

**SPRINGER NATURE**

**BE PART  
OF PROGRESS**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

As one of the world's leading research publishers, we are proud to be part of progress. We help accelerate solutions to the world's urgent challenges by unlocking the potential of science and research across all disciplines, advancing learning and knowledge.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

We have prepared this Annual Report to meet the requirements of German regulatory bodies and to engage and inform our wider group of stakeholders. It provides comprehensive insights into our business operations and performance throughout 2025.

The full report includes the following sections:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Combined group management report
- 3 Combined non-financial report
- 4 Corporate governance
- 5 Remuneration report
- 6 Consolidated financial statements
- 7 Other information

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This robust performance reflects the ongoing demand for high-quality, trusted content and services, which we are proud to provide.

**Frank Vrancken Peeters**

Chief Executive Officer

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# INTRODUCTION

## IN THIS SECTION

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## SPRINGER NATURE AT A GLANCE

At Springer Nature, we are proud to be part of progress, working together with the communities we serve to share knowledge and bring greater understanding to the world. As one of the leading publishers of research in the world, we publish the largest number of journals and books<sup>1</sup> and are a pioneer in open research.

Through our leading brands, trusted for more than 180 years, we provide technology-enabled products, platforms and services that help researchers to uncover new insights and share their discoveries, health professionals to stay at the forefront of medical science, and educators to advance learning.



Working with more than 1m peer reviewers<sup>2</sup> and around 180k+ editors

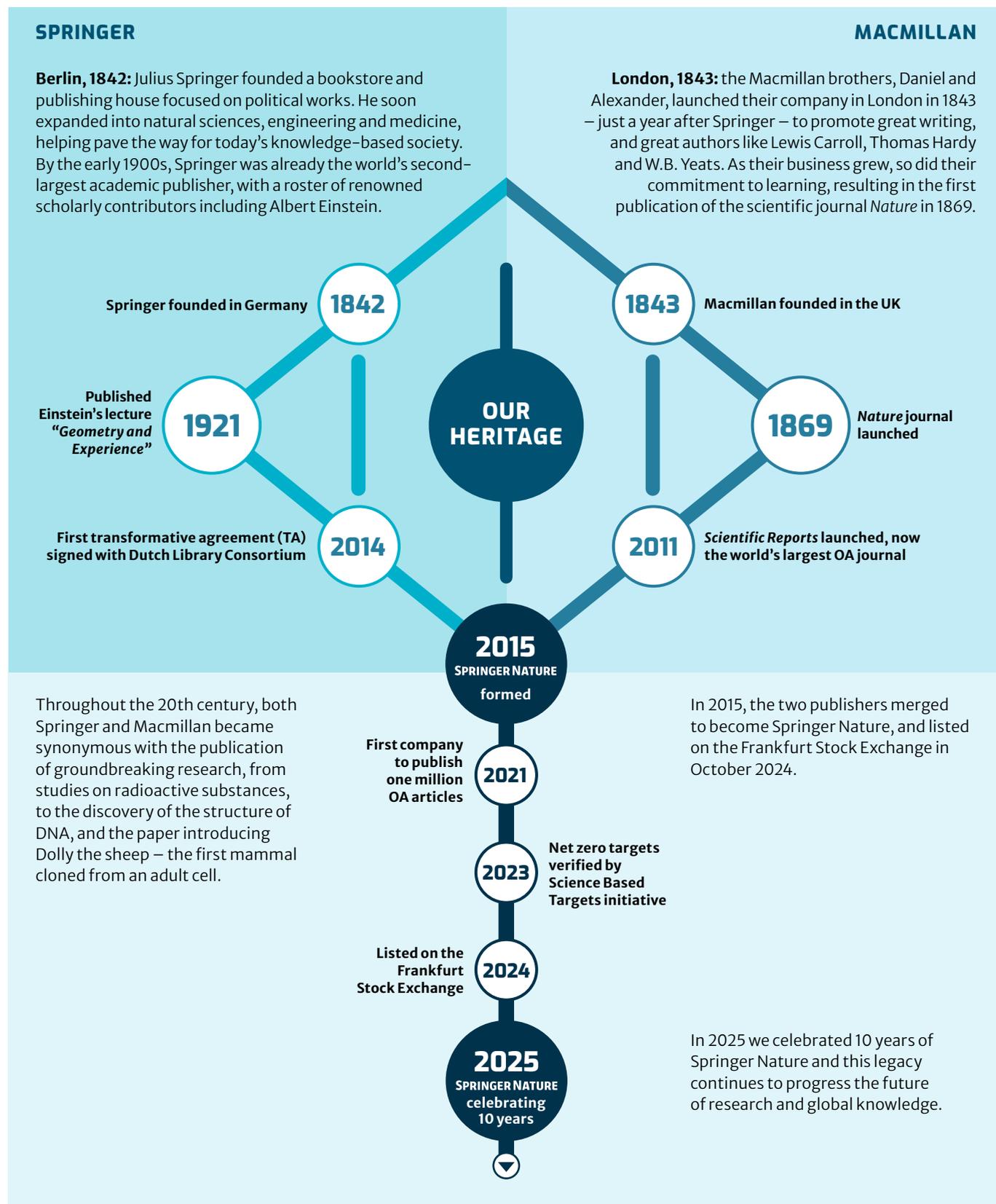
<sup>1</sup> Source: Outsell 2024 Annual Ecosystem View of Scholarly Research, March 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Data based on reviewers from 2014–2024.

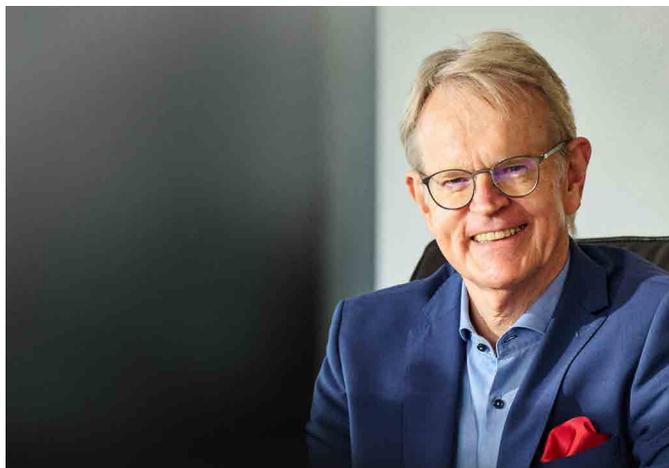
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## OUR HERITAGE KEEPING SCIENCE MOVING FOR 180+ YEARS

At Springer Nature, our name reflects our rich and proud heritage, bringing together two pioneering publishers – Springer and Macmillan.



## CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION



### WHAT WE DO MATTERS

**Every day, more authors and readers place their trust in us – a responsibility we take seriously. In 2025, more than 3.1 million scientific manuscripts were submitted to Springer Nature – a significant increase on last year – alongside the publication of 14,500 books.**

Collectively, our healthcare brands reach more than 324,000 doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists, and in education, we touch the lives of millions of learners. We are present in more than 40 countries and wherever we go – whether through a smartphone or a textbook – we support learning, wellbeing and the advancement of knowledge.

2025 was a milestone year. We celebrated 10 years of Springer Nature and our first full year as a public company. We also marked several brand anniversaries, including 25 years of BMC, the trailblazer of open access (OA) publishing. Of the 539,000 primary research articles we published, more than 53% were OA, reinforcing our commitment to making knowledge widely available.

We are proud to be home to some of the world's most respected journals. We track customer satisfaction closely and scores remain high, as do our ratings as an employer of choice. In an era when trust in media is waning, we have earned confidence: 97% of authors say our published research is rigorous and reliable, and the same proportion of researchers believe it makes a real impact. This is no accident. In times of polarisation and misinformation, we remain committed to providing active, independent, precise, evidence-based insights. Protecting integrity across our company is central to sustaining trust, and we continue to invest in systems and processes that uphold these values.

Technology is accelerating change, and we embrace its potential to transform how knowledge is produced, accessed and interpreted. By integrating intelligent tools into publishing workflows, we can relieve scientists of repetitive tasks and enhance every step of the research process – always with integrity at the core.

Looking ahead to 2026, we do so with optimism and ambition. We will continue to invest in our people, technology and partnerships that extend our reach and impact. Our mission remains clear: to advance discovery, foster learning, and shape a future where knowledge drives progress and understanding across borders and geographies.

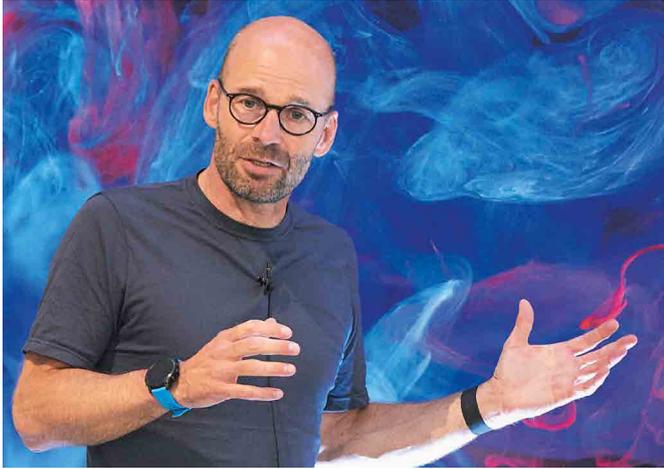
**DR STEFAN VON HOLTZBRINCK**

Chair

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## CEO'S INTRODUCTION



**I am pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report, which reflects a year defined by growth, innovation, and a focus on advancing research and learning for the benefit of society. We continued to serve as a trusted partner to our customers and communities and delivered strong operational and financial performance.**

### TRUSTED CONTENT AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

Helping researchers build their careers, share their trusted findings and enable others to access these is at the heart of what we do. In 2025, we published many great pieces of research in our journals across a wide range of subjects, from the first AI Large Language Model to undergo peer review, to a new wearable system to assist navigation for blind and partially sighted people, and a digital map of the Roman Empire's road network. In doing so, we helped researchers connect with new audiences and to share their discoveries with their peers and beyond.

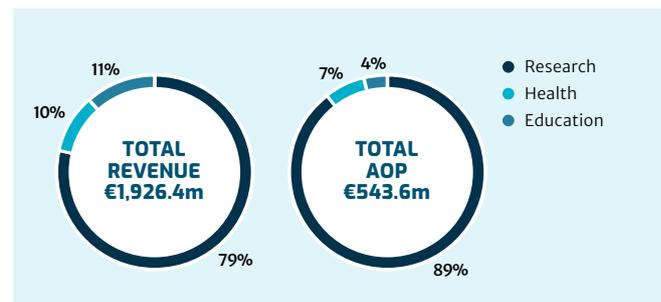
Macmillan Education continues to support educators around the world, with its P.L.A.Y. Time! series of workbooks being recognised in India at the prestigious Excellence in Book Production Awards.

### THE POWER OF OUR BRANDS

Central to our ability to do this is our portfolio of world-class brands – including Nature Portfolio, Springer, BMC, Macmillan Education, and Springer Medizin – which continue to be a cornerstone of our success. Each brand brings distinct strengths, serving diverse communities across disciplines and geographies. In 2025, these brands helped us connect with new audiences and deliver content that informs, educates and inspires. Together they contribute to an ecosystem that supports the entire research and learning lifecycle.

### RESEARCH DRIVES OUR STRONG PERFORMANCE

Our consistent strategy and focus on putting the needs of researchers, clinicians and educators at the centre of our business enabled us to achieve underlying growth across all three business segments – Research, Health and Education. This robust performance reflects the ongoing demand for high-quality, trusted content and services, which we are proud to provide. The strong start to the year meant we upgraded our full-year guidance at the half-year mark, underscoring the strength of our business and reinforcing our confidence in Springer Nature's ability to deliver attractive, sustainable growth, while continuing to invest for the long term.



We saw continued momentum across our four strategic pillars of: driving open access (OA) publishing, investing in technology and AI, ensuring Springer Nature is a place where highly skilled current and future colleagues feel able to thrive, and disciplined cost management coupled with ongoing operational efficiencies. This is a testament to the dedication of our teams who work every day to earn the trust placed in us by millions of researchers, teachers and healthcare professionals worldwide.

## CEO'S INTRODUCTION

continued

### OPENING UP THE SCHOLARLY RECORD

To meet researchers' and funders' needs for greater access to research, we further advanced our leadership in OA. We reached a major milestone this year with, since its launch in 2011, more than one million unique researchers from around the world choosing to publish their research in *Scientific Reports*, the world's largest OA journal. We also expanded the global reach of our transformative agreements (TAs) with new TAs in South America and the US, enabling faster dissemination of knowledge and greater collaboration across borders.

### HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY TO DRIVE INNOVATION, EXCELLENCE AND INTEGRITY

This year, AI continued to transform academic publishing – accelerating not only the speed with which research is undertaken but increasing the amount of research outputs (at Springer Nature we saw a significant increase in submitted papers). To address this, we accelerated our own AI transformation, introducing new AI-powered tools and services to enhance author experiences, make the publishing process as easy as possible, and ensure what we publish can be trusted, while being able to operate at the scale this increase in volume requires. More than half of our portfolio is now on Snapp – our proprietary article processing platform which acts as the backbone of the publishing process and enables us to integrate our AI tools along the whole process. We are continuing to bring journals onto the platform each month so that more authors can benefit from a consistent, transparent and efficient publishing experience. Improvements to our Springer Nature Link platform have made it easier for readers to discover new content, and changes to author licences are helping to protect their content from misuse. In 2025, we also continued investing to maintain trust and integrity in the scholarly record, further strengthened our peer review processes and expanded the use of advanced integrity tools, including AI-enabled solutions, to protect the quality, reliability and reproducibility of published research.

These efforts are critical in an era where trust in science and evidence-based decision-making remains paramount. By upholding rigorous editorial and publishing standards and maintaining our golden principle of having a 'human in the loop', which sees us combine human expertise with responsible use of technology, our teams are working hard to ensure that the knowledge we disseminate is credible, reproducible and impactful.

We also continued to use technology elsewhere in the company to support teachers and doctors. Our Macmillan Education Everywhere platform now has 3.2 million active users, while our Medbee app is now supporting over 43,000 doctors in Germany.

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### A RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Beyond this financial and non-financial performance, we measure progress by the positive impact we have on people and the planet. In 2025, we continued to embed sustainability across our operations, reducing our environmental footprint and advancing responsible practices across our supply chain. We also strengthened our commitment to inclusivity, fostering a culture in which our people feel valued, supported and able to perform at their best. We believe that being a responsible business is not only the right thing to do, but essential to long-term success and societal progress.

As we look to the future our focus remains clear: to support the global research, health and education communities, uphold the integrity of the scholarly record, and drive innovation that accelerates learning and discovery. By investing in technology and AI, championing editorial rigour, leveraging our leading brands, focusing on sharing great research with the world and operating responsibly, Springer Nature is well positioned to continue to deliver sustainable growth and create lasting value.

I would like to thank all our authors, editors, partners, and colleagues for their continued trust and collaboration. Together, we are shaping the future of research and education for the benefit of all.

#### FRANK VRANCKEN PEETERS

Chief Executive Officer