Wellcome Open Research

A funder driven publishing platform

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Wellcome exists to improve health for everyone by helping great ideas to thrive
Open Access @ Wellcome

- OA policy since 2006 permits green (6 month max embargo) and gold
- Policy applies to book chapters and monographs, as well as journal articles
- Compliance currently 80% for journal articles
- All content available through Europe PMC to facilitate discovery
2015-16 OA APC Costs

Wellcome a partner of Charity Open Access Fund, which provides funds to 36 institutions around the UK for APCs

- 3,552 Articles
- £7.3 million Total value of APCs
- £6.6 million Cost to COAF
- £1,904 Median APC
- £1,397 Median APC OA Journal
- £2,125 Median APC Hybrid Journal

https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/managing-grant/wellcome-and-coaf-open-access-spend-2015-16
Open Access

- 91% of articles published via gold APC route comply with our OA policy
  - Publisher Requirements – service expectations incl refund policy

- Open Access costs equivalent to 1% of our total annual research and increasing

Where next?
Wellcome Open Research
Objective

To improve the way research is communicated

• Make the process faster and more transparent, and make it easier for researchers to provide information that supports reproducibility

• Expand the range of scientific content that is publishable

• Increase diversity in the publishing market

• Help to “shift the needle” and inform new policies on researcher assessment
Peer review-approved articles are deposited in Europe PMC, PMC and indexed in PubMed
Benefits to authors

- **Fast** – articles published within a week
- **Inclusive** – can publish all your research outputs
- **Open** – fulfils Wellcome’s OA and data sharing requirements
- **Reproducible** – data published alongside article
- **Transparent** – open, author-driven, peer review
- **Easy** – costs are met directly by Wellcome
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Free serum haemoglobin is associated with brain atrophy in secondary progressive multiple sclerosis [version 2; referees: 3 approved]

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Abstract

Background
A major cause of disability in secondary progressive multiple sclerosis (SPMS) is progressive brain atrophy, whose pathogenesis is not fully understood. The objective of this study was to identify protein biomarkers of brain atrophy in SPMS.

Methods
We used surface-enhanced laser desorption-ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry to carry out an unbiased search for serum proteins whose concentration correlated with the rate of brain atrophy, measured by serial MRI scans over a 2-year period in a well-characterized cohort of 140 patients with SPMS. Protein species were identified by liquid chromatography-electrospray ionization tandem mass spectrometry.

Results
There was a significant (p<0.004) correlation between the rate of brain atrophy and a rise in the concentration of proteins at 15.1 kDa and 15.9 kDa in the serum. Tandem mass spectrometry identified these proteins as alpha-haemoglobin and beta-haemoglobin.
Success criteria

• Wellcome-funded authors publish on this platform
• A range of authors, at different stages in their careers, publishing a range of different publication types

• Articles are read, cited and generate impact

• Other funders seek to establish their own platforms
• Other publishers emulate some of the key features of Wellcome Open Research
How are we doing?

First 6 months:

- Total published: 61
- Total indexed: 41
- Days to 1st referee (median): 14
- Days to 2nd referee (median): 22
- Days to indexed (median): 31
How are we doing?

Global readership
How are we doing?

COMING SOON

GATES OPEN RESEARCH

A platform for rapid author-led publication and open peer review of research funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

STAY UPDATED  Read more in this blog →
Where next?

- Author survey – speed and diversity of article type important, open peer-review less so
- Diversity of article types published: null results and reproducibility studies
- Implementation of Credit Taxonomy
Preprints
Preprints

A preprint is a complete scientific manuscript that is uploaded by the authors to a public server.

Preprints have a strong history in physics – arXiv, uptake in life/biomedical sciences less so.

Data courtesy of John Inglis, bioRxiv
Preprints

• Represent a rapid means of communicating research
• Provide an opportunity to collect feedback on research prior to submission for peer-review
• Provide a more accurate picture of a researcher’s portfolio of work in a timely manner
• All existing preprint servers are open access (licence not always CC-BY)
Preprints @ Wellcome

1. Encourage the use of preprints by life scientists
2. Permit the citation of preprints within grant applications & end of grant reports
3. To provide guidance to reviewers on reviewing preprints
Central Preprint Service

- Provide convenient access to a corpus of life science preprints for both humans and machines
- Signatory of the funder principles: http://asapbio.org/principles
- Provide a source for future innovation in scholarly communication
Any questions?

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