



2017 IN REVIEW

OUR VISION & MISSION

VISION

- We **believe** that science journalism will help make science accountable.

MISSION

- **Advance** science journalism as a bridge between science, scientists and the public.
- **Promote** the role of science journalists as key players in civil society and democracy.
- **Improve** the quality of science reporting, promote standards and support science journalists globally.



MEET THE WFSJ BOARD



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Egypt



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Germany



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59 Member Associations
10,000 Science Journalists Globally



NEW MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS 2017

- **Mexico:** The Mexican Network of Science Journalists (redMPC)
- **Nepal:** Nepal Forum of Science Journalists (NFSJ)
- **Croatia:** Croatian Association of Science Writers (CASW)
- **Guinée:** Association des Journalistes Scientifiques de Guinée (AJSG)
- **Ghana:** Medical Journalists' Association Ghana (MJAG)



SUPPORTING OUR MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- Guinean Member Association receives \$ 350 CAD in **financial support** to build a new website.
- **Twitter for a Week** (June - July 2017) with tweets from USA, Montenegro and UK Member Associations
- Free access to **Wiley Online Library** with 1,600+ journals for all our Member Associations and their own members.
- Launch in 2018 of a set of **free online webinars** with Wiley on Infectious diseases, Data & Technology, Life Sciences, etc.
- Free access to **Taylor & Francis science journals** with a 10 article press pass – To come in May 2018

ONLINE RESOURCES



Toolkit on Dementia for journalists

- Allows journalists to cover dementia with knowledge of the facts
- Toolbox has a special section on covering dementia in Sub-Saharan Africa
- **Partners:** World Dementia Council & WYLD Network
- wfsj.org/dementia/



Toolkit on Nuclear Safety for journalists

- Understanding the facts behind nuclear Safety
- Key information on basic concepts events and controversies
- Contacts of European Nuclear Safety Experts
- **Partner:** ENEN Association
- wfsj.org/nuclear/

ONLINE RESOURCES



Health Toolbox for African journalists

- Connecting African journalists with local infectious disease experts
- **Fact sheets** on 12 infectious diseases such as Ebola, yellow fever, malaria, tuberculosis, dengue, measles, etc.
- **Partner:** IDRC
- healthtoolbox.wfsj.org/



SciJo an interactive online game

- Allow players to test and review their health journalism skills and basic knowledge of concepts related to disease outbreaks
- **Partner:** IDRC
- healthtoolbox.wfsj.org/game_scijo/

ONLINE RESOURCES



MOOC on Science Controversies: The Case of Vaccines

- How can journalists search for the most credible institution, scientific journal, scientific paper and scientists?
- **300 persons** participated
- **Partners:** Concordia University & Université Laval

GUIDE PRATIQUE SUR L'HÉPATITE C À L'ATTENTION DES JOURNALISTES

Hepatitis C. A Worldwide Health Story

- Translation into French of our online toolkit on hepatitis C by journalists for journalists to expose the complex issues thwarting prevention and treatment of this disease.
- **Partners:** Agence autonome de l'Inserm (ANRS)

RESEARCH

Publication of report on
How Did African Journalists Experience the Ebola Crisis?

Aim: To better understand the barriers and success factors experienced by journalists covering disease outbreak situations.

Research included:

- Qualitative survey & interviews
- Content based on survey done among 130 plus French and English journalists, communicators, and other stakeholders involved
- Report reveals that African journalists lacked credible information on infectious diseases during the 2014 Ebola crisis in West Africa.

Partners: IDRC & the Department of Journalism at Concordia University

What did we learn ?

81%

of journalists surveyed faced challenges while covering Ebola.

93%

of participating journalists agreed that the credible use of information during an outbreak such as Ebola needs to be improved.

HOW DID AFRICAN JOURNALISTS EXPERIENCE THE EBOLA CRISIS?

The unprecedented 2014 Ebola (EVD) viral epidemic in West Africa was not just a health crisis. It was also a communication crisis. With the help of better communication and access to information, many deaths could have been avoided.

Between September 2016 and January 2017, the Department of Journalism at Concordia University performed a qualitative survey (37 participants), face-to-face semi-structured interviews (23 participants), and an open access online survey (133 participants) among African journalists, in both English and French, to better understand the barriers and success factors experienced by journalists covering outbreak situations.*

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Main challenges journalists faced:



Collaboration
Lack of cooperation from governments

Contacting experts
Unavailability of health professionals

Timely information
Lack of accurate information in a health and trust crisis

Centralized information
Absence of clear-cut centralized information

Most difficult sources to access:



Future needs:

In preparation for the next outbreak:

Increase capacity building through mentorship and training, and by improving available techniques on reporting health crises.



Increase real-time collaboration and the use of information verification tools between journalists and experts.

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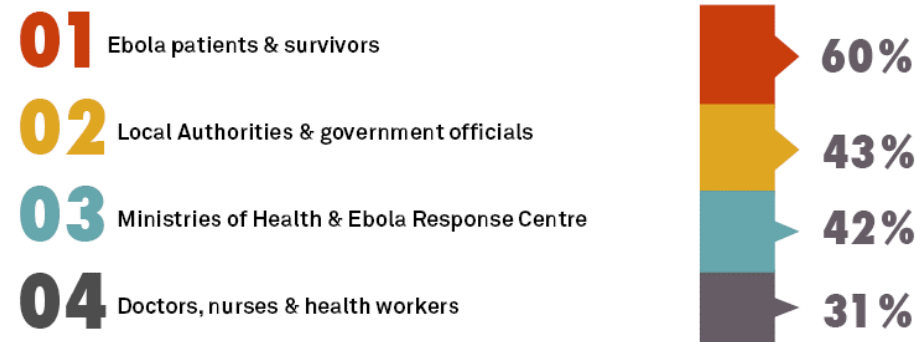
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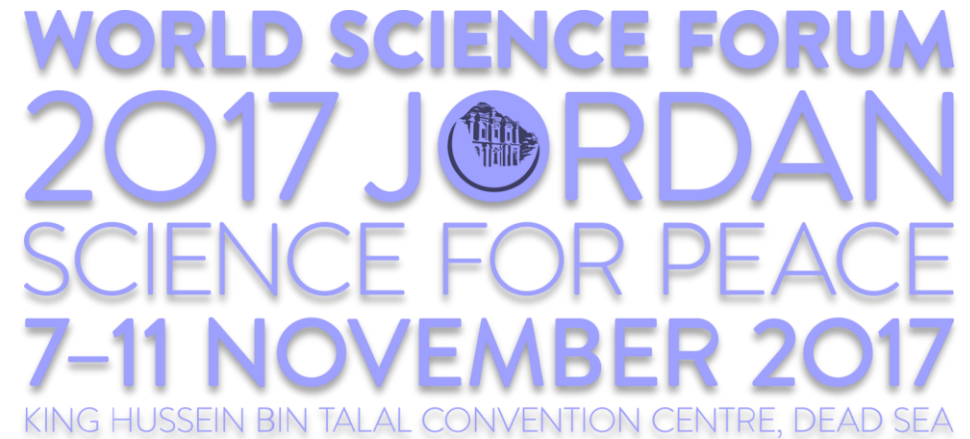
* The complete survey outcomes are available in the Report "An Exploration of the Lived Experience of African Journalists During the 2014 Ebola Crisis"

EVENTS



Digital Platform Meeting on the Health Information Crisis

- Get a better understanding on **how public health organisations can contribute to alleviate health information crises.**
- The meeting confirmed that many journalists all over the World lack the time to learn to use existing health data sets.
- **Solution:** building a digital support for science journalists making sense of science information in Africa.



8th World Science Forum Jordan, 7-11 November, 2017

- WFSJ is on selection committee for Travel & Accommodation Grant Scheme for 25 Journalists to attend the 8th WSF in Jordan.
- 300 plus applications received

PARTNERSHIP



L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science 20th Anniversary Publication

- Major discoveries done by L'Oréal laureates in the physical sciences over 20 years (1998-2018)
- Canadian journalist, Susan Usher, contributed for WFSJ to a comprehensive overview with 20 women scientists.

"The success of vaccination strategies largely relies on having good information about the field viruses and the capacity to update the vaccines."



Professor Huihui Chen, 2019 Laureate for Asia-Pacific

you to some of the women scientists in medicine, biology, genetics, chemistry, astronomy and physics whose work has been recognized by the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award each year since the programme was inaugurated in 1998. You will meet Professors Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, who, in a groundbreaking partnership, developed the CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing system. Professor Huihui Chen from Harbin China, whose research has brought innovative vaccines

against bird flu, Professor Jil Farrar from South Africa, whose work on recombination plasmids brings hope for drought-resistant crops in Africa, and Professor Amosah Gurib-Fakim, who investigated medicinal plants in Mauritius, created the Centre for Phytotherapy Research and, in 2015, was elected President of Mauritius. In 2015, these researchers, and the many others you will encounter here, are each determined to put their talents to work to preserve and improve life on Earth.



Professor Deborah S. Jin, 2012 Laureate for North America

"Quantum computing will help us understand how nature works at the chemical level."



Professor Michèle Simmons, 2017 Laureate for Asia-Pacific



Professor Jennifer Doudna, 2015 Laureate for North America

"But women are still not being given the opportunity to excel. Governments should start thinking seriously about how they can help women."

Professor Grace Gheorghe-Taylor, 1998 Laureate from Africa and Arab States



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Life with heart disease

Success in reducing mortality from cardiovascular disease means the increasing number of people are living with, rather than dying from, the disease. According to the American Heart Association, there are currently 82 million people in the US living with cardiovascular disease, including the after-effects of heart attacks or strokes (1). Along with increased prevention efforts, researchers and clinicians are now focusing on ways to improve the outcomes of cardiac interventions, so that people are better able to manage symptoms and produce long-term.

Cardiac rehabilitation, provided in hospital following an intervention, or in the community in the weeks and months after discharge, has been found to make a significant difference. Nancy Wenger co-edited the 1995 Guidelines Panel on Cardiac Rehabilitation for the US Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, a particularly rewarding task, as the culmination of several decades of research and advocacy to move rehabilitation beyond the hospital phase (2). For researchers, the ultimate reward for years of passion and hard work is to produce real and widespread change. As Wenger stated upon publication of the guidelines: "The enormous significance of this work is that it is an important component of the continuum of cardiac care, with cardiac rehabilitation being a Class Ia recommendation in all contemporary cardiovascular clinical practice guidelines."

WCSJ2017 /// OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

- 1,400** science journalists and science writers from more than **70** countries
- 8** keynote addresses from headliners from science, government and philanthropy
- 7** themes with **61** plenaries and breakout sessions featuring a diverse array of **283** speakers
- 4** workshops on developing professional skills for better reporting on science & technology
- 76** travel fellowships to support international colleagues to attend the World Conference
- 22** student Journalism fellows from **13** nations who created a set of **52** online stories
- 60** lunches with a Scientist and **lab tours** at UC Berkeley and UC San Francisco
- 18** session videos created especially for post-conference viewing + **6** translations of videos
- 36** exhibitors at the conference venue's exhibition hall
- 15** post-conference field trips



WCSJ2017 /// WFSJ WORKSHOPS



Workshop on Feeding the World: Achieving Sustainable Agriculture

- To acquire basic knowledge about food security innovation
- **Trainer:** Harry Surjadi, director of Society of Indonesian Science Journalists
- **Partner:** The Research Councils UK (RCUK)



Workshop on Emerging Infectious Diseases: Post Zika in Latin America and Caribbean

- Addressing controversies in the effects of an unknown virus, such as Zika in LAC
- **Trainer:** Nora Bär of La Nación and president of the Argentinian Network of Science Journalism (RADPC)
- **Partner:** The Research Councils UK (RCUK)

THE WFSJ IN NUMBERS /// 2017

10
Newsletters

59
Member Associations

73
Blog Articles

2 200
Facebook Followers

10 000
Science Journalists Globally

48 000
Unique Website Page Views

4 200
Twitter Followers

15 600
New Website Users

60 000
Tweet Impressions Monthly

WFSJ.org



@WFSJ



World Federation of
Science Journalists