link below.

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