# science blogs history + characteristics

Lisa Willemse @willemseLA Canadian Science Policy Conference | November 22, 2013





# early days

- links.net (1994) "logging the web"
- Blogger (1999) "web page updated frequently with chronologically sorted posts"
- blog is "word of the year" (2004)



### What is it?

Blogger is an automated weblog publishing tool.

#### What does it do?

You make posts to your weblog (or your What's New page or any other web page you want to update frequently with chronologically sorted posts) by submitting a form on this web site, and the results immediately show up on \*your\* site, with \*your\* design.

### How does it work?

Magic! Well, actually, you provide Blogger a template of your page (or use the default) that indicates where you want your posts to appear. When you make a new post, you'll get a "Save to Server" button that will automatically FTP your new page to your web server. No muss. No fuss. Total control.

Wow, where do I enter my credit card number? Blogger is free. Try it out.

Registered Users Please log in. Username Password

enter



Create a New Blog >>

# early days (2)

- first science bloggers emerge from political blogs (~2000)
- teaching of intelligent design theory in American schools overturned with evidence from bloggers (2005)
- Cognitive Daily creates "researchblogging": one paper, lay audience (2005)
- blogging awards (2007)

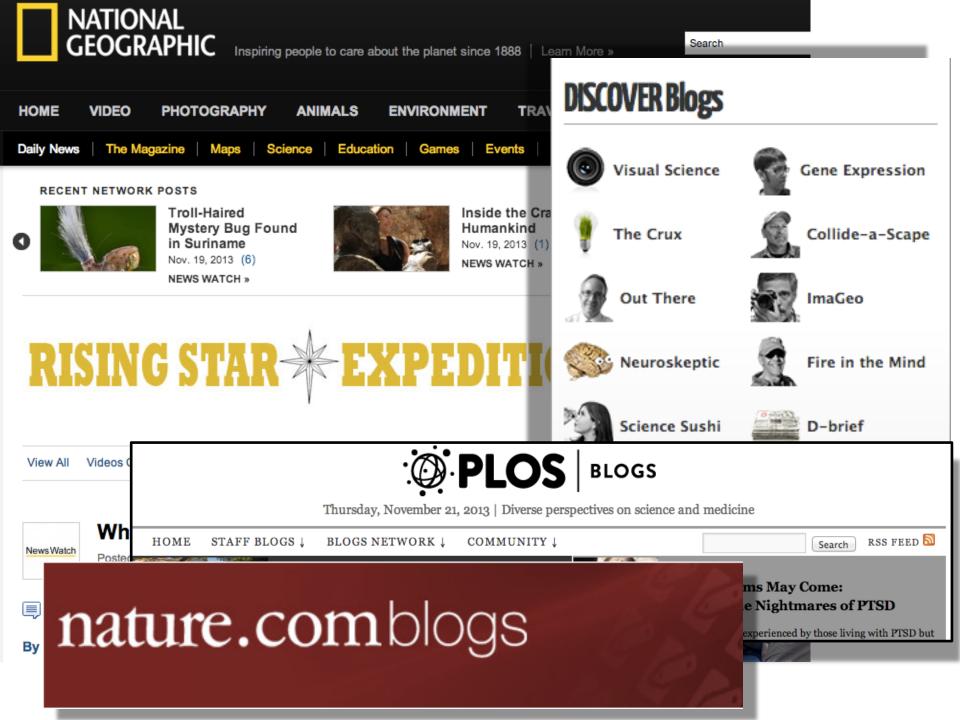


# Canadian science blogs

# RRResearch

Not your typical science blog, but an 'open science' research blog. Watch me fumbling my way towards understanding how and why bacteria take up DNA, and getting distracted by other cool questions.

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# science blogs (v. news media)

**Pre-publication** 

- no external: editing, fact-checking or peer review
- faster than traditional print
- no deadlines

**Post-publication** 

- typically, no revenue
- Comments are review
- Ability to make corrections or insert updates



# BLURREDLINES

- corporate agendas (sponsorship)
- editors
- blogging platforms adopted by large media (SciAm, NatGeo, NYT, National Post)
- payment
- science bloggers jumping mainstream
- coverage of stories



Stopped S Insiders' perspective on the world of stem cells and regenerative medicine





Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine

# iPS cell banking: How to almost, but not quite, have patient matched stem cell therapies

Author: Holly Wobma, 10/09/13

For anyone following the celebrity gossip of the stem cell field, you've probably come across one of our rising stars, the <u>induced pluripotent</u> <u>stem cell (iPSC)</u>. Award winning and deemed to have loads of potential, each one of us can produce this type of cell. The buzz around iPSCs revolves around their ability to be generated from a patient's own adult cells (e.g. fibroblasts or skin cells). Thus, they are genetically matched to the patient and can go on to differentiate into a myriad of therapeutically relevant target cells that won't be rejected when



Are allogenic iPS cell banks like a Bugatti in the slow lane?

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transient fad?

SCN members to pres Transfer Forum

# science blogs can (be)

- text, image, video, podcast
- report research (new, old, obscure, niche)
- share lab data
- critique and review
- content collection and recommendation
- Oriented to public, scientific or other audiences

(The open the best science sto

NOT EXACTLY ROCKET SCIENCE: 1 week ago

## l've got your missing links right here (9 November 2013)

by Ed Yong

**Top picks** 

"I'm throwing out slices of information and analysis, in the hopes that it will prompt responses which will coherently and intelligently fill in the gaps"

## "the medium's fundamental power is its interactivity" – Razib Khan, science blogger



@WillemseLA @DocCamiRyan @MiketheScribe @karidoerksen I write some posts based on heavy research, not cuteness. I imagine many do the same!

View conversation

Theresa Liao @TheresaLiao

Reply 13 Retweet \* Favorited ••• More

# still a place for critical debate

## The Case (Study) of Arsenic Life: How the Internet Can Make Science Better

REBECCA J. ROSEN | JUL 9 2012, 4:37 PM ET



At every step of the way, newer tools for conveying better results than more traditional methods.









More -



## PLOS Blogs removes post criticizing writer over sexual harassment post

with 6 comments

process

# thank you

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