eLife selects HighWire to build and host anticipated new open-access journal

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eLife, the new funder–researcher collaboration in science communication, has selected HighWire Press as the platform for its new open-access journal for life and biomedical science.

First announced in summer 2011, eLife is a researcher-led initiative for the best in science and science communication. Backed by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Max Planck Society, and the Wellcome Trust, the initiative’s first aim is to launch an open-access journal for outstanding advances in life science and biomedicine, which is also a platform for experimentation and showcasing innovation in research communication.

“To further our goals to serve science and scientists with our journal, it is essential that we select a technology platform that provides a solid foundation, but is also flexible and makes it possible to do more with research content,” said Randy Schekman, the Editor-in-Chief of eLife. “We’re confident that HighWire is the right technology partner for eLife.”

eLife will take full advantage of HighWire’s Open Platform, its strategic consulting services, and community networking opportunities. The powerful technology behind the platform offers eLife the flexibility to use open-source tools such as Drupal to develop the front-end display – to create widgets, mobile versions, interactive commentary, semantic enrichment, and more.

“HighWire’s deployment of open-source technology, commitment to interoperability, and enthusiasm to work with third-party developers gives eLife tremendous opportunities to explore new territory in research communication,” added Ian Mulvany, eLife’s Head of Technology. “We want eLife to become a catalyst for innovation – attracting and facilitating experimentation by the research community.”

“The HighWire Open Platform is designed for innovative publishers to find new ways to reach their audience,” said Tom Rump, Managing Director of HighWire. “We welcome the excitement this project brings to our co-development team, and are thrilled to be an active participant in advancing the conversation in the pursuit and exchange of knowledge.”

“HighWire is an established player hosting some of the most important journals in the world, and supporting a publishing community where open access is on the rise,” added Mark Patterson, eLife Managing Executive Editor. “We look forward to working with our colleagues to share experiences and best practices as we find our ways ahead in this exciting and ever-changing environment.”
For more information about eLife, visit http://www.elifesciences.org.

For more information about HighWire, visit http://highwire.stanford.edu

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About eLife

eLife is a unique collaboration between the funders and practitioners of research to communicate ground-breaking discoveries in the life and biomedical sciences in the most effective way. Set for launch in late 2012, the eLife journal will be a platform for maximising the reach and influence of new discoveries and to showcase new approaches to the presentation, use, and assessment of research. As an open-access journal, eLife will deliver access to content for free, online, immediately on publication, and will encourage maximum possible reach and utility of the content by publishing under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which is emerging as the gold standard for open-access publishing. Learn more at elifesciences.org.

About HighWire

At the forefront of strategic scholarly publishing, HighWire Press provides digital content development and hosting solutions to the scholarly publishing community. A division of the Stanford University Libraries, HighWire partners with influential societies, university presses, and other independent publishers, sharing ideas and innovations in publishing, and producing definitive online versions of high-impact, peer-reviewed journals, books, reference works, and other scholarly content. The underlying infrastructure of the HighWire Open Platform is Web-services-oriented, flexible, and permeable, allowing publishers to easily layer new software and services on their sites to meet the ever-changing needs of today's online and mobile readers. highwire.stanford.edu | Twitter @highwirepress