

Correspondence

China's reviewers need unique IDs

Hundreds of millions of people in China share the same 100 surnames, which often confounds the identification of authors on research papers. In my experience as a member of the editorial board of *Cell Death & Disease* (published by Springer Nature), this makes it harder for Western journals to find potential reviewers from China on the basis of their publication record.

Compounding the problem, many authors in China use different databases from those used in other countries. That is why, for instance, Publons lists only about 15,000 reviewers in China versus 8,000 in Spain, despite China having nearly 5 times as many publications in the international PubMed database. In addition, Chinese institutional websites do not always offer an English translation. Finally, corresponding Chinese authors frequently provide only non-institutional e-mail addresses because these might be more reliable.

I therefore urge potential reviewers from China to make themselves more visible to the international scientific community by registering with ResearchGate, Scopus, Google Scholar, Loop or ORCID.

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Treating inoperable brain tumours

In Germany, the use of photodynamic therapy (PDT) avoids many of the drawbacks you highlight in managing brain cancers (*Nature* **561**, S59–S61; 2018). For example, we are able to reach deep-seated tumours, as well as those for which surgery is impossible or impractical.

We use the same PDT agent and delivery that you describe. The difference is in the timing of

light application, which replaces, rather than follows, surgery. The light is delivered to the entire tumour through stereotactically placed fibres (see, for example, H. Stepp and W. Stummer *Lasers Surg. Med.* **50**, 399–419; 2018). Because the PDT agent targets tumour cells, the treatment spares healthy brain tissue.

In addition, PDT stimulates the patient's immune system to kill residual cancer cells (see, for example, A. D. Garg and P. Agostinis *Photochem. Photobiol. Sci.* **13**, 474–487; 2014). These immune-stimulatory effects are maximized because our method leaves the entire PDT-treated tumour mass inside the brain.

This approach is showing a promising increase in patients' long-term survival in feasibility trials. Combining PDT with immune-checkpoint inhibition might further improve outcomes.

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South Africa tackles invasive plants

Increased investment in biological control is already helping to counter the negative impacts of invasive species on South Africa's rich biodiversity and ecological infrastructure (see *Nature* **563**, 164–165; 2018). Expertise and experience are prevailing on several battlefronts to drive invasive plants back to manageable levels.

The report from the South African National Biodiversity Institute in Pretoria offers insight into the success of biological-control strategies (see go.nature.com/2vt7smh). Fifteen invasive-plant species or taxa are now completely controlled and 19 are substantially under control. Although this is fewer than 10% of the 382 listed invasive plants,

those targeted are among the most environmentally damaging species, including cacti and water weeds (see, for example, H. Kaplan *et al.* *Bothalia-African Biodivers. Conserv.* **47**, a2149; 2017). Examples of such tactics include the release of insect agents that target seed production in invasive plants (see F. A. C. Impson *et al.* *Afr. Entomol.* **19**, 186–208; 2011).

The government has committed 68 million rand (US\$4.7 million) over 3 years to South Africa's Centre for Biological Control in Grahamstown, which underscores the importance it attaches to safeguarding biodiversity and water resources against invasive species.

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High seas can't wait for Arctic treaty

The Arctic is one of the regions that will be regulated through a treaty on marine biodiversity in the high seas that is currently under negotiation at the United Nations. This global treaty will integrate existing networks and institutions and make them adopt common environmental standards. It will also encourage them to work together to fill gaps in the understanding necessary for a regulatory framework. Meanwhile, governance should become less fragmented to help speed up action against the environmental pressures on the region (see *Nature* **562**, 163; 2018).

For example, regional actors could take immediate measures, as in the recent Central Arctic Ocean fisheries process that led to an effective precautionary agreement (see go.nature.com/2qfjnf2). Arctic coastal states should use the treaty process as a stimulus to maintain a robust stewardship by strengthening and harmonizing regional

governance. Rapid, ambitious and concerted regional and international responses to sustainability challenges in the Arctic would inspire other regions where the impacts of climate change might not be so visible or imminent.

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Stolen colon sounds the cancer alarm

There were unforeseen benefits when a giant inflatable replica of a human colon was stolen last October from the University of Kansas Cancer Center in Kansas City. The model was intended as an interactive educational tool to increase the public's cancer awareness, so the purpose of the prank is unclear. However, the story swept the globe on social media: the #stolencolon hashtag was shared more than 6,500 times, resulting in some 36 million impressions. The theft prompted 962 online reports, potentially reaching 955,302,697 people.

This extensive — albeit light-hearted — coverage inadvertently amplified the message about the importance of screening for and preventing colorectal cancer. These efforts have contributed to the steady decline in new cases and mortality in the United States since the mid-1980s.

We hope that this unexpected publicity will help to reduce the unscreened population — currently 23 million in the United States (see go.nature.com/2vqdm0n) — and so save many more lives.

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