



# Report of AIBS Publications

Dept.

May 2009

Tim Beardsley  
Editorial Director  
AIBS Publications



American Institute  
of Biological Sciences

## *BioScience and ActionBioscience.org*

*BioScience*: 11 issues/ yr, free to AIBS members. Content online at Caliber and BioOne. Archive in JSTOR. Most content is peer-reviewed. Impact Factor 4.083. Most-downloaded journal in BioOne.

*ActionBioscience.org*: Free English/Spanish Web site. Peer-reviewed. 188 learner-oriented, issue-based articles and interviews. 48 free lessons. Over 2.2 million hits per year.

## *BioScience*

- Most categories of articles are peer-reviewed; authors pay page charges of \$60/page
- C. 170 submissions/year, fewer than 50 percent accepted. Numbers seem roughly stable
- Two special series of invited articles are now being published: Field Stations, and 21st Century Directions in Biology
- Special section on biological carbon sequestration now being written

## *BioScience online*

- Hosted by Caliber for subscribing libraries since January 2009, with concomitant increase in usability (fully searchable XML files)
- BioOne: new platform in January, also with an improvement in usability and appearance
- Non-critical technical issues with dois will be addressed in August
- New AIBS Web site design expected soon should further improve AIBS members' experience of *BioScience online*

## Survey of *BioScience* readers

- Readers' favorite topics were conservation and ecology; least favorite were molecular techniques and cell biology. Non-members of AIBS had the strongest preferences
- Features and Overviews were the most popular article categories
- Members would read *BioScience* less if it were online only; non-members would not

## Survey of *BioScience* readers (2)

- Nonmembers somewhat open to publishing more primary research, if this does not mean fewer synthetic Overviews
- Members generally less open to publishing more primary research
- Most respondents in a free response expressed a strong preference that *BioScience* should stick to its strength, chiefly Overviews

## Revenue enhancement

*BioScience* subscriptions have fallen this decade (along with those of most journals).

- Revenues from BioOne continue to increase
- UC Press is well-placed to market institutional subscriptions to *BioScience* overseas and individual subscriptions on newsstands
- UC Press will sell advertising

## *BioScience* initiatives

- Develop bundles of articles for sale as marked PDFs on Caliber, with links from *ActionBioscience.org* to capture some of its large number of page hits
- Re-apply for listing in Medline, as this would make *BioScience* more attractive to cell biologists
- Re-examine *BioScience*'s “Organisms from Molecules to the Environment” tag line

## *BioScience* Initiatives (2)

- Let member societies know that *BioScience* is open to submissions across a broad range
- Let member societies know that *BioScience* is open to appointing additional editorial board members who can recruit articles

en español

- ▶ topic directory
- ▶ about us
- ▶ donate
- ▶ announcements
- ▶ e-newsletter
- ▶ reprint policy
- ▶ your feedback
- ▶ search

## educator resources



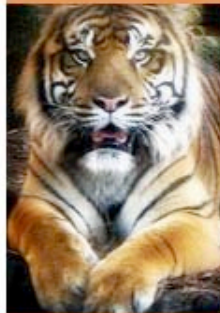
lessons • articles  
blog • media

actionbioscience.org

updated May 03, 2009

## THE BIOSCIENCE CHALLENGES: How do these issues affect your life?

click a topic below for peer-reviewed articles and links



### biodiversity

Why preserve life's variety?



### environment

How fragile is our planet?



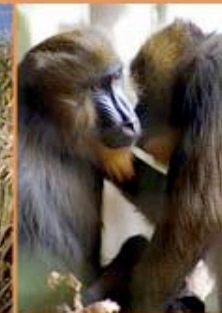
### genomics

What does the genome reveal?



### biotechnology

How is biotech changing the world?



### evolution

What is life's history on Earth?



### new frontiers

Why is it the age of biology?

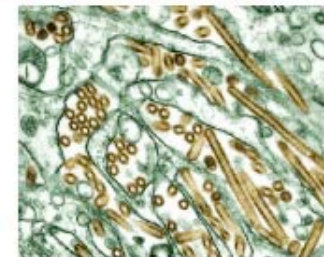
## FEATURED ARTICLES

- ▶ the globalization of disease
- ▶ using microbes in forensics to solve cases
- ▶ the consequences of using antibiotics
- ▶ bringing back the mammoth by cloning

YEAR of SCIENCE 2009 Explore. Empower. Engage...

## WHY DO PANDEMICS OCCUR?

I think most emergent diseases are either newly described or increasing in their prevalence and range. The reason why we think that is most likely is that the RNA

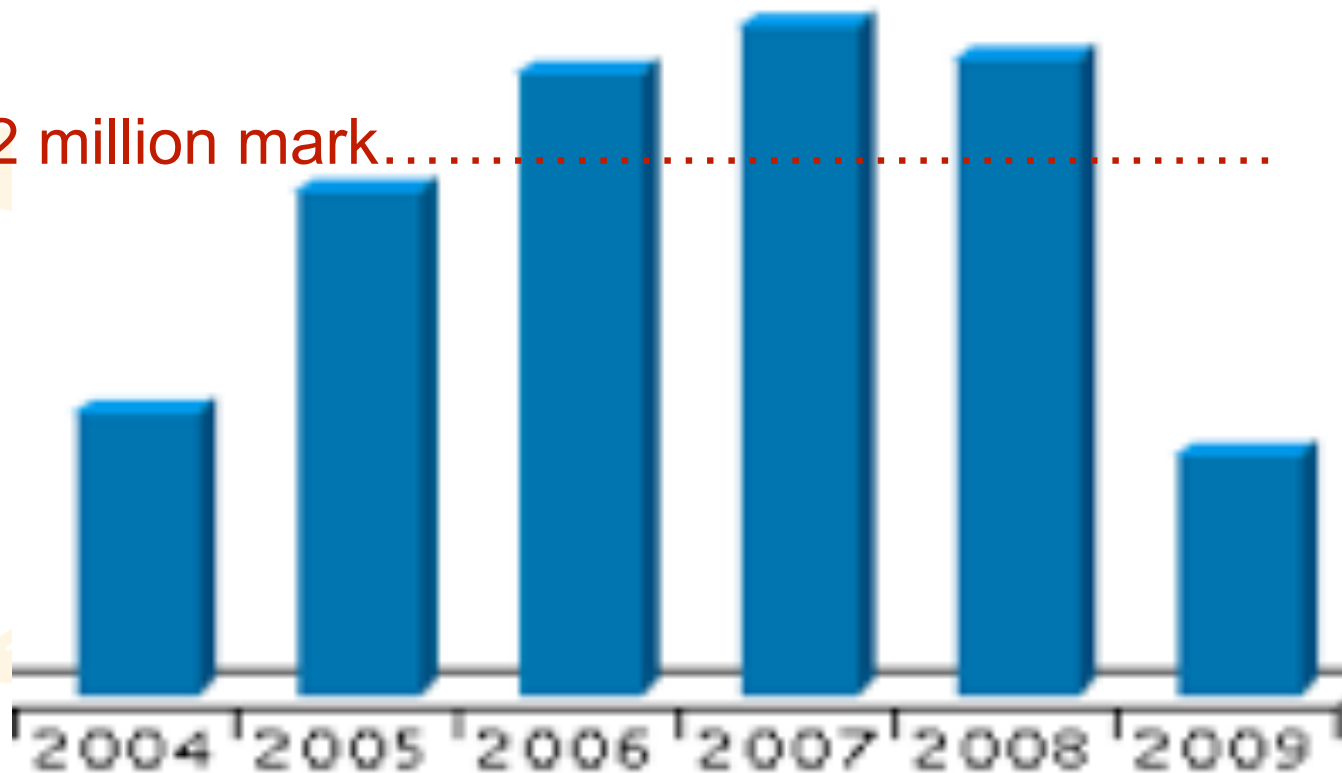


[ribonucleic acid] viruses<sup>1</sup> evolve much faster than an antiviral. Essentially, an RNA virus will evolve in six logs faster than human DNA. And the more you evolve, the more you mutate, the more you are able to generate mutations that will adapt you to new environments like a new host species. And, ...

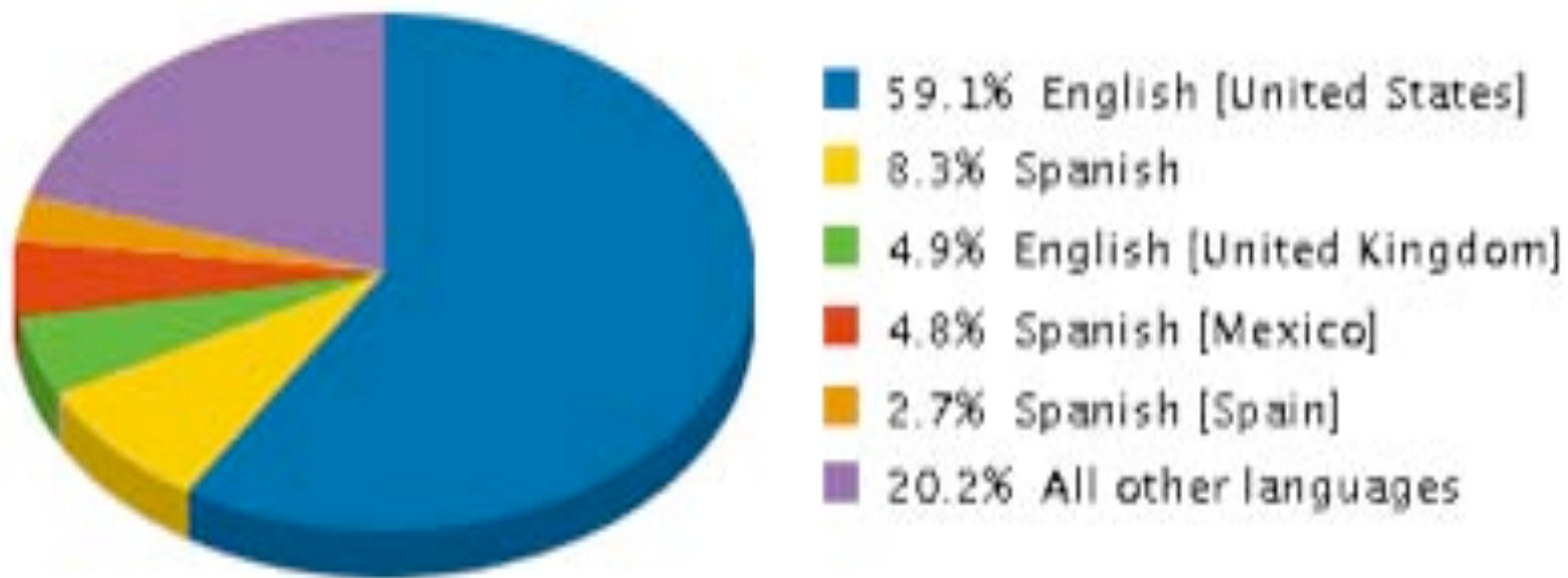
READ THE ARTICLE ▶

## *ActionBioscience.org* Page Views: 2004 to May 1, 2009

2 million mark.....



## 2008 Statistics: Languages



## *ActionBioscience.org*

- Major redesign and move to Movable Type in 2008 greatly improved appearance of site
- Many visitors from Spanish-speaking countries
- Spanish mirror version of the site expected to go live within a few weeks
- Efforts now focused on expanding and updating content across the site

## *ActionBioscience.org* initiatives

- We are considering developing “premium” content that would require a payment for access
- We may ask educational institutions where professors include articles in “electronic course packs” to purchase a site license for such use
- We will devise some formula, perhaps an archive, to represent some older articles as “classics” and to update them where possible