As well as funding world-renowned research, STFC grants are also used to disseminate the findings of their work to a wider audience. This can take many forms, including magazines, newsletters, formal working groups, talks or presentations, media (including TV, radio and podcasts), workshops, symposiums and conferences.

With the vast expertise possessed by STFC-supported researchers, demand for them to deliver dissemination activities is high.

Nearly 4000 instances of dissemination in all forms have been reported to us via ResearchFish. This demonstrates that STFC science is reaching a large number of people.

The audience being reached is diverse, ranging from the more science-driven community right through to younger audiences in schools, which we hope will contribute to inspiring a new generation of scientists and engineers.

The dissemination outputs reported by our researchers provides evidence of the global reach of UK science, with events taking place in many locations including Switzerland, Hawaii, USA, Germany, New Zealand, Brazil and India.

STFC-supported researchers are recognised as leaders in their field and are regularly invited to speak internationally on their research. This can lead to further outputs including potential collaborations and further funding.

**Methods of dissemination**

STFC-supported researchers have disseminated their investigations using a variety of methods. A number of media outlets have featured the research conducted by STFC supported scientists, many of which have a high distribution level across the world, increasing the coverage of STFC's research portfolio. Researchers have had work featured in the likes of Nature, New Scientist, The Guardian and National Geographic as well as appearing on the BBC's Startgazing programme, the Science channel's 'Through the Wormhole' series and Channel 4 news in the UK.

![BBC Stargazing event at Royal Holloway University of London](https://www.stfc.ac.uk)

**BBC Stargazing event at Royal Holloway University of London, Credit: Dean O'Brien**
The map shows the reach of STFC research via the dissemination events reported by our researchers. We can see that STFC-supported research has reached a wide-ranging audience across six different continents, via several mediums - highlighting the significance of scientific outreach.

A benefit of examining all of the ResearchFish submissions that STFC receives is having the opportunity to hear about new and innovative ways the work we have supported has been disseminated. Professor Martin Hendry of the University of Glasgow has certainly managed that by delivering his ‘The Physics of Star Wars’ lectures to several thousands of people since 2012.

These lectures have been given to a wide-ranging audience, with events taking place at schools, Universities in the UK and USA and various science festivals and museums. Martin’s lectures cover a range of exotic phenomena in astrophysics and cosmology, including general and special relativity, dark matter, dark energy, black holes and gravitational waves, all areas that STFC has supported with research funding.

The aim of these lectures is to explore scientific concepts at the limit of our current understanding, in the context of ideas from science fiction, which have become part of our popular culture. This demonstrates how, in some respects, our Universe is even stranger than anything science fiction has imagined.

Credit: Martin Hendry