

COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The preLights community is made up of more than 250 early career researchers (PhD students, postdocs, PIs in their first couple of years) in the biological field who review, highlight and comment on preprints (non-peer-reviewed manuscripts). The community initiative was launched in February 2018 by The Company of Biologists, a not-for-profit publishing organization, to promote the adoption of preprints in the life sciences and to give early career researchers the chance to hone their scientific writing skills and help them network. Community members also give presentations and workshops about preprints/open science, as well as write blog posts about the topic. They interact in an invite-only Slack channel and their work is published on the preLights webpage.

- KNOWLEDGE GENERATION
- STANDARD SETTING
- SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- ACADEMIA-POLICY INTERFACE

► Website: prelights.biologists.com

COMMUNITY BASICS



250 core members
1000 people receive the newsletter
These numbers are an estimate



Mostly online with some
in-person events



International



Partly open, anyone may
request to join but access
restricted to members only



Scientific society /
professional association
convening a community of
practice

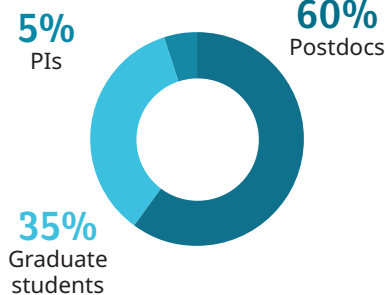
COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

Community Management

Community management is provided by 1 FTE **preLight Community Manager** with input from line manager and members at the company (4-5 people). The **Marketing Associate** helps with marketing-related issues and the **Scientific Communications Officer** helps occasionally with writing content, promoting the community/platform on various channels (e.g. WeChat).



Members



Community Configuration

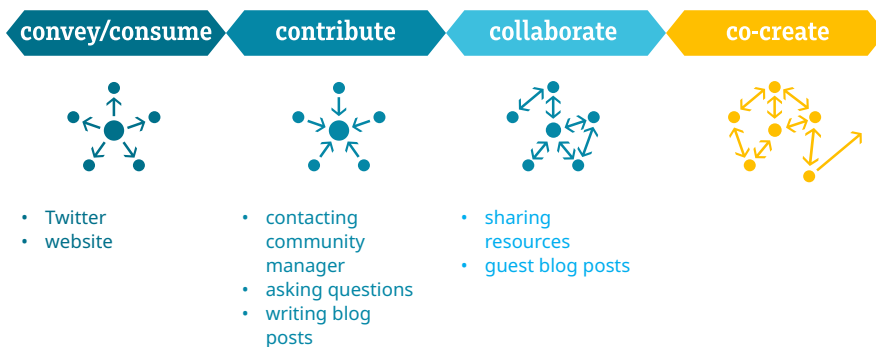
preLights

PROGRAMMING

The CSCCE Community Participation Model describes four modes of member engagement that can occur within a community: CONVEY/CONSUME, CONTRIBUTE, COLLABORATE, and CO-CREATE. All modes may be present at once, with some members interacting in multiple modes - or a community may have member engagement that falls into only some of the modes described. The model enables the mapping of community member behaviors to programming and other infrastructural support that the community manager, convening organization, or funder may provide to the community. For more information, see the [CSCCE community participation model](#).

IN THIS COMMUNITY

Online activities include discussions in Slack, group emails, and webinars. Offline activities include conferences.



OUTPUTS & EVALUATION

✓ **Success looks like regular content from members, active and regular engagement within the community and with the wider scientific community, member-driven activities and products, and external recognition.**

Evaluation and Reporting

- Reports for leadership or funders
- Community member surveys
- Community member interviews

Challenges

- Staff turnover
- Member turnover

Opportunities

- New events
- Diversity digital engagement

Successes over the last year

- **Growth** – adding new members
- **Engagement** – increased activity of members (commenting or attending)
- **Productivity** – co-creating community outputs
- **Engagement** – in-person event
- **Recognition** – awards/articles/invitations
- **Recognition** – members see value



COMMUNITY TOOLBOX

Communications

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Email | Twitter |
| Slack | Facebook |
| MailChimp | Zoom |
| Blog | LinkedIn |

Productivity

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Adobe Suite | Survey Monkey |
| Google Drive | Google Analytics |

FUNDING

100%
Parent organization



Funding Streams

- 100% parent organization (The Company of Biologists)