

# What can researchers do? STEM skills outside the academy

Dr. Alanna Gannon  
Editor - John Wiley & Sons



September 24th, 2021  
UK National Postdoc Conference

WILEY

# Who am I?



Trinity  
College  
Dublin

The University of Dublin



HARVARD  
John A. Paulson  
School of Engineering  
and Applied Sciences

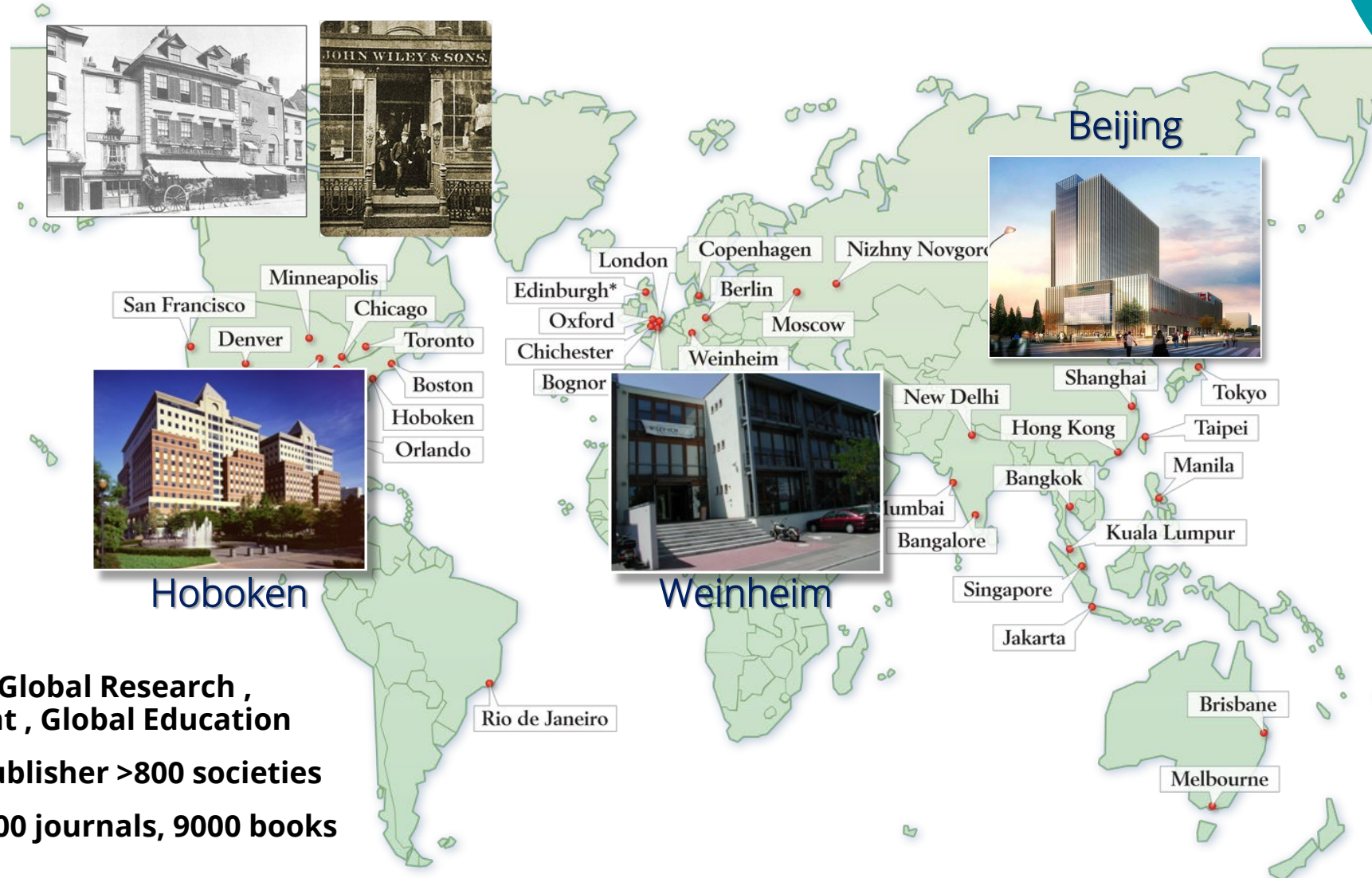


HSCRB  
HARVARD DEPARTMENT OF STEM  
CELL & REGENERATIVE BIOLOGY

# WILEY

Most editors are PhD trained scientists, often with postdoc experience.  
Own research experience is invaluable!

# John Wiley & Sons publishing group



Founded in 1807 in NYC

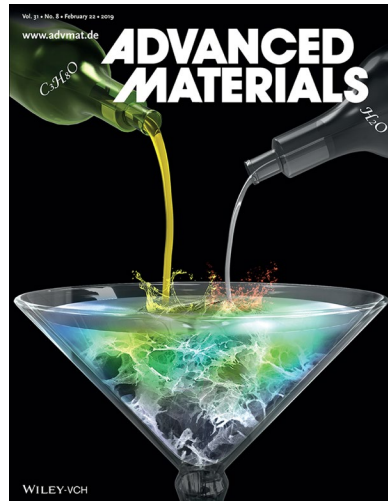
Collection of businesses: Global Research ,  
Professional Development , Global Education

World's largest Society Publisher >800 societies

7,000 staff worldwide, 1700 journals, 9000 books



# Advanced Journals

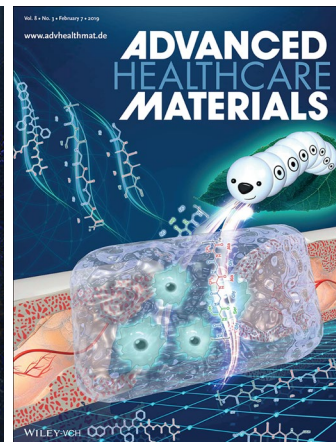
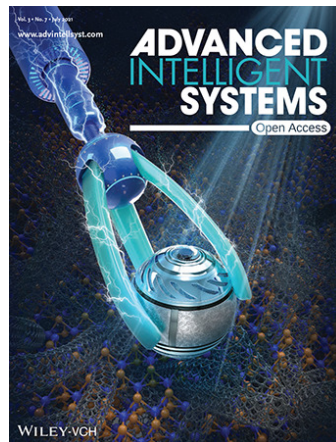
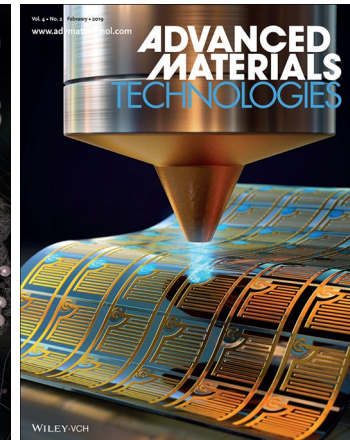
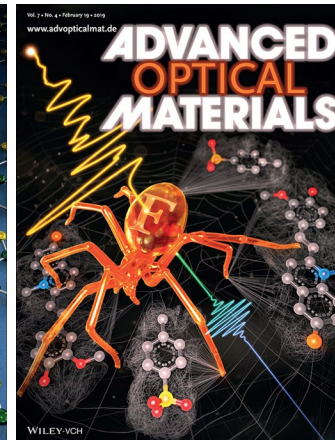
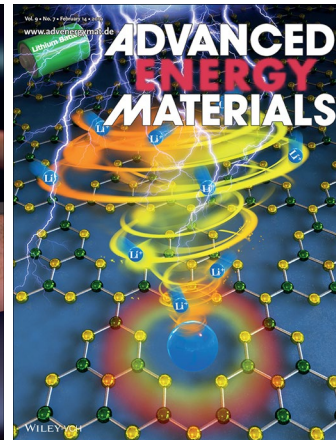


IF: 30.849 (2020)

Launched in 1988

**Interdisciplinary high-priority materials research**

Specifically novel materials: breakthroughs of broad interest, novel concepts and devices





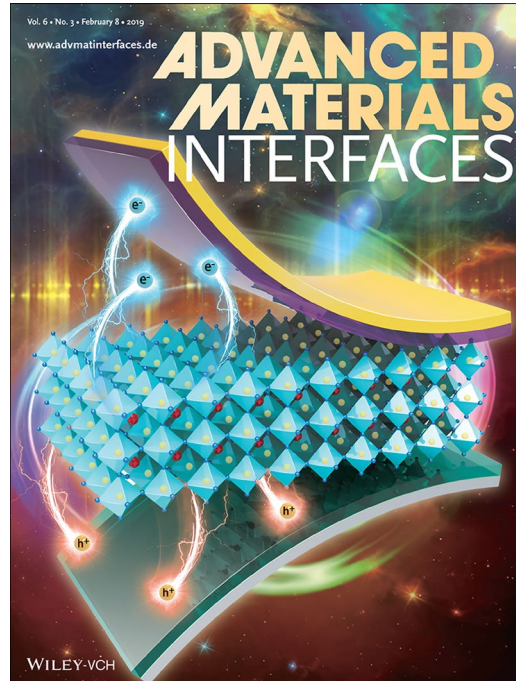
# Journals I work on:



Open Access

Scope – broad interest, all branches of science

IF: 16.806 (2020)



Scope - Interfacial processes, interdisciplinary blend of science

IF: 6.147 (2020)



Open Access

Scope - Sustainability, climate change, energy, food & water safety, global health & healthcare etc.

IF: 3.847 (2020)

# Models of editorial office

## In-house Editors



... some APS, RSC, IOP titles, Cell Press, EMBO, Science, PLOS, The Lancet...

## External Editors



... all ACS, most Elsevier, most Springer-Nature, Wiley journals...

# Models of editorial office

## In-house Editors

1. Work on journals full time – can dedicate more time and resources to work on new developments
2. General view
3. PhDs, postdocs wanted!

## External Editors

1. Have their own research group
2. Expert in a specific field/topic
3. Vacancies not usually posted, not for early career researchers

Both: Peer review, decision making, dealing with appeals, commissioning, conference participation and lab visits, article promotion - writing news stories, contributing to “input” marketing...data analysis, special issue planning

# | What are the roles of editors?

- Day-to-day of a peer review editor:
  - Read manuscripts submitted to the journal
  - Identify and invite reviewers to assess manuscripts
  - Make editorial decisions
  - Solicit manuscripts and special issues
  - Work closely with authors, reviewers and other editors (many emails)
  - Deal and resolve ethical issues regarding submissions/published papers
  - Collaborate with editorial, production, marketing team
  - Beta testing new publishing technologies
  - Data analysis: run reports, identify cascade gaps – suggest new journals...
- Outreach:
  - Help authors disseminate their work further
  - Attend international conferences (up-to-date knowledge)
  - Workshops, lab/institution visits



# Editor's career

## *What we are:*

- Full-time employees of a publisher
- Former Researchers (PhD, often Postdocs)
- Working in small editorial teams (1-20 people) supported by editorial board
- Hold different titles based on experience & responsibilities (Associate Editor, Deputy Editor, Editor-in-Chief, Publisher)
- Responsible for peer-review process, editorial decisions, content commissioning
- The face of the publisher in the community, voice of researchers in the publisher

## *What we are not:*

- Active in research (not even part-time)
- Lone wolves & hermits

# Editor's career: Pros & Cons

## *What I love....*

- Career at the “center of science”
- Gaining knowledge across disciplines
- Bird-eye view over science, see best results 1<sup>st</sup>!
- Exciting new projects/ journals
- Contact with the scientific community
- Contribution to scientific debate & progress
- Plenty of (international) travel\*
- Possibility of professional growth

## *What I could do without....*

- Journal/ product development sometimes slow and frustrating
- Dealing with angry authors
- Handling ethical violations, fraud and scientific misconduct
- Not easy to grow your career beyond Editor-in-Chief

# Potential Fit...transferable skills

## *It may be the job for you if you....*

- Are passionate about science communication
- Recognize the importance of publishing for scientific development
- Have a broad interest in different scientific disciplines
- Have analytical, project management and decision-making skills
- Are good at communicating with people
- Are creative and open-minded, identify the “next big thing”
- Have an eye for detail

## *BUT you won't like it if you...*

- Love being in the lab and doing research
- Want to specialize in a certain topic and become an expert
- Don't like changing topics several times a day
- Hate reading papers and writing
- Don't like travelling and interacting with people

Thank you!

Questions?

Jobs:

<https://careers.wiley.com/>