

The Company of Biologists Limited, founded in 1925, is a 'Company Limited by Guarantee' having tax-exempt charitable status. There is a Board of Directors consisting of about 20 professional biologists, two of them appointed annually by the Society for Experimental Biology, who receive no salary or fees for their services. The Company's main function is to own and produce *The Journal of Experimental Biology*, the *Journal of Cell Science*, and the *Journal of Embryology and Experimental Morphology*, and to appoint the Editors of these journals. These are part-time appointments held by established professional biologists of some eminence, and once they have been appointed the Company exercises no control over editorial policy.

The Company is precluded by its charitable status from making a commercial profit on its operations, and its aim is to produce high-quality journals at the lowest possible price. Any surplus on publishing not required for the journals' reserves is transferred to an Educational Trust Fund, which makes substantial grants in aid of societies concerned with the fields of interest covered by the Company's journals. Grants are also made to conferences and summer schools in the fields of its journals.

The Company's independence of commercial publishers enables it to choose the most effective form of publishing to give papers accepted the widest possible circulation in journals of high quality and prestige. Planned changes in production and distribution of the journals should result in significant increases in the speed of publication, and it is hoped to reduce the time between the acceptance of a paper and its publication to no more than 13 weeks in the near future.

Other projects of benefit to biology are being developed.

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