

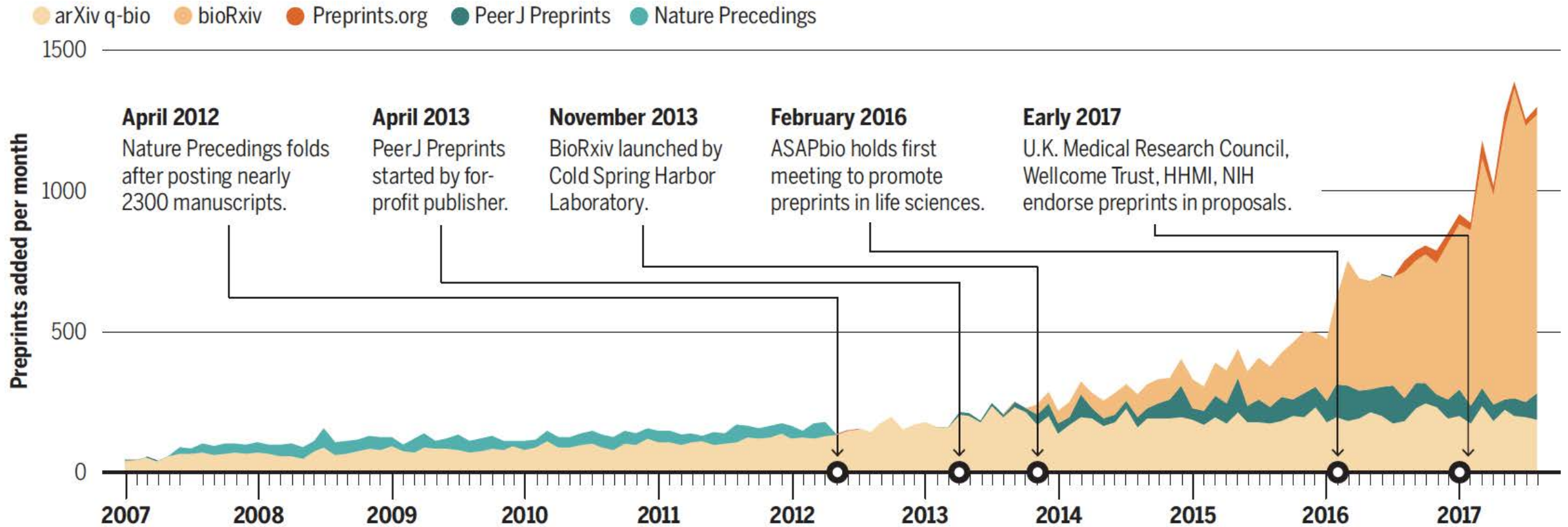
December Hot Topic:

Preprint Dilemma

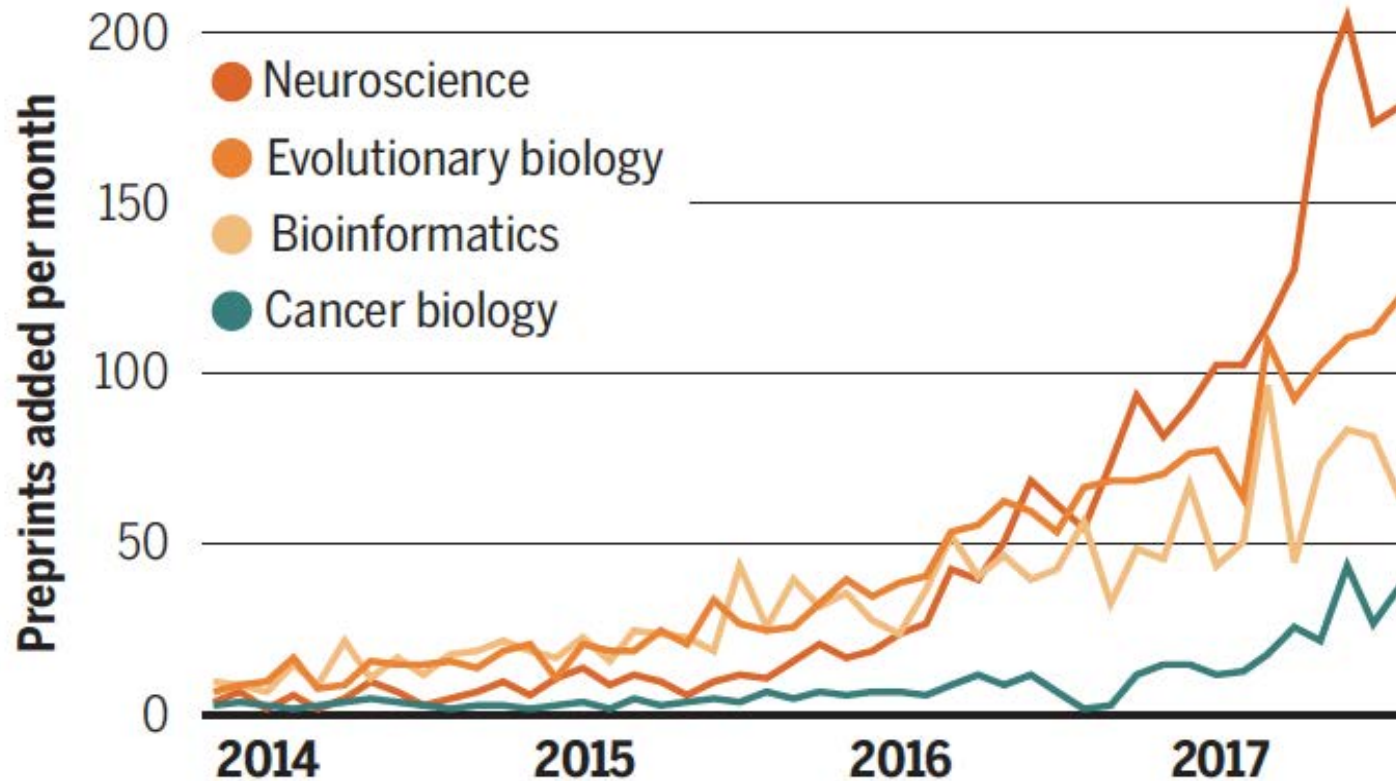
Moderated by Dr. Rosalind Mott

December 18, 2017

A Long time coming?



...Some areas more than others!



Overall, just 1.3% of biology papers appear first in preprints

A Decades Long Conversation

In 1969, the NEJM established the Ingelfinger Rule with the aim of keeping publications 'news worthy' – The NEJM "... undertakes review with the understanding that neither the substance of the article nor any of its pictures or tables have been published or will be submitted for publication elsewhere...."



But by the early 80's, the journal was under much fire concerning the rule:

The Ingelfinger Rule: does it strangle the flow of medical news? Time. 1980

The news media and the question of prior publication . Ann Intern Med . 1979

In 1981, an editorial approached the topic as an open conversation – asking for all stakeholders to weigh in and also emphasizing that:

"We have always regarded material presented at open scientific meetings as in the public realm and have never rejected a manuscript merely because the work was presented at such a meeting and then reported in the press"

1983: And then came the Free* & Open Internet

*Jan 1, 1983 – Dec 14^A, 2017?

Current Bio Preprint Landscape

- arXiv q-bio (1991): Repository of preprints in the field of quantitative biology.
- Nature Precedings (2007): NPGs preprint server for the life science community.
- Peer J Preprints (2013): Preprint server for biological/medical sciences
- BioRxiv (2013): Preprint server for biology, operated by CSHL w/ support from CZI.
- Preprints.org (2016): Preprint server supported by MDPI.
- Relevant to the nano community, launch of **ChemRXiv (2016)** by ACS.

2017: Launch of **Cell Sneak Peek**, an author opt-in preview of the papers under review in Cell Press primary research journals.

Questions Arising

- Where do Preprint servers fit within the 'publishing' space?
- Are they publications? Should they be citable?
- Do they offer 'scoop protection'?
- How will universities recognize them in hiring/tenure decisions?
- A massive online science conference? What are the benefits?
- Do they impact future publication in peer-reviewed journals?

<http://crosstalk.cell.com/blog/lets-talk-about-preprint-servers>

Discussion Questions

- **Question 1:** Do you think posting of papers on preprint servers (such as arXiv and bioRxiv) makes a valuable contribution to science and scientific publishing?

Discussion Questions

- Question 2: Have you ever commented on a paper that another group posted?

Discussion Questions

- **Question 3:** Do you have any concerns about potential widespread adoption of preprint servers in biomedicine?

Your Opinion - A Quick Survey

Do you think posting of papers on preprint servers (such as arXiv and bioRxiv) makes a valuable contribution to science and scientific publishing?

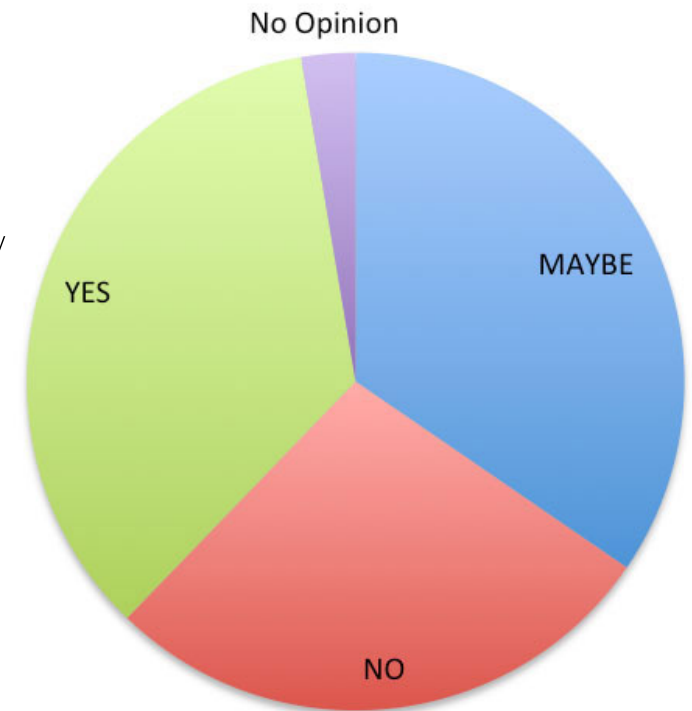
Of 188 respondents, 15% had posted a preprint and only 20% were considering doing so.

The main motivations cited were speed of information distribution, to solicit feedback, to claim priority.

Only 6% of responders had ever posted a comment on a preprint article.

30% of responders had found preprint articles useful to their own research.

So, the conversation continues...



Take home



- Prep-prints are transforming the landscape of scientific publishing
 - Unprecedented speed and openness
 - Increased transparency
 - Quality?
- Role of preprints continues to evolve... stay informed!