A year in review
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The year of open science

Covid-19 is a challenge like nothing the scientific research community has ever faced. Society turned to scientists for answers, and they exceeded at delivering solutions, racing to provide insights into a global health emergency and developing treatments and vaccines at a speed never seen before in human history.

While 2020 will be remembered for the disappointment caused by the outbreaks of the Covid-19 pandemic across the globe, it is also the year in which the power of science — particularly the power of open science — was demonstrated.

Science saves lives and livelihoods. And open science saves faster.

With a global death toll of 1.5 million people and economic losses in the trillions of dollars, lives and livelihoods depended on treatments and vaccines and it became obvious how essential it is to share scientific results openly, whether to data or research articles.

The pandemic sped up the shift towards open science, with the wider scientific community in January 2020, existing scientists in academia and industry, starting to share their research. In 2020, we also saw the balance tip in favor of open access: over 180,000 Covid-related articles were peer reviewed and published - most of them open access, even in subscription journals. What might once have taken decades, was righted in less than a year, an astonishing speed which has never been achieved before.

This is the power of science — made open.

Responding to a pandemic

The 19,169 editorial board members and 750 employees at Frontiers have also mobilized to work together and provide concrete support and solutions during the pandemic.

Despite the massive disruption caused by the outbreak, researchers managed to adapt and continue working as revealed in the Frontiers survey of our community science open will better prepare us for future pandemics.

The pandemic was also apparent in our Covid-19 list action, which received an overwhelming response and within a matter of weeks we launched our Coronavirus Knowledge Hub, a centralized source of trusted information and analysis on the pandemic. This included expert commentaries on the pandemic, Covid-19 funding and allocation resources, as well as the latest relevant articles and articles collections covering many aspects of the outlook, from prevention, treatment and vaccine development to psychological and economic impacts.

To deal with over 10,000 submissions to date, 158 researchers volunteered to join our rapid reviews task force. They were, and continue to be, on standby for any Covid-related submissions to ensure a fast, fair and rigorous peer review.

This has resulted in over 1,500 published Covid-19 articles. These have been viewed and downloaded more than 20 million times from research and innovation hubs around the world.

In support of this scientific response, we made sure these articles were not only free to read and download, but also free to publish — Frontiers provided more than $5 million in waivers for Covid-19 publications.

Being pulled apart brought us closer together

The health and safety of our employees has always been our top priority and on March 16, 2020 we closed our offices in Lucca, London, Madrid, Seattle, Thessaloniki and Beijing. Since then, most of our employees have been working from home.

As a technology company, we are accustomed to working online and we were able to seamlessly transition to working from home. But the challenge posed by a sudden global slowdown was new and unchartered territory for us. From having to support Covid-19 crisis to experiencing uncertainty and anxiety, lack of testing capacity, caring for children and dealing with isolation, we had to pull together and support each other through this new reality. We established a Covid support helpdesk to provide advice and assistance for employees struggling to cope with the pandemic. This included flexible working arrangements for parents, various wellbeing initiatives, and resources to help us stay connected.

We organized, at short notice, and twice a month, “town hall” meetings with our staff to share information and support. After an overwhelmingly positive response, we extended this initiative to our editorial boards. In 2020, we organized two virtual Editions’ Commis by attended by almost 50,000 listeners on our boards, to share experiences, unite against the consensus and highlight progress.

We didn’t anticipate the impact of reaching and connecting with even more people online, so we are pleased to announce that the Frontiers Forum Speaker Series is going online too. For 2021 speakers include David Christian, founder of the Big History Project, and Esther Duflo, Economics Nobel Prize winner.

We made tremendous progress

Not only did these initiatives lead to a stronger sense of community, we also made significant progress.

Key milestones reached in 2020 include:

- Frontiers remains the 5th most-cited publisher with the average journal citation count increasing from 3.6 in 2019 to 3.9 in 2020.
- In 2020, article views and downloads increased by 300 million, a 62% increase over the previous year, totalling well over one billion.
- The Frontiers primary community grew by more than 7,000,000 authors from being 150,000 authors in 2019, to 167,000 authors in 2020.
- 27 new journals were launched in 2020.
- 27 new journals were launched in 2020 with special focus on aligned with the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals, including Frontiers in Chemical Science and Frontiers in Global Women’s Health.”
- The number of our journals from 100 in 2019 increased to 135 today across 996 academic disciplines.
- 77 new institutional members joined in the last year, including the University of Oxford, CERN, and Bill Gates, bringing the total number to 240. There are now transparent national open access publishing agreements for universities in Austria, Sweden, Qatar, the UK, and Norway.
- Frontiers for Young Minds, our journal for kids and teens, now has 551 articles and 176 million views and downloads.
- Access in English and Italian, and Arabic versions are planned to launch soon.
- An industry leading and without interference review process known as COMMIT was deployed to avoid our editors, reviewers and authors, a 1-year review process. At best, it currently conducts more than 20 quality checks with the goal to continuously increase integrity and quality in manuscripts and the peer-review process.

A better world through open science

The mission under which all of us at Frontiers work to make science open to accelerate the solutions we need to live healthy lives on a healthy planet.

Making science open will better prepare us for future pandemics.

Making science open will also enable us to tackle other public health issues, including respiratory diseases, 9 million annual deaths, cancer (10 million annual deaths) cardiovascular diseases (8 million annual deaths). In 2020, 20-30% of articles in these research areas are open access. We could be saving many more lives if we were publishing further human health science by embracing open science as our default research paradigm.

Making science open will also enable us to address the greatest challenge of our generation – climate change. The challenge of getting to zero greenhouse gas emissions needs to be solved within our lifetime, so this is a daunting task. Science is key, but only with open science can we stand a chance to win this race.

This is the journey we have been on since 2007 and a challenge we are committed to tackling until all science is open science.

A heartfelt thank you to our authors, editors, reviewers and staff for taking this journey with us, for your invaluable contributions, and for your ongoing commitment to open science.

I am truly proud to be a part of this community and to work alongside people who are making a difference and contributing to healthy lives on a healthy planet.

Sandra Nordholm
April 2020
Key figures

5th most-cited publisher

Frontiers is an award-winning Open Science platform and leading Open Access scholarly publisher. In 2020, we were the 5th most-cited publisher, increasing average citations from 3.6 in 2019 to 3.9 in 2020 for every article published with us.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publishers</th>
<th>Average Citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Chemical Society</td>
<td>7.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Royal Society of Chemistry</td>
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<td>American Physical Society</td>
<td>4.2</td>
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<td>Elsevier</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontiers</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxford University Press</td>
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<td>IEEE</td>
<td>3.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wiley</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDPI</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Springer Nature</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOP Publishing Group</td>
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<td>SAGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taylor &amp; Francis</td>
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<td>Cambridge University Press</td>
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<td>American Institute of Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>EBESP</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Analysis of the world’s 20 largest publishers by volume, ranked by number of average citations received to articles published in 2017, 2018 and 2019 (Scimago, 2020). Frontiers ranks 5th most-cited with an average of 3.9 citations per article.

185,000 published articles

We empower scientists with innovative Open Science solutions that radically improve how science is published, evaluated and disseminated to researchers, innovation and the public.

In 2020, we published over 48,309 open access articles, a 46% increase on the year before. To-date, we have published a total of 185,000 articles across 103 journals and spanning 555 academic disciplines.

1 billion article views and downloads

Frontiers articles have been viewed and downloaded more than one billion times from all over the world.
Covid-19

A global health emergency like the Covid-19 pandemic can only be overcome when research results are rapidly and openly shared, and when all stakeholders work together.

Covid-19 research

In 2020, we established a priority peer review process for all Covid-19 research and waived more than $4 million in publishing fees to support the scientific response to the pandemic. To date, our editorial community has reviewed 10,160 Covid-19 article submissions, of which 3,560 have been published. Many of these articles form part of our 152 Covid-19 Research Topics covering many aspects of the outbreak, from prevention and treatment to psychological and economic impacts.

- 10,160 total Covid-19 articles submitted
- 3,560 total Covid-19 articles published
- 152 total Covid-19 Research Topics
- 20,306,518 total Covid-19 article views and downloads
- $4,028,890 total Covid-19 fee waivers
- 156 Covid-19 review task force members
- 6,037 reviewers of Covid-19 research

Press coverage

Covid-19 research articles published in our journals were mentioned by international news outlets, including The New York Times’ September 2020 feature The Pandemic is a ‘Mental Health Crisis’ for Parents.

2020 collection highlights

Psychological effects of the pandemic

Investigations and theoretical perspectives on how people are psychologically affected by and coping with the pandemic.

167 articles | 673,000 views

Public health challenges

Addressing knowledge gaps and generating evidence for the improved clinical management and control of Covid-19.

388 articles | 4,300,000 views

Molecular mechanisms and therapeutics

Advances in the clinical diagnosis of Covid-19 and the study of molecular mechanisms and pathology in different populations.

116 articles | 520,000 views
Academic Survey

In May and June 2020, we conducted a survey with our editors, reviewers, and authors to gain insights on how the pandemic is impacting their work and the wider implication for science. The research community has been under extraordinary pressure to deliver answers, and a lack of precedent and preparation, combined with severe political and social pressures, has made this an incredibly challenging time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey participants</th>
<th>Countries surveyed</th>
<th>Total views and downloads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25,307</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>125,938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Press coverage

The findings of our academic survey were mentioned by 27 international news outlets, including The Economist’s November 2020 report Are governments following the science on covid-19?

Survey highlights

There were mixed reactions to the political response to the pandemic. Researchers in New Zealand had the highest satisfaction levels, with most agreeing that their policy makers had taken scientific advice into account. While the majority of researchers in the USA, Brazil, Chile, and the UK disagreed and did not feel that policymakers had listened to scientific advice.

Despite the massive disruption caused by the outbreak, researchers remain hopeful and continue working. It gives us hope that the academic community will remain resilient to new waves, as well as future disasters.

There are concerns about funding with researchers calling for more investment in basic research – reflecting the need to support long-term challenges and goals, even during a crisis.

Scientists know how important it is that we learn lessons from 2020 to prepare for future threats to humanity, and are pragmatically considering how to prepare for and mitigate future crises.

See survey
Coronavirus Knowledge Hub

We launched the Coronavirus Knowledge Hub in March 2020, a centralized source of trusted information and analysis on the pandemic. This includes the latest research articles and collections, expert commentaries on scientific and societal responses to the pandemic, and Covid-19 funding and data resources. The hub also provides a platform for the scientific community to suggest new research directions, stakeholder engagement, and initiatives around Covid-19 and the current global health crisis.

210,000 visits to the Hub

28 Covid-19 expert interviews

214 funding calls for researchers

$1.5Bn estimated funding available

Covid-19 funding monitor

We set up a funding monitor to help researchers, non-profits, and commercial organizations find funding for their Covid-19 research. The monitor listed 214 open funding calls, including the grant type, deadline, organization, and specific area it supports. An estimated $1.5 billion was made available from funders including Amazon, Pfizer, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

2020 interview highlights

**Francesca Dominici** from Harvard T.H. Chan discusses new research linking air pollution with higher Covid-19 mortality.

*May 29, 2020*

— Watch

**Dinesh Bhugra** from King’s College London on the mental health impacts of surviving Covid-19, and living and grieving through a pandemic.

*May 14, 2020*

— Watch

**Thomas Hartung** from Johns Hopkins University explains how coronavirus can affect the human brain.

*April 14, 2020*

— Watch
Our journals

We have over 100 journals spanning science, health, humanities and social sciences, engineering, and sustainability — part of our ongoing commitment to ensure all researchers can publish open access.

103 total journals
866 total academic disciplines

Journal launches

We launched 27 new journals in 2020, many of which support the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals with research addressing the biggest global challenges of our time. In particular, SDG 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all and SDG 15 to find sustainable solutions to protect our ecosystems.

2020 journal highlights

Frontiers in Global Women’s Health
Field Chief Editor: Stephen Kennedy
University of Oxford
Solving health inequities with leading research on the physical and mental health problems facing women globally.
— See journal

Frontiers in Conservation Science
Field Chief Editor: Daniel Blumstein
University of California, Los Angeles
The latest research to help preserve ecosystems, achieve biodiversity targets, and restore human-wildlife balance.
— See journal

Frontiers in Oral Health
Field Chief Editor: Kaumudi Joshipura
University of Puerto Rico
Research investigating the diagnosis and treatment of oral diseases, reducing their burden on global healthcare systems.
— See journal

2020 journal launches

Frontiers in Aging
Frontiers in Allergy
Frontiers in Animal Science
Frontiers in Bioinformatics
Frontiers in Catalysis
Frontiers in Clinical Diabetes and Healthcare
Frontiers in Communications and Networks
Frontiers in Conservation Science
Frontiers in Control Engineering
Frontiers in Dental Medicine
Frontiers in Electronics
Frontiers in Environmental Chemistry
Frontiers in Fungal Biology
Frontiers in Future Transportation
Frontiers in Global Women’s Health
Frontiers in Neuroergonomics
Frontiers in Oral Health
Frontiers in Pain Research
Frontiers in Photonics
Frontiers in Rehabilitation Sciences
Frontiers in Remote Sensing
Frontiers in Reproductive Health
Frontiers in Sensors
Frontiers in Sustainability
Frontiers in Space Technologies
Frontiers in Tropical Diseases
Frontiers in Virtual Reality

See all Journals
## Authors and editors

We collaborate with leading authors and editors. Our journals are community-run, placing publishing back into the hands of active researchers and enabling them to drive progress and shape their fields. In 2020, the Frontiers community grew to more than 471,000 authors and 519,000 editors.

### Top institutional affiliations

We welcomed more than 16,000 new editors and 150,000 new authors in 2020 from existing institutions around the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institutions</th>
<th>Editors</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Texas System</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harvard University</td>
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<td>State University System of Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institut National de la Sante et de la Recherche Medicale (INSERM)</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Institutes of Health (NIH)</td>
<td>613</td>
<td>1,612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas (CSIC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Research Council (CNR)</td>
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<td>Helmholtz - Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren (HGF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Sao Paulo</td>
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<td>University of Oxford</td>
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<td>University of Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>Max Planck Gesellschaft (MPG)</td>
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<td>University of Michigan</td>
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<td>The Ohio State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Zurich</td>
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<td>1,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King’s College London</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>1,193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top 25 institutional affiliations for Frontiers editors and published authors, ranked by number of editors.

### Editors’ geographical locations

Our editorial boards comprise more than 12,000 editors from 177 countries.

- **North America**: 29%
- **Europe**: 43%
- **Asia**: 19%
- **South America**: 4%
- **Africa**: 1%

### Virtual Editors’ Summit

In 2020, our annual Editors’ Summit moved online, providing the opportunity for even more of our editors to attend. During the virtual editions, we updated the community on our key company initiatives, including our response to Covid-19 and how we are maximizing research quality at a large scale.

Nearly 15,000 editors tuned in to celebrate our inspiring community’s achievements during this challenging year – together, making science freely available and helping to address the critical challenges we face as humanity.

- **Total attendees**: 14,828
- **Participating countries**: 154

### 2020 summit highlights

- **Kendra Markson**: Chief Executive Officer, on how the pandemic has highlighted the power of – and critical need for – open science.
  - [Watch](#)
- **Fred Hester**: Chief Executive Editor, shares how we’re working with our community to make vital Covid-19 research open.
  - [Watch](#)
- **Mitajen Eickert**: Chief Publishing Officer, discusses the growth of our journals and welcoming over 24,000 new editors.
  - [Watch](#)
- **Daniel Potting**: Chief Technology Officer, introduces our new artificial intelligence review assistant, or AIx.
  - [Watch](#)
Research Topics

Frontiers Research Topics are multidisciplinary article collections guest edited by leading researchers and addressing wide-ranging topics, from climate change to coronavirus.

3,151
Research Topics with eBooks

622,798,393
total views and downloads

2020 collection highlights

**Brain function**
A multiscale view of brain function, ranging from molecular to cognitive and behavioral neuroscience.
20 articles | 125,000 views
— See collection

**Women's health**
The impact of Covid-19 on women's health and wellbeing, particularly in resource-poor settings.
20 articles | 130,000 views
— See collection

**Protecting forests**
Uncovering the human pressures on intact forests, from defaunation to climate change.
15 articles | 100,000 views
— See collection

**Treating cancer**
Discovering new targeted therapies for cancer, from small molecules to antibodies.
54 articles | 246,000 views
— See collection

**Mental health**
How Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing are affecting mental health.
37 articles | 178,000 views
— See collection

**Animal welfare**
Investigating the cultural and legal complexities related to spay and neuter of dogs.
11 articles | 430,000 views
— See collection

See all collections
Our impact

Our impact metrics reflect the power of research that is open to all. We measure and communicate a range of metrics, including Impact Factor, CiteScore, overall citation rate, aggregate views and downloads, and news and social media mentions.

5th most-cited publisher

In 2020, we were the 5th most-cited publisher, increasing average citations from 3.6 in 2019 to 3.9 in 2020 for every article published with us.

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<td>American Institute of Physics</td>
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Analysis of the world’s 20 largest publishers by volume, ranked by number of average citations received to articles published in 2017, 2018 and 2019 (Garmago, 2020). Frontiers ranks 5th most cited with an average of 3.9 citations per article.

1 billion views and downloads | 2 million citations

In 2020, article views and downloads increased by 62% over the previous year, totaling one billion. Article citations also increased by 50%, totaling two million.

Article views and downloads (per year)
Following the 2020 release of the Web of Science Group’s Journal Citation Report (JCR) and Scopus’ CiteScore, we have 43 journals with a Journal Impact Factor and 50 journals with a CiteScore.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Impact Factor</th>
<th>CiteScore</th>
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<td>Frontiers in Aging Neuroscience</td>
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<td>Frontiers in Applied Mathematics and Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frontiers in Astronomy and Space Sciences</td>
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<td>Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience</td>
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<td>Frontiers in Bioengineering and Biotechnology</td>
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The Journal Impact Factor is the average number of citations received in the last year to articles published in the previous two years. It is measured each year by the Web of Science Group and reported in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR). The JCR analysis released in 2020 is based on citations in 2019 to articles published in 2017 and 2018.

The CiteScore journal impact metric measures the average citations received in a four-year time window to selected documents published in the same four years. The 2019 CiteScore is based on citations received in 2016–2019 to articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters, and data papers published in 2016–2019, and divides this by the number of these documents published in 2016–2019. CiteScore covers all journal titles in Elsevier’s Scopus database and is released once a year.
In 2020, many of the journals were appealing to the local and international audience, including the most cited journals: Neuroscience, Neuron, Neuron, and Current Opinion in Neurology.
In the news

Frontiers articles achieve high visibility and impact as a result of our promotion strategies. In 2020, Frontiers articles were featured more than 24,000 times in international news outlets.

Most featured by:

Forbes
IHFUFPPOSTI
The New York Times
BBC World News
CNN
The Guardian

2020 news highlights

Robot artwork
What if you could instruct a swarm of robots to paint a picture? New technique published in Frontiers in Robotics and AI allows artists to do just that.

New Scientist, October 14, 2020
— Read feature

Virus-eating protists
First compelling evidence published in Frontiers in Microbiology that some marine protists are virus eaters, catching their “prey” through phagocytosis.

New York Times, September 24, 2020
— Read feature

Pandemic parenting
The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated mental health issues in one out of seven new mothers, according to research published in Frontiers in Global Women’s Health.

Forbes, June 19, 2020
— Read feature

Music and exercise
Study published in Frontiers in Psychology is first to show that listening to high-tempo music reduces the perceived effort involved in exercise and increases its benefits.

CNN, February 2, 2020
— Read feature
On social media

Frontiers has gained significant visibility within the academic community across all social media channels. In 2020, Frontiers articles were mentioned more than 400,000 times.

Top channels

2020 social media highlights

T cells and Covid-19
A study published in Frontiers in Immunology on how Cytokine storms and T cell counts may offer important clues on how to treat Covid-19.
241 likes | 489 retweets
— See tweet

Stress neurobiology
An overview of stress neurobiology published in Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience, including timing and duration of stress responses and clinical implications.
1,373 likes | 663 shares
— See Facebook post

Gut microbiome
Research published in Frontiers in Microbiology suggests changes in the gut microbiome could lead to non-intestinal-related autoimmune diseases.
1,336 likes | 638 shares
— See Facebook post

Paternal mental health
Results published in Frontiers in Psychiatry show fathers who are more involved in parenting are less likely to experience depressive symptoms.
724 likes | 157 retweets
— See tweet
Our peer review

Only the best science can solve the world’s biggest challenges. That’s why every article we publish goes through our rigorous quality checks and peer review.

Collaborative review process

Our state-of-the-art collaborative peer review forum allows authors and reviewers to connect online in real time so they can work together to improve the manuscript. In 2020, our average time from submission to decision was 90 days, with 85% of authors rating the review process as good or excellent.

90 days
Average time from submission to decision

32 days
Average publication time for accepted articles

89% of authors, 93% of reviewers and 89% of editors rated our collaborative review process as good or excellent

Authors
5,060 authors surveyed in 2020

Reviewers
3,576 reviewers surveyed in 2020

Editors
882 editors surveyed in 2020

Submissions, acceptances, rejections

The Frontiers collaborative review objectively certifies quality, validity and rigor of research. It is performed by an external editorial board of researchers, assisted by our peer review team and powered by our custom-built open science platform, featuring our artificial intelligence review assistant (AiRA). The review mandate does not focus on potential impact, nor are artificial acceptance or rejection rates imposed. Within this framework, the rejection rate for 2020 was on average 37% across all Frontiers journals, and up to 53% in some fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Submitted</th>
<th>Accepted</th>
<th>Rejected</th>
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<tr>
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<td>2020</td>
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<td>3,557</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>2,573</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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</tr>
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</table>
Our partnerships

We work with librarians, institutions, and funders around the world to support researchers who want to publish open access.

Institutional agreements

Institutional agreements simplify the process for authors wishing to publish in our journals and contribute to the growing number of research articles that are openly available to all.

Institutional memberships

We work with research institutions, libraries, consortia, and funders to support their researchers publish open access. 77 new institutional members joined us in 2020, including the University of Oxford, CERN and Bibliosan.

National agreements

We have five fully transparent national open access publishing agreements for research organizations and their researchers in Austria, Sweden, Qatar, the UK, and Norway.

240
Total institutional members

See all members
Publishing partnerships

We launched our publishing partnerships program in 2020, offering societies and institutions our open science platform and publishing expertise to help make their transition to open access a reality.

Partner journals

Public Health Reviews
Editors-in-Chief
- Raquel Lucas, Public Health Institute, University Porto
- Kasia Czabanowska, Maastricht University
- Sarah Mantwill, University of Lucerne

Pathology and Oncology Research
Editors-in-Chief
- József Timar, Semmelweis University
- László Kopper, Semmelweis University

Earth Science, Systems and Society
Chief Editor
- Kathryn Goodenough, British Geological Survey

International Journal of Public Health
Editors-in-Chief
- Nino Kuerczi, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute
- Andrea Madarasova Geckova, University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik
- Olaf Von Dern Knesebeck, University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf
Our technology

Despite our technology's promise, we are continuously innovating and evolving. For this reason, we ensure that all our customers are on the latest version of our products. This ensures that you can access all features and receive updates on a regular basis.

Product releases

2023

2022

2021

2020

2019

2018

2017

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2015

2014

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2011

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1980
Our outreach

Our outreach activities provide a more inclusive and collaborative way for scientists, educators, policymakers, and wider society to engage with scientific research.

Diversity and Inclusion

The global anti-racism protests triggered a demand for action not only in society at large, but also in science and the institutions associated with science. In response, we embarked on several editorial projects in 2020, highlighting research around revealing and reducing racial inequality, and promoting scientists of Black, Asian and ethnic minority groups.

Journals and sections

**Frontiers in Sociology**
- Race and Ethnicity
  - Specialty Chief Editor: Sin Yi Cheung, Cardiff University
  - Investigating the ways race, ethnicity and religion shape our societies.
  - See journal

**Frontiers in Education**
- Language, Culture, and Diversity
  - Specialty Chief Editor: Cristina Alvaro, San Diego State University
  - Understanding the role of language, culture, and diversity in education.
  - See journal

2020 article highlights

**Gendered racism in education**
- Research published in Frontiers in Education addressing gendered racism in educational leadership and professional development programs.
  - May 12, 2020 | 21,000 views
  - Read article

**Social media and prejudice**
  - June 12, 2020 | 30,000 views
  - Read article
Policy Labs

Our Policy Labs initiative strengthens the connection between scientific research and informed policymaking. The Covid-19 pandemic and the climate emergency are two challenges among many that we must now address.

2020 interview highlights

Jean Claude Burgelman
Editor-in-Chief of Frontiers Policy Labs

Jean Claude Burgelman, Professor of Open Science Policy at the Free University of Brussels and former Head of Unit for Open Science Policy at the European Commission, hosts in-depth conversations and analysis with experts in policy, business, and academia.

Robert-Jan Smits, Eindhoven University of Technology, explains the radical change Covid-19 has brought to the science-policy nexus.

November 26, 2020
— Watch

Jennifer Hansen, Microsoft, talks about the power of open data and the challenge of increasing data literacy.

December 7, 2020
— Watch

James Wilsdon, Research on Research Institute, discusses the speed and impact of the scientific response to Covid-19.

January 7, 2021
— Watch

Explore Policy Labs
Science for kids

Frontiers for Young Minds is a philanthropic outreach program involving young people aged 8-15 in the review process of real scientific papers and brings the latest, cutting-edge research into the classroom. The journal is available in English and Hebrew (with Arabic coming soon) and is generously supported by the Jacobs Foundation, the Patrick & Lina Drahri Foundation, and the King Abdullah University of Science Technology.

3,223 Young Minds

559 mentors

581 total articles

7,685,233 total views and downloads

2020 article highlights

See all articles

What is Covid-19?
What we know about SARS-CoV-2 so far and how to stay safe from the virus.
May 20, 2020 | 21,000 views
— Read article

Do Not Swat the Wasp!
Challenging what people think about wasps and why we should care about them.
January 10, 2020 | 17,000 views
— Read article

2020 collection highlights

See all collections

The learning brain
Current insights into the mechanisms of brain development, learning, and memory — and how to distinguish myths from the facts.
24 articles | 145,000 views
— See collection

Diversity of the microbial world
Answering the basic questions about microbial adaptation, biodiversity, and their relationships with other living beings.
10 articles | 70,000 views
— See collection
Our people

Our employees, known as ‘Frontons’, are all passionate about publishing and contribute to our mission of making science open so everyone can live healthy lives on a healthy planet.

Who we are

We actively embrace diversity with over 750 employees and more than 50 different nationalities. In 2020, we welcomed 78 new colleagues to the Frontiers family.

Our people by location

762 employees in total

Our people by department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>People</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Publishing</td>
<td>423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology and Engineering</td>
<td>268</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business and Admin</td>
<td>71</td>
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</table>

78
New hires in 2020
How we work

With offices in seven locations around the world, our employees are used to working with each other online — and throughout 2020 we were able to continue to support our editors, authors, and reviewers from our homes.

2020 workplace initiatives

In 2020, we introduced several new workplace initiatives to support our people during the pandemic and beyond. This included reimagining our office spaces and introducing more remote working.

Introducing more remote working

Our people now have the flexibility to choose where they want to work. And for those that live further away from the office, remote working will be available on a part- or full-time basis.

Prioritizing health and safety

We continue to monitor the pandemic closely and keep our employees informed of any new measures taken by Frontiers to help mitigate the spread of the virus.

Transforming our office spaces

More remote working offers the opportunity to rethink how we use our offices. When it’s safe to return, our workplaces will become “social hubs” with more meeting and event spaces to connect with colleagues.

Supporting mental health and wellbeing

Our Covid support team provides advice and assistance for employees struggling to cope with the pandemic. This includes flexible working arrangements for parents and resources to help us stay connected.