

Dr Jonathon Alexis Coates

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Open science and research advocacy leader with 10+ years' experience across nonprofit, academic, and international research initiatives. Proven track record of leading global programmes, building partnerships, securing funding, and delivering high-impact advocacy and community initiatives. Experienced in organisational strategy, team leadership, and scaling mission-driven projects focused on research culture, scholarly communication, and open science.

Core relevant skills

- Strategic leadership & organisational development
- Stakeholder engagement/partnerships
- Open science & research advocacy
- Programme development & project leadership
- Communications strategy & thought leadership
- Community engagement, inclusion & participation strategy

Relevant experience

Executive Director (2020 - Present)

Rippling Ideas

- Founded and lead an independent initiative focused on open science, research culture, trust in research and science communication.
- Designed and delivered international training, advocacy, and engagement programmes to over 200 people
- Delivered 40+ invited talks to a variety of stakeholders, including chairing panel sessions
- Written 15+ [thought pieces](#) and interactions with the general media ([BBC](#), [The Economist](#), [Popular Science](#), [German](#) and [Austrian](#) National radio)
- Published two corresponding author papers as the project lead for an international metascience project collaboration focused on preprint usage and quality ([Fraser et al.](#), & [Brierly et al.](#)) which received significant [media attention](#)
- Developed communication projects including podcasts, video and training programmes
- Built international relationships with partners in open science, including the Africa Reproducibility Network

Associate Director (2023 - 2025)

ASAPBio

- Developed and implemented strategic initiatives, including devising the 2025-27 direction of ASAPbio & all community initiatives, resulting in >\$300,000 secured in funding for 2026
- Acted as interim Executive Director for 4 months, leading to a record breaking year for ASAPbio for engagement, growth and output
- Recruited, trained and mentored over 100 international ASAPbio Fellows and other researchers in open science practices to highly positive feedback
- Independently oversee the ASAPbio community and \$10k budget, developing community initiatives. Consolidated disparate programs into a core offering, ensuring that community remained at the core of ASAPbio
- Designed multi-format communication materials (video, social media, writing), including ASAPbio's most-viewed and engaged with YouTube content
- Provided leadership to the wider open science and metascience communities, building partnerships and collaborating with researchers, funders, institutions and publishers,

resulting in a significant expansion across Africa

BHF Postdoctoral Research Scientist (2020 - 2023) Queen Mary, University of London

- Project management and leadership of a research project which involved; designing and performing experiments, data analysis, data presentation and paper writing
- Presented at invited talks across the UK to disseminate the outcomes of research to scientific audiences and on panels discussing the importance of open science
- Supervised 7 early career researchers, ensuring successful dissertations and training in academic skills

Founder, host & executive producer (2021 - 2026) Preprints in Motion [Podcast](#)

- Built and developed a podcast promoting open science and underrepresented voices; reaching the top 20 charts across 11 countries
- Led a remote team of 5, responsible for editorial, outreach, funding, and strategy; securing >£1700 in funding
- Acted as a translational broker between metascience and broader communities, interviewing leading figures in research policy and reform

Founder & community manager (2020 - 2023) UK & EU postdoc [slack](#)

- Created and grew a >450 member community for UK/EU postdocs
- Recognised by the UK's national research funder as a valuable community building initiative
- Organized policy-aligned career workshops and funding body webinars

Postdoctoral Research Scientist (2019 - 2020) Babraham Institute, University of Cambridge

- Established and developed techniques new to the lab and wrote all lab-associated SOPs
- Post-doc Associate at Hughes Hall College (stipend) & member of post-doc committee

PhD researcher (2015 - 2019) University of Sheffield

- [Uncovered](#) the existence of macrophage subtypes in *Drosophila* and demonstrated functional differences between the populations
- Collaborated with other group members on additional projects and [publications](#)
- Chaired the department PhD student committee, which included organising a seminar series, 2-day scientific retreat (for ~100 people) and team management
- Project and team lead for the 2016-17 Sheffield iGEM entry; Co-developed the project and designed the experimental plan with a £50,000 budget. Independently led the project for its duration, training and managing a team of 17 (10 undergraduates, 5 PhD students and 2 postdocs). Awarded a gold medal and nominated for best diagnostic project
- Received the first Ian Peake award for positive contributions to the department reputation

Other Communication & Public Engagement

Public engagement: I'm a Scientist (2022), Researchers night (2016-2018), Our Immune Army (2017), Festival of Life (2016-2017), International radio appearances, 6 podcast appearances, various contributions to news pieces (incl. [Nature](#), [The Economist](#), [Popular Science](#)), Video [primer](#) on preprints for UKRN (2022)

Teaching: Open Science Training (2023-), Research student supervision (2018, 2021-2023), [Preprints](#)

[in Life Sciences Syllabus](#) (2021), Lab demonstrating (2018), A-level Biology (2012, 2014-2015)
Scientific Advisory Boards: EMBL-EBI Europe PMC (2022-), [eiRxiv](#) (2024-), ALEN (2024-)

Education

Ph.D.	2015-2019	Immunology & Molecular biology , University of Sheffield
MRes	2014-2015	Immunobiology (Distinction) , Newcastle University
B.Sc.	2010-2013	Biomedical Science (1st) , University of Northumbria. Awarded Dean's list for outstanding academic achievement

Appendix

Scientific Publications

Google Scholar Profile: <https://bit.ly/3mNWx9D>

Otto, J., Saikia, Q., Elkheir, L.Y.M., Chim, M., **Coates, J.A.**, 2024. Institutional recognition for preprints; recommendations for policies and practices. Zenodo. Preprint at

<https://zenodo.org/records/13981665>

***As corresponding author**

David, A. B., Elkheir, L. Y. M., Dine, R. D., Adamolekun, E. & **Coates, J*** (2024). The status and challenges of preprint adoption in Africa. OSF. Preprint at <https://doi.org/10.31730/osf.io/y7nqx> (2024).

***As corresponding author**

Besaçon, L., Carmali, S., Castelloe, A.A., Dine, R.D., Manna, D., Nandi, S., Polka, J., Puebla, I., Shelley, R., Tsagakis, I., **Coates, J.**, (2023). Identification and categorization of iterative preprints in the life sciences. OSF. Preprint at: <https://osf.io/sqeg4>

***As corresponding author**

Jouliia R., Guerrero-Fonseca I.M., Girbl T., **Coates J.A.**, Stein M., Vázquez-Martínez L., et al. (2022). Neutrophil breaching of the blood vessel pericyte layer during diapedesis requires mast cell-derived IL-17A. *Nat Commun.* Nov 17;13(1):7029.

Brierley L., Nanni F., Polka J.K., Dey G., Pálffy M., Fraser N., **Coates J.A***. (2022) Tracking changes between preprint posting and journal publication. *PLOS Biology* 20: e3001285
doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.3001285

***As corresponding author**

Fraser N., Brierley L., Dey G., Polka J.K., Pálffy M., Nanni F., **Coates J.A***. (2021). The evolving role of preprints in the dissemination of COVID-19 research and their impact on the science communication landscape. *PLOS Biology* 19: e3000959. doi:10.1371/journal.pbio.3000959

***As corresponding author**

Coates J.A., Brooks E., Brittle A.L., Armitage E.L., Zeidler M.P., Evans I.R. (2021). Identification of

functionally distinct macrophage subpopulations in *Drosophila*. *eLife*. 2021;10: e58686.
doi:10.7554/eLife.58686

Roddie H.G., Armitage E.L., **Coates J.A.**, Johnston S.A., & Evans I.R. (2019). Simu-dependent clearance of dying cells regulates macrophage function and inflammation resolution. *PLOS Biology* 17, e2006741.

Dixon D., **Coates J.**, del Carpio Pons A., Horabin J., Walker A., Abdul N., Kalson N.S., Brewster N.T., Weir D.J., Deehan D.J., et al. (2015). A potential mode of action for Anakinra in patients with arthrofibrosis following total knee arthroplasty. *Scientific Reports* 5, 16466.

Policy and opinion Publications

- Connecting reform movements: linking research culture, trust and open-research publishing, [Upstream](#), 2026
- The State of Preprints, [Zenodo](#), 2026
- Open Science; an antidote to anti-science, [The Scientist](#), 2025
- Science is under siege; the open science community must act and lead by example, [Upstream](#), 2025
- Can we measure trust in scientific publications?, [LSE Impact Blog](#), 2025
- Understanding the publish review curate model of scholarly communication, [OSE](#), 2024
- Reform academic publishing to unblock innovation, [UK Day One](#), 2024
- Journal clubs 2.0; an update for the 21st century, [FEBS](#), 2024
- Preprints; catalysts in the publishing revolution, [FEBS](#), 2024
- Preprint myth busters: busting the top 4 preprint myths, [AuthorAid](#), 2024
- Developing preprints in developmental biology, [The Node](#), 2024
- Physiology research in the era of preprints, [Physiology News Magazine](#), 2024
- Preprint; powering the open science movement, *British Society for Cell biology Magazine*, 2022.
- Preprints: how draft academic papers have become essential in the fight against COVID, *The Conversation*, 28th April 2021.
- Opinion: The Rise of Preprints Is No Cause for Alarm, *The Scientist*, 14th April 2021.

Awards and Funding secured

- Doctoral Academy Award. Competitive award provided part-funding for consumables as part of iGEM; University of Sheffield, 2016. (**£3,000 of £50,000 total**)
- Honor Fell BSCB travel award; BSCB, 2022 (**£608**)
- Contributions to neutrophil biology research; Neutrophil 2022 (**\$10,000**)
- Postgraduate Researcher Experience Programme. Competitive award used for personal development to acquire a home office license; University of Sheffield, 2018. (**£725**)
- Equality, diversity and inclusion grant; BSI, 2022 (**£500**)
- Community engagement grant; ASAPbio, 2022. (**£445**)
- BSCB Travel grant; British Society of Cell Biology, 2016. (**£400**)
- Community engagement grant; ASAPbio, 2021. (**£370**)
- Faculty of Sciences Researcher led activity. Competitive funding used for implementing a seminar series; University of Sheffield, 2017. (**£250**)

- Sponsorship. Award used to part-fund PhD student retreat; Elsevier, 2017. (£200)
- Student sponsorship. Competitive scheme for qPCR-based research; PrimerDesign, 2017. (silver award)
- COVID-19 relief fund. Funds used to host covidpreprints.com; DigitalOcean, 2020. (\$250)

Invited talks

Slides for talks: <https://jacoates.co.uk/event/>

- Africa Reproducibility Network Training, 2026 - 8 sessions on preprints and advocacy
- Prophy, 2026 - "Prophy Predicts"
- PREreview, 2026 - "Harsh truths about preprinting"
- Researcher to Reader, 2026 - "Rethinking peer review"
- Metascience Conference, 2025 - "Open Science and Metascience; Are we leading by example?"
- Preprints.org webinar, 2025 - "Who has a voice in open science?"
- University of Sheffield, Medical School, 2025 - "From bench to policy"
- University of Sheffield Festival of careers, 2025 - "A career in scientific advocacy"
- ITRN webinar series, 2025 - "Preprints; putting the P in PRC"
- Indiana University, 2025 - "Open preprint review; the future of peer review"
- Kings College ECR conference, 2024 - "Preprints; publishing that puts ECRs and science first"
- Vanderbilt University, 2024 - "Transparent peer review as the antidote to distrust and unreliable science"
- OASPA conference, 2024 - "Transparent peer review as the antidote to distrust and unreliable science"
- CZI Open Science Meeting, 2024 - "ASAPbio; preprints and community focussed advocacy"
- Africa Reproducibility Network Training, 2024 - 7 sessions on preprints and advocacy
- SSAf National Scholarly Editors Forum, 2024 - "Open peer review"
- Highwire Press, 2024 - "Preprint peer review"
- American Chemical Society, 2024 - "ASAPbio strategic directions for 2024 and beyond"
- PCI Webinar series, 2024 - "Preprints as the central pillar of the PRC model"
- Heterodox Academy, 2024 - "COVID-19 and the preprint response"
- Peer Community In, 2024 - "Preprints as the central pillar of the PRC model"
- Unjournal workshop, 2024 - "Preprints as the central pillar of the PRC model"
- Yaba College of Technology, 2024 - "Engaging with preprints"
- OASPA, 2023 - "Shaping the future of scholarly publishing"
- University of Florida, 2023 - "Preprints and Open Access"
- Euroanaesthesia, 2023 - "Preprinting a pandemic"
- Ronin Institute, 2023 - "Preprints and COVID19"
- Celebrating success; science response to the COVID19 pandemic, 2023 - "Preprinting a pandemic"
- ASAPbio Fellows, 2023 - "Science communication"
- Europe PMC, 2023 - "Science communication and pandemics"
- Unconference on Open Scholarship Practices, 2023 - "Open Science and scholarship"
- eLife Ambassadors, 2022 - "Science communication"
- ASAPbio Fellows, 2021 - "Preprints and the pandemic"

- Science Writers, 2021 – “Preprinting a pandemic”
- Society for Scholarly Publishing 43rd meeting, 2021 – “Preprints and the pandemic”
- Medical School Research Meeting, University of Sheffield, 2021 – “Preprinting a pandemic: trends, dissemination and regulation of COVID-19 preprints”
- CID webinar series, Cambridge University, 2020 – “Preprinting a pandemic; the role of preprints in the COVID-19 pandemic”

Conference and workshop attendance

- Research 2 Reader, 2026; **panel** session
- Metascience, 2025; **chaired panel** session
- Preprint Peer Review Metadata workshop, 2023
- The Neutrophil, 2022; presented, **poster**; poster prize
- British Society of Immunology Congress, 2019; presented, **poster**; poster prize
- Gene regulation in health and disease, 2019; presented, **talk**
- European Drosophila Research Conference, 2017; presented, **poster**
- World Congress on Inflammation, 2017
- BSCB/BSDB Joint spring meeting, 2016
- iGEM Giant Jamboree, 2016; Awarded gold medal and nominated for best diagnostic project