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## Table of Contents

Research Trends Editorial Board

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**PAGE 4**  
Behind the data



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**Speech is silver, silence is golden:  
The challenges of scientific communication**

The relationship between scientists and science journalists can sometimes be uncomfortable. Much of this stems not only from what is said, but, more importantly, what is left unsaid. Research Trends examines three cases in which scientists have taken different approaches to the challenges of communicating via the media.

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**PAGE 5**  
Research trends



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**Buckyballs, nanotubes and graphene:  
On the hunt for the next big thing**

Known only as a theoretical structure for many years, recent breakthroughs in the isolation of graphene (a one-atom thick, two-dimensional sheet of carbon atoms) has led to an explosion of literature on its unique properties and potential applications. Research Trends investigates the massive growth in publications on graphene and how the field's most prolific researchers migrated to it from closely related topics.

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**PAGE 7**  
Reporting back



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**Metric mad: the future of scholarly evaluation indicators**

Hosted by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the "Scholarly Evaluation Metrics: Opportunities and Challenges" workshop took place in late 2009 in Washington D.C. Ashley Higgs, on behalf of Research Trends, looks back at what the participants discussed, agreed and disagreed on.

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**PAGE 9**  
Expert opinion



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**Letters from the past**

While scholars have always built networks to disseminate their ideas, their media have changed over time. During the Enlightenment, academics exchanged letters within a forum known as the Republic of Letters. For the first time, this "Republic" has now been mapped. Research Trends meets the "cartographers".

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**PAGE 10**  
People Focus



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**In recognition of peer reviewers**

With increasing pressure on researchers' time, many are finding it hard to devote the necessary hours to peer review. Journal editors are therefore having trouble finding expert reviewers for an increasing number of manuscript submissions. Research Trends looks at requests from the scientific community for the essential task of peer review to be recognized.