Culture-shifting new initiative to make 'open science' a reality
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Sharing in science has always been plagued by commercial and time-related concerns, from the secret, coded notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci, to Sir Isaac Newton's accusations of "stolen" calculus research. However, Mr Newman said the concerns around open science are far outweighed by the benefits. Some researchers are deterred by the perceived time burden of sharing and its impact on publishing potential.

"It can feel like a burden at first, but there are many online tools to help with open science. Once I became familiar with these practices, these skills are simple to implement as a usual part of my analysis pipeline," Mr Newman said.

"I'm excited to get on board with this open science movement as much as possible early in my career. My most recently submitted paper will be fully accessible, including all related raw data, analysis scripts and paradigm code open source, so my results are reproducible," he added.

Lead researcher Dr Richard D Morey of Cardiff University said the key to enacting genuine change in current sharing practices is the collective action of reviewers.

"Although many researchers are excited about creating a more open scientific culture, evaluation of openness has not traditionally been part of the peer-review process," Dr Morey said. "The Initiative is all about telling reviewers 'Yes, we can do this.'" Reviewers who agree are encouraged to add their names to the PRO website. "The signatures are an important part of the Initiative, so that reviewers know they aren't acting alone."

Dr Morey and Mr Newman are pleased with scientific community's enthusiastic response to the PRO initiative, which has already received over 200 peer reviewer signatures.

The PRO paper has been published in the Royal...
More information: — opennessinitiative.org/

— The Peer Reviewers’ Openness Initiative:
  Incentivising Open Research Practices through Peer Review, Royal Society Open Science,
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