

# “Publishing undergraduate research: What’s on the [Bioscience] Horizon?”

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and Centre for Bioscience

# The team

- **Celia Knight, Leeds University**
- **Martin Luck, Nottingham University**
- **Alison Fletcher, Chester University**
- **Julian Park, Reading University**
- **Alan Jenkins, Oxford Brookes University**
- **Jac Potter, Trinity College Dublin**
- **Jonathon Crowe, Oxford University Press.**

# Objectives of the journal

- To promote the link between teaching and research in Higher Education
- To provide a repository of high quality undergraduate research which will be useful to other students and staff
- To provide a forum for students, their supervisors and Universities, to showcase high quality undergraduate research work
- To illustrate the student skill base to prospective employers.

# How has it happened?

Publishing agreement with OUP

Journal has a webpage, see

[www.biohorizons.oxfordjournals.org](http://www.biohorizons.oxfordjournals.org)

OUP published two pilot editions in  
2007/08

Published as an e journal

Hard copies in this first pilot year

# BioscienceHorizons

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### New to Oxford Journals in 2008

*Bioscience Horizons* is a free online journal publishing the best undergraduate bioscience research from the UK and Republic of Ireland. The journal provides a forum for students, their supervisors and universities, to showcase high quality undergraduate research work, strengthening the link between teaching and research in higher education. All papers are written by students and based on final year research projects.

The Bioscience Horizons editorial board are now seeking nominations for contributions from students graduating in 2008.

[Online Nomination Form](#)

For details of how the nominations procedure works, please [click here](#).

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

## THE JOURNAL

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## UK Universities Consortium Chair

**Dr Celia Knight**  
University of Leeds

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# Were Universities interested in 2007?

- Received 37 nominations from 25 different universities
- 27 female, 10 male. 13 post 1992, 12 pre 1992.
- All except one marked as first class by their University
- We asked the majority of these to write full article by end of September 2007
- Full articles sent out for review
- Published 22 articles in two editions in April and June 2008

Kirsty L. Wells

**The effects of immune challenge on phenoloxidase activity in locust salivary glands *in vitro***

Bioscience Horizons Advance Access published on April 17, 2008

Bioscience Horizons 2008 1: 122-127; doi:10.1093/biohorizons/hzn015

[\[Abstract\]](#) [\[FREE Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) OPEN ACCESS ARTICLE

Nodoka Nakamura

**Species richness and aggregation effects on the productivity of ruderal plant communities under drought perturbation**

Bioscience Horizons Advance Access published on April 24, 2008

Bioscience Horizons 2008 1: 128-135; doi:10.1093/biohorizons/hzn017

[\[Abstract\]](#) [\[FREE Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) OPEN ACCESS ARTICLE

Daniel Garrick

**Body surface temperature and length in relation to the thermal biology of lizards**

Bioscience Horizons Advance Access published on April 17, 2008

Bioscience Horizons 2008 1: 136-142; doi:10.1093/biohorizons/hzn014

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Daniel Charles de la Hey

**The importance of birds in the diet of otter *Lutra lutra* on Shapwick Heath**

Bioscience Horizons Advance Access published on April 23, 2008

Bioscience Horizons 2008 1: 143-147; doi:10.1093/biohorizons/hzn018

[\[Abstract\]](#) [\[FREE Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#) OPEN ACCESS ARTICLE

# Editorial issues

- Departments asked to submit (with student agreement)....abstract 300 words
- One/two pieces of high quality assessed work per School/Dept
- Research project or literature review
- 5000 words limit, asked to resubmit at the end of September.
- Independently refereed
- Minor, major corrections or rejected (about 25%)



# Common queries/issues

- If it is published in Bioscience Horizons can it be published elsewhere as well?
- What about authorship?
- I do not think we can easily decide on just two nominations?
- I do not think I can convince colleagues to engage with this
- The supervisor of our best UG project wants to publish in another journal

# Evaluation

- Anecdotal evidence suggests well received
- Positive feedback from students
- OUP analysing user data
- Survey of staff and students to follow

# Initial Website statistics

Type of Access	March 08	April 08	May 08	June 08
Home Page Hits	582	2248	1507	1285
Abstract Pages	176	509	531	820
HTML Full-Text	114	698	1036	1157
PDF Full-Text	122	523	467	518
Total Full-Text	236	1221	1503	1675

# The Future

- Abstracts for 2008 now submitted
- 5k seed corn money from BBSRC to help support the journal in 08/09
- *Bioscience Horizons* has been shortlisted for the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) Award for Publishing Innovation

# Three abstracts from Reading this year

- The effects of riparian habitat quality and biological water quality on the presence of the European Otter (*Lutra lutra*)
- An interactive, web-based key to Australian *Drosera* (Droseraceae)
- The anticancer effect of tomato polyphenols.

# 2008 submissions

- 21 Universities submitted
- 39 abstracts submitted, 36 accepted
- 9 Universities submitting to both volumes
- 17 Universities submitted to vol1 but not 2
- 23: 13 Female: Male

# Concluding comments

- Generally well received
- Need a team of positive minded people
- Its time consuming but good fun and rewarding
- You may be asked to review a paper...I hope you will!

## Contact

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