

Advancing Open-Access Science Education Through Responsible Citizen Science Journalism

Kate Stone - Science Connected

Science Connected, a bootstrapped 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was founded in response to a question: if science is for everyone, why are there so many paywalls around research findings? As a grad student, Kate had access to a wealth of research and information that many people never see. On the other side of that fence were researchers who struggled to share their discoveries with the world. This presentation discusses the progress, scope, and impact of GotScience, our online magazine, a project that makes science accessible to everyone, regardless of their background. Whether you're a member of an institution doesn't matter: if you have an interest in the sciences, GotScience enables everyone to participate in scientific education and conversation. By cooperating with researchers and faithfully representing their work, this publication aims to expand scientific discourse beyond its traditional boundaries in a responsible and sustainable way. GotScience is building a bridge between complex scientific discussions and accessible ideas for the future by delivering comprehensible research findings to the public for free. This volunteer-powered science communication project translates complex research findings into accessible insights so that everyone can work toward a sustainable future. Impact and Results: In our first year, we have collaborated with researchers, natural history museums, media partners, publishers, and citizen science projects to bring reliable, comprehensible science to a lay-audience of nearly 7,000 readers per month. We have provided more than 300 teachers with free science education enrichment materials to supplement grades 7-12 STEM curricula.

The Challenges of Being a Citizen Researcher ('Uh, Who Are You Exactly and Who Are You With??')

Ed Harris - Scleroderma Education Project Ltd

Part 1 ?" Patient: Start with being diagnosed at age 38 with a rare autoimmune disease (systemic scleroderma) that is progressive, disabling, disfiguring, and often fatal. Follow this with deterioration, despair, and hopelessness. Add a "pay it forward" story that started with a chance meeting on an airplane trip that leads to a new disease theory and treatment approach (that worked and was recently published as a case report). If this sounds like a plot from a movie, it is probably because it started with one ?" "Lorenzo's Oil" ?" an amazing true story about two parents who become "citizen researchers" and develop a new treatment for their son's rare disease. Part 2 ?" Citizen Researcher: Compared to my story as a patient/survivor, my journey from patient to "citizen researcher" advancing a new disease theory has been equally challenging. After developing a successful treatment for my rare disease in 1993, I became a patient educator / advocate and created a website that is now considered one of the most comprehensive source of research-based, up-to-date, information about scleroderma available to patients around the world. Recently I have become a published researcher and am now leading a team of top researchers on a quest to study the disease model I originally proposed in 1993. Our hope is that this research may lead to completely new ways to treat this disease that are more effective and with fewer risks than current, largely ineffective treatment approaches.

Citizen Science - Innovation in Open Science, Society and Policy

Aletta Bonn - Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research/ German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig; Muki Haklay - University College London; Susanne Hecker - Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research/German Centre f

The aim of this talk is to identify and explain the role of citizen science as promoting innovations in science, providing societal benefits, and contributing to the science-policy interface. Key questions for

C-05: Breaking Down Walls to Science Practice - ABSTRACTS

innovation at the Science-Policy interface are: What are the opportunities for citizen science to provide an input to better decision making? How is participation ensured across society and how does it lead to enhanced problem solving? We will debate the role of citizen science in the context of the wider agenda of open science and progress towards responsible research and innovation, two of the critical aspects of science policy today.