

Science section proposal

Goal

The goal of the science section is to increase the scientific impact of LongeCity and to improve the coordination of the different science related projects.

Organization

Science section coordinator is the lead officer of the science section and is appointed by the board. The coordinator can appoint others to help him with his task (science section team).

Science section team members:

- Sven
- Eric?

1. List of friendly experts

It is the task of the science coordinator to build this list and keep it updated. This list will be used for point 2. It should be pointed out that, at this moment, these people have not yet agreed to do the job. These lists should be kept confidential since some peer-reviewers might not like it when they are openly linked to LongeCity.

Two categories of peer reviewers are established:

* Reviewers for high school essays

- Sven Bulterijs (agreed)
- Johan Sjöberg
- Adam Summerfield (agreed)
- Kemal Akman

* Reviewers for scientific articles/grant requests

- Leonid Gavrilov
- Natalia Gavrilova
- Aubrey de Grey
- John Harris
- L. Stephen Coles
- Kris Verburgh
- Agevivo
- Michael R. Rose
- Dan Stoicescu
- John Schloendorn

- Reason
- Michael Rae
- Parijata D. Mackey?
- Jian Fransén

2. Friendly peer review

People who want their manuscripts reviewed send it to us by mail. The science coordinator puts all manuscripts on a page. If after 1 week no reviewer has voluntarily stepped in, the science coordinator steps in and searches for one. Every review is awarded by a certain amount (?) of T.

3. LongeCity grants

We think that a discussion about the structure of future fundraisers is needed. We would like to propose the introduction of small student grants (\$100-200) given out for students who voluntarily do research related to life extension at their university. Several small grants can be given out each year.

4. High quality discussions

The science section includes an invite-only forum. The coordination team is responsible for inviting people to this section both LongeCity members and outside experts (such as the people on the list of friendly experts). This forum is not moderated by the navigators. The science section coordinator is the lead moderator of this forum, science section team members are moderators. The LongeCity advisors are automatically invited. This forum contains several sub forums (discussed below):

- General discussion
- News
- Research projects updates
- Journal club
- Book club
- Guest articles
- Experts meetings
- Linking project students with supervisors
- Monthly lecture
- Friendly peer review forum
- Conferences forum
- Sharing protocols and research materials
- Grant writing

5. General discussion

This is the forum where invited members can discuss scientific items.

6. News forum

The science section coordinator and the team members write small articles about important recent breakthroughs. The workload can be made manageable by taking articles from other sources such as the Heales news and the Fight aging newsletter (and of course mentioning the source of the article). Members can also send in news articles to the science section team (by PM or e-mail). If approved than these are added to the news forum. Members can get (?) T for sending in a news article.

7. Research projects updates

Research projects funded by LongeCity are required to provide frequent updates on the status of the research. This forum is the place where the researchers can do this.

8. Journal club

The Journal club is a subforum in the high quality discussions forum. The members propose papers to discuss in a general topic. The science section coordinator then chooses one or two paper(s) to be discussed (pinned current discussion). Usually discussions are pinned for one month before being archived but if no new posts are made for a long period of time, the science section coordinator can conclude that interest for this topic has dropped, and decide to archive it earlier and open a new discussion. After the discussion ends the papers are archived in another subforum called 'Journal Club Archive'. The archived discussions stay open for new posts, however the science section coordinator has the right to close discussion, at his discretion, if he feels that the discussion compromises the function of the journal club.

9. Book club

Imminst already has a book club and this will become part of the science section. Members can get rewarded with (?) T for writing a new book comment (at least half a page A4). One new goal is the creation of a new LongeCity book. Many good reviews on the science of aging exists (e.g. "The future of aging: Pathways to human life extension", "Ending aging", "Longevity, senescence, and the genome", "Handbook of the biology of aging",...). Instead we think that the new LongeCity book should focus on the ethical, political, economical and societal effects of life extension. A book that tries to convince readers about life extension (in line with John Harris' book "Enhancing evolution: the ethical case for making better people").

10. Guest articles

The science coordinator invites every two months someone to write an article of at least five pages for publication on the LongeCity website. These articles can be scientific, ethical, societal, economical, political, and psychological discussions related to life extension. The writer is rewarded by a \$100 fee.

11. Expert meetings

Several people (scientists, advocates, Imminst members) are invited by the science coordinator to a meeting (for example on skype). Each meeting has a different subject for example: calorie restriction, SENS, cryonics, regenerative medicine,... During these meetings the people present discuss this subject. The science coordinator acts as a moderator for the conversation and introduces the questions for discussion. After the meeting this panel writes a short (3-7 pages) report for publication

on the LongeCity website. Contributors to these panels can be rewarded with (?) T. This idea is similar to the one organized in 2003 by the Journal of Anti-Aging Medicine (Rejuvenation Research).

Arking et al. Anti-Aging Teleconference: What is Anti-Aging Medicine? Journal of Anti-Aging Medicine, 2003, 6(2): 91-106.

12. Linking project students with supervisors

This will be a project in cooperation with SENSFAI. Tyler James (Academic coordinator, SENSFAI) told us that he could use more student mentors. SENSFAI currently has 8 mentors and roughly 30 students who work on literature reviews. Johan Sjöberg, suggested a reviewer for the high school essays, is already a volunteer for SENSFAI. Having several members of the editorial board of HJB involved will also make the transition of papers from students who choose for HJB more smoothly.

13. Monthly lecture

Every month the science section coordinator invites another person to give a lecture. These lectures can be done as youtube movies or as powerpoint slides with explanation (text) added to them. The science section will require quite a lot of work, so if it is too much we might wait with this project until later. The expert meetings are probably a better way to generate high quality information for our members. Lecturers can be awarded with (?) T.

14. Reviewing project proposals

The peer-reviewers (point 1 in this proposal) can review proposals for the science grants. If needed, other experts can be invited to review certain grant proposals. Proposals for new LongeCity projects who need funding (something like the guest articles) can be reviewed by the by the science section team who can then provide advice to the board or the treasurer depending on the cost of the project. Projects that do not need funding (something like the journal club) can be implemented by the science section team themselves.

15. Conferences forum

This forum will provide a list of conferences, workshops, meetings related to life extension. Dr. John Furber always makes such a list and we could use his list as a starting point to provide an even more exhaustive list of future events. This forum will also offer a place where people can write reports on events they attended.

16. Sharing protocols and research materials

This forum will offer a place where scientists can exchange materials (e.g. *C. elegans* mutants, yeast strains,...) and protocols. This section can have legal implications. For example if researchers would trade certain materials that are illegal according to US law or the law where the scientists who made the transaction live (e.g. human embryos for stem cell research) could this have legal implications for LongeCity? Caliban, can you expand on the specific legal details of the trade in biological materials. Of course most of the materials traded here will have no specific regulations (yeast strains, *C. elegans* mutants,...) but we have to be sure that we cannot be hold responsible if once upon a time someone would use our system to make an illegal transaction.

17. Networking

To make the science section a success we need more scientists and students to participate in it. We should therefore place focus on networking, talking to students and scientists both on the internet and in real life (e.g. at conferences, meetings, students who talk to fellow students, etc...).

18. Sharing papers

This forum already exists and will now become a part of the science section, however it will stay in the members forum and not become a part of the 'High quality discussions forum' because we want to keep the sharing of papers open to as many members as possible.

19. Job adverts

The current 'Careers' forum will become part of the science section. However, it will stay as a subforum in the 'LongeCity forum'.

20. Grant writing

We believe that this section can be left out because it would drain resources (time) away from other projects. Most scientists who need help have senior colleagues who can help them with the writing of grants. We also doubt if many people will be interested in investing their time in helping others with writing grant proposals.

21. News from community projects

We dropped the News from community projects because we feel that this is not a part of the science section but could make a good project outside of this section.