



The new normal for science

Towards a new ISC strand of work

11 June 2021

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From the draft Action Plan: 2022-2024

The ISC will seek to develop a strand of work, with an interim title of “The new normal for science” aimed at **harnessing lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic for purposes of strengthening the role of science in policy and public discourse**. This work could link with current activities in open science and discussions of global crisis management. It would include necessary responses to the growth of fake science, the role of the internet and of social media in enabling it, as well as the need for a new global agreement to overcome emerging barriers to effective international scientific collaboration.



The COVID-19 pandemic: a global wake-up call, also for science

- Amplified existing concerns, e.g.,
 - Threats to scientific understanding and interpretation
 - Scientific freedoms and responsibilities
- Highlighted a range of science system weaknesses, e.g.,
 - Agility to respond to a global crisis in ways that maintain the rigour of scientific outputs
 - Weaknesses in coupling scientific solutions and geopolitical action on global problems
- Raised new challenges, e.g.
 - Growing inequalities within and between science systems
 - Barriers to international scientific collaboration in a context of new funding constraints and new geopolitical tensions fueling the trend to scientific nationalism



The COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learnt

- Recovery is about redoubling our efforts to achieve transformations to global sustainability
- Business as usual approaches – including in our scientific endeavour – are not commensurate with the challenge



Business as usual science

- Organized in silos
- Disconnected from societal needs
- Elitist and ineffective in its societal engagement
- Exclusionary and dominated by western thinking
- Fragmented and duplicative
- Captured by cultures of competition
- Steered by policies and practices that do not necessarily enable the pursuit of science as a global public good



Business as usual science still dominant

It does not meet the imperatives of

- Inclusivity
- Integration
- Openness
- Engagement

It inhibits the transformative potential of science

A misalignment between the “science we have” and the “science we need”?



Issues (and existing actions)

- Paradigms, policies and enabling conditions for inclusive, integrated, open science
Existing ISC activities on inclusivity and open science, research evaluation
- The info-demic, and the role of the internet and social media in enabling it
Could/should be part of the public value of science theme?
- Effective public engagement
New activity on transdisciplinarity
“Transformative science communication” as part of the public value of science theme?
- The science-policy interface, science advice and diplomacy
Existing activity on science in and for the UN
INGSA/FMSTAN
- Global knowledge divides
- Barriers to equitable, effective – and coordinated – global collaboration
- other?



A possible new strand of work

New issues?

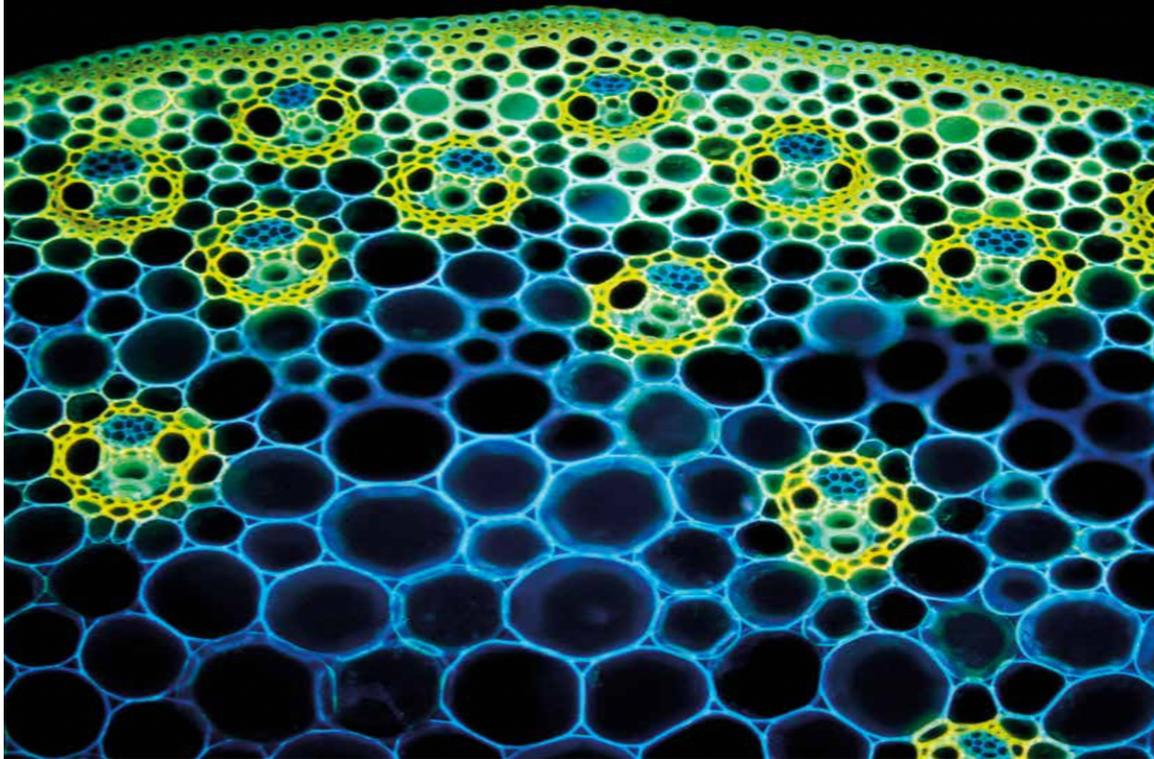
New roles?

New – or different – actions?

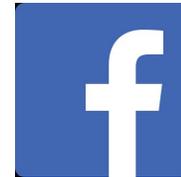
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