**Colloquium on Rethinking the Future of Scientific Communication**

Nader Rifai, Michael Keller, John Sack

The format of communicating scientific information through professional journals has changed very little since the late nineteenth century. Recent advances in information technology have revolutionized search and discovery of scientific information. Yet, neither the migration from paper to electronic publishing, nor the explosion of social media tools, has significantly altered the basic presentation format of scientific findings. By comparison, the popular press has undergone a transformation to better present and relay complex information to the general reader, whose expectations about how to find and use information may now be significantly different than they were just a few years ago. Why haven’t scientific research journals undergone this same transformation? How can we take advantage of technologies that exist and those that don’t as we look to the future of scientific communication?

In order to address these issues, *Clinical Chemistry*, Stanford University Libraries, and HighWire Press hosted a meeting on Stanford University campus in March 2012 to which 19 editors, librarians, publishers, graduate students, and leaders in the technology and communication industries were invited. A broad range of topics were discussed ranging from the desire for increased access to data, coupled with better ability to filter information and annotate electronically, to the merits and limitations of the peer-review process and the transitioning of today’s static publication format to an interactive one. The uniqueness of this exercise is the participation of HighWire Press, the leading ePublishing platform that facilitates the digital dissemination of nearly 1700 journals such as Science Magazine, the Journal of Biological Chemistry, the British Medical Journal, Genome Research, Journal of Cell Biology, PNAS, and Clinical Chemistry. HighWire Press, therefore, has the ability to transform some of these ideas into reality and potentially change the way we access and communicate scientific information.

To access the executive summary of this exercise, go to: [https://lib.stanford.edu/files/Colloquium.Summary.Final_.pdf](https://lib.stanford.edu/files/Colloquium.Summary.Final_.pdf)