Keeping up with innovations in fast-paced fields can be daunting. The strategies below can help make the effort more manageable and more enjoyable.

1. **Use Google Scholar** and other online search engines to create saved searches and alerts. You can create an email rule to store these alerts in a separate folder, so you know exactly where to look when you have time to read.

2. **Block weekly time** in your calendar to read (or at least skim!) the latest articles that cross your desk. If you can make it a ritual, you'll be surprised how much new knowledge you can accrue, even with a brief weekly time commitment.

3. **Attend the main conferences** in your field. These conferences will showcase the most vexing problems the field is facing and the most innovative approaches researchers are exploring to solve them.

4. **Review conference proceedings** for those big conferences that you cannot attend. If no interesting articles pop up in your alerts one week, consider tracking down presentations and other materials from recent conferences.

5. **Launch a journal club** with your colleagues and/or students. Journal clubs can make the process of keeping up with evolving literature a team effort that is more routine and more fun. Talking through key articles can spur new ideas within your team or lab.

6. **Create a spreadsheet** or shared file that covers key articles and their takeaway findings. This document can be something you use yourself or one that a journal club develops for its own tracking purposes. Including links to the articles and downloaded files will make it very easy to return to these resources in the future. A column for full citations couldn't hurt!

7. **Use conferences to network** and invite speakers to your journal club or arrange visits (virtual or face-to-face) to your campus or peer campuses. There's nothing like these experiences for learning what people are working on and what is currently exciting them.

8. **Track academic society publications** as a source of new reading material. If you aren't a member of your field's key society or societies, sign up! Include review of academic society materials in your weekly reading.

9. **Serve on grant review panels** to see the latest and greatest approaches that scholars are proposing to address challenges in your field. Serving on a review panel will provide tremendous networking opportunities, both formally and informally, with your fellow panelists and program staff.