Major European bioinformatics initiative ELIXIR embraces Open Science publishing

ELIXIR, a major initiative to develop the infrastructure needed to coordinate and sustain Europe’s bioinformatics resources, is the latest organization to endorse Open Science by reporting their outputs on the open publishing platform F1000Research. The partnership is especially fitting, as the Open Access, Open Data, Open Source and Open Peer Review values that are central ELIXIR’s mission and community engagement strategy, are also central to F1000Research’s unique model. Further details of the collaboration are detailed in an Editorial (http://f1000research.com/articles/4-1471/v1) published today.

The ELIXIR Gateway on F1000Research comprises two separate channels – one for publishing ELIXIR’s research and strategy articles, and another for their other outputs such as academic posters and presentations. The content will be of particular interest to scientists working across the life sciences in academia and industry, as well as bioinformaticians and experts in research data management.

The Gateway will feature work developed through ELIXIR’s five technical platforms - tools, data, compute, interoperability and training, as well as ELIXIR strategy documents, technology developments and reviews. An important part of the Gateway will be publication output from ELIXIR-EXCELERATE, a €19m HORIZON 2020 project to implement ELIXIR’s scientific program.
All articles will be published in line with *F1000Research*’s immediate and transparent publication model, regardless of the article size, type, or perceived impact. Readers can use the channel-tracking feature to be automatically notified when new content is published and when status changes are made to individual articles, such as new referee reports or new versions.

Niklas Blomberg, Director of ELIXIR, said: “The amount of data produced by life science experiments is increasing exponentially and it is estimated that by 2020 it will be generated at up to one million times the current rate.

“To make best use of this data, it is vital to integrate it and make it readily available to scientists. Rapid, transparent communication of our efforts to the wider research community is critical to ELIXIR success and so we are delighted to announce this new partnership. The immediate publication and open peer review provided by *F1000Research* are ideal tools to ensure community engagement and stimulate discussion. They will prove a critical resource in achieving our outreach goals.”

Rebecca Lawrence, Managing Director of F1000, a community of more than 11,000 experts in the life sciences, which launched F1000Research, said: “ELIXIR’s bid to make vast amounts of biological data easily accessible to scientists is perfectly aligned with F1000Research’s Open Science objectives.

“We look forward to working with ELIXIR on this exciting new project, which will not only share a wealth of valuable information but also enable scientists to get articles published quickly and transparently for peer review.”

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About F1000Research

*F1000Research* is an open science publishing platform for life scientists that offers immediate publication and transparent peer review, avoiding editorial bias and ensuring the inclusion of all
source data. This process helps scientists to avoid the traditional, anonymous, pre-publication peer-review process that can cause long delays before new results become visible.

All articles must pass an initial in-house quality check prior to publication on F1000Research. Following open, invited peer review where the referee’s name and affiliation and the referee reports are published alongside the article, authors can make revisions that are then published as new article versions.

Since its launch in January 2013, F1000Research has published more than 1000 articles across the life sciences, written by 4,000 authors. For more details on F1000Research go to www.f1000research.com

About ELIXIR

ELIXIR, the European life-science infrastructure for biological information, is a unique initiative to consolidate Europe’s national centres, services, and core bioinformatics resources into a single, coordinated infrastructure.

ELIXIR brings together Europe’s major life-science data archives and, for the first time, connects these with national bioinformatics infrastructures throughout ELIXIR’s member states. By coordinating local, national and international resources the ELIXIR infrastructure will meet the data-related needs of Europe’s 500,000 life-scientists. ELIXIR supports users addressing the Grand Challenges in diverse domains ranging from marine research through plants and agriculture science to health and biomedical domain. www.elixir-europe.org