

Dear Colleagues,

I'm delighted to be writing to you as we announce a new strategic alliance between Frontiers and Nature Publishing Group (NPG).

We at NPG think that Frontiers and NPG have found a great meeting of minds, and bring complementary strengths to this alliance. We share a passion for serving science and scientists, and for science communication. We also share a vision of an open science future. We believe scientists work best when they can easily connect and collaborate with their peers. This is how science advances, and how our understanding of the world will progress fastest. Frontiers' joined up approach to open science really appeals to us, and more importantly we believe it will really appeal to the scientific community.

This alliance is a first for us; this is the first time we have made a significant investment outside NPG. For some time we've been looking for a partner to help the shift to open science faster. Of all the organizations we looked at, Frontiers was head and shoulders above the rest. Frontiers is very inspiring to us, and a big attraction was its track record for innovation and experimentation

You and the founders of Frontiers are working scientists, who know what scientists want. Frontiers' flexibility in terms of its platform, and feedback from you, means that experiments and innovations can happen quickly. We are investing in Frontiers to enable innovation and growth. Frontiers will continue to have its own policies, platforms, management and brands. Working together, we expect the 'Frontiers in' series of journal to grow significantly as they are extended to more fields of research. All will now be strongly promoted to NPG's authors, peer-reviewers and online users. Looking further ahead, through our investment and collaboration we aim to help Frontiers extend their open science tools and the reach of their network.

You have been central to Frontiers' success to date, and we trust that you will continue your pioneering role. One of our goals is to help Frontiers increase submissions to the 'Frontiers In' journals, and we hope that you will support that as editors, through your advocacy in the scientific community, as authors and as active participants on the Frontiers network.

We would like you to feel equally confident that Frontiers has chosen the right partner. NPG has a long track record of partnering with academic societies, institutions and organisations. We currently publish 63 journals with academic editors and external editorial boards. Forty-three of these are published in partnership with or on behalf of scientific and medical organisations. They maintain editorial independence, policies and brands. At the same time, the discoverability and traffic provided by the nature.com platform, our global operations and publishing expertise mean that we can help these journals develop their impact, reach and reputation.

NPG also has long been active in open access publishing, self-archiving policies, multimedia and social networking. We don't take copyright from our authors on research articles, all our journals encourage self-archiving and over three quarters of our research journals already offer OA options to prospective authors.

At NPG, we're largely former bench scientists, working to serve scientists. We still think like scientists and believe in the experimental method – have a hypothesis, test it and make decisions based on evidence. We're looking forward to assessing the results of the innovations and experience of Frontiers, to see what might be applicable to addressing some of NPG's own challenges.

I believe that together we can achieve much more than either Frontiers or NPG could do working alone. I expect there will be many exciting opportunities for us to work together in the coming months and years.

For now, welcome to the NPG family. We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Inchcoombe', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Steven Inchcoombe
Managing Director, Nature Publishing Group.