

Newsletters

NL #1 2025 Public Science Literacy, Volume XIV, Issue 1 (early release)

Some questions we would like to address in this newsletter include:

- How can the public become better educated and equipped to understand risks related to science?
- How can minority scientists be more engaged in advising and data collection for research in education relating to science policy that results in more Black and Latino persons as participants in medical research studies?
- How does science misinformation and questionable research affect public education and trust?
- What are innovative and effective ways of communicating risks from the chemicals present in our lives

Is information like that below used by the Center of Disease Control and others in communication meaningful to the average person to better understand risk or make a behavior change? Should the culture of the audience shape the message?

- If one in 10,000 people were infected in a population of 300,000,000 it would result in 30,000 infected people.
- Death rates from car accidents per 100,000 persons vary by country. For example, in North Korea it is 24 deaths per 100,000 persons, while in Poland it is 5.0 and in the US 12.9. So how useful is this data to the average person?
- Firearms killed more children and teens, ages 1 to 17, than any other cause including car crashes and cancer.

Is there need to change how scientific information is communicated? We invite article of about 600 – 700 words from educators, policy makers, and scientists by

January 24, 2025

White Papers

WP # 2025 **Plastics, our Present, and Future**, Issue 1 (early release)

Are polymers and plastics still the future despite environmental risks? Benefits afforded from the widespread use of plastics need to be reconciled with their negative risks to the environment and public health and their use as composite materials for construction.



Polymers also play a pivotal role in enhancing the performance, texture, stability, and efficacy of beauty products. For example, polymers are crucial in cosmetics, and the industry is making great strides towards sustainability. Many global plastics consist of polymers with carbon–carbon backbones, whose environmental persistence and low cost have resulted in a massive reservoir of plastic waste that resides in landfills and the environment. Benefits afforded from the widespread use of plastics need to be reconciled with their negative risks to the environment and public health.

- How are communities of climate innovators using polymer science and technology to eradicate pollution and benefit lives?
- How can social and research scientists bring greater awareness to the threats to human health leading to better policy and public decisions?

Many plastics consist of polymers with carbon–carbon backbones, whose environmental persistence and low cost have resulted in a massive reservoir of plastic waste that resides in landfills and the environment.

The widespread use of plastics and resulting waste across Africa makes it a highly important regional environmental and human health issue. As Sub-Saharan Africa faces significant challenges from climate change, it is essential to incorporate environmental education into school curricula. This includes teaching students about sustainable practices, environmental stewardship, renewable energy, and the importance of biodiversity.

We invite articles of about 800 words from subject matter experts that illustrate how polymer science creates inclusive careers in research and manufacturing along with environmental challenges and remedies for environmental equity.

Due date is **January 24, 2025**