

Open access publication policy

Last updated: 25/1/2017

Action on Hearing Loss is committed to ensuring that publications arising from its research funding are made as widely available as possible.

Action on Hearing Loss grant holders who were awarded a grant after 31 July 2011 are required to comply with our Open access publication policy; they must ensure that an open access electronic copy of each research paper that arises in whole or in part from Action on Hearing Loss funding is deposited in EuropePubMed Central or PubMed Central within six months of publication.

Our policy is intended to be beneficial for researchers as well as funding bodies. As an author, your paper will be more widely disseminated if it is open access than not because it can be read by anyone without restriction. As a reader, you will have access to an increasingly large number of publications in your area without being restricted by university subscriptions.

Policy details

1. What is an Open Access publication?

An open access publication is one that can be read and downloaded for free and in full via an online repository, by anyone with internet access.

A full recognised definition from a meeting on open access publishing convened by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in July 2003 is available here: <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm>

2. What is PubMed Central (PMC) and PubMed?

PubMed Central (PMC) is an online repository of biomedical and life sciences journal publications, which is operated by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI). Articles can be accessed in full for free by anyone with internet access.

PubMed is also operated by the NCBI and contains abstracts and indexed citations of biomedical and life sciences journal articles but it does not contain full text articles.

3. What is Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC)?

Europe PMC is based on, and linked to PMC, in that it is an online searchable archive of biomedical and life sciences journal articles providing free, permanent access to full-text peer-reviewed research publications to anyone with internet access. It is even more versatile than PMC in that it provides a single search to PubMed citations and abstracts as well as PMC full text

articles, and other, often hard-to-find, related content, e.g. clinical guidelines and UK biomedical theses.

Europe PMC has added functionality and is useful for evaluating research outcomes. It contains information of over 23,000 grants and 12,000 Principal Investigators funded by the Europe PMC Funders' Group. The Europe PMC Grant Reporting Service allows for easy tracking of publications to research grants, which can help individual researchers and funding organisations to determine and demonstrate research outcomes.

Europe PMC is funded by European biomedical research funders and from the end of July 2011, Action on Hearing Loss became a member of the Europe PMC Funders' Group.

4. What types of publications does the policy apply to?

The policy applies to peer-reviewed, primary research publications that are supported in whole or in part by Action on Hearing Loss funding. The policy does not apply to book chapters, reviews, editorials or conference proceedings

5. Who does our policy apply to?

Action on Hearing Loss grant holders who were awarded a grant after 31 July 2011 are required to ensure that an open access electronic copy of each peer-reviewed research paper that arises in whole or in part from Action on Hearing Loss funding is deposited in Europe PMC or PMC, whichever is most appropriate, within six months of publication. Action on Hearing Loss grant holders who were awarded a grant before 31 July 2011 are encouraged to comply with this policy. Although it is not a condition of your grant, we hope that you will be keen to make your publications open access due to the benefits outlined below.

6. What are the benefits for researchers?

From an author's perspective, publications in Europe PMC and PMC will be more widely disseminated than those that are not open access; they can be read by anyone with internet access. Preliminary evidence suggests that within the same journal and year, open access articles are cited more than restricted ones

(<http://www.plosbiology.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pbio.0040157>).

From a reader's perspective, the more open-access articles deposited in Europe PMC and PMC, the greater the range of papers you can access in your area, without needing to rely on university subscriptions.

7. How to ensure your publisher supports open access

Before you prepare an article for a journal, find out if the journal supports open access publications. The Wellcome Trust has a comprehensive guide to the open access policies of 200 frequently-used biomedical and life sciences journals:

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Open-access/Guides/>

If you would like to publish in a journal that will not allow the article to be deposited in Europe PMC (or PMC) and made open access within six months after publication, please contact us to discuss your case for publishing in the journal.

8. How to ensure your article is deposited in Europe PMC or PMC as open access

Many journals will deposit the article directly into Europe PMC (or into PMC, from where it is mirrored to Europe PMC) on behalf of the author. Articles will either be available as open access on publication or after an embargo period. Some journals do not deposit the article themselves but allow authors to deposit a copy. This can be done using the Europe PMC author manuscript submission system (see here for a help guide: <https://plus.europepmc.org/emss/local/Help/>) or using the PMC equivalent (<http://www.nihms.nih.gov/>).

9. Funding for open access publication fees

Open access publication fees can be paid using any underspend on existing grants but no additional Action on Hearing Loss funds are available for this purpose.

10. More information on open access publication and Europe PMC

For more information on open access publication, the Wellcome Trust has lots of information on its website: <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Spotlight-issues/Open-access/>

11. Queries

Specific queries can be emailed to research@hearingloss.org.uk or please call Tracey Pollard (020 7296 8013).