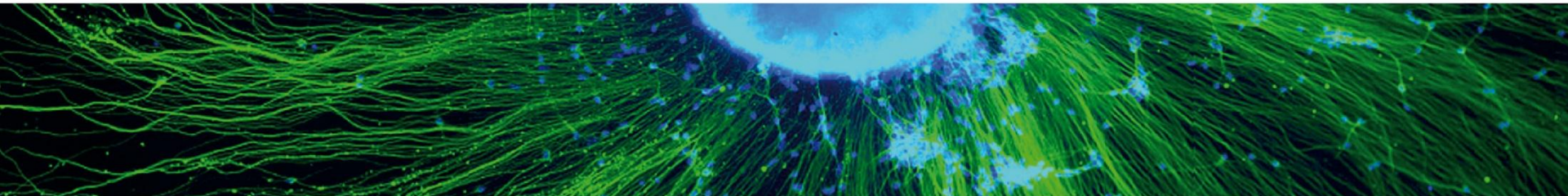




# European Science Foundation



# **ESF-EMRC Science Policy Briefing**

## **Open Access in Biomedical Research**

**Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC)**  
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# Conclusions

- Current journal subscription rates are not affordable for universities and research institutions
- It is recognised that publishers offer a service that needs to be paid for – but only at a price that the community can afford
- The turnover of information in biomedical sciences is fast, so rapid delivery of information is needed at an affordable price.

# Main recommendations

## Main recommendation 1

- The ideal situation would be a **gold route** to OA publishing with APCs at an affordable level
- If this is not possible, the next best option would be **green route** OA with an embargo period of six months

## Main recommendation 2

- UKPMC is an extremely valuable tool for researchers and there would be merit in expanding the programme into a **Europe PMC**. PMC has a stated commitment to increasing its international reach so a Europe PMC would chime with this.
- There are no obvious technical barriers to such a move but a solution should be investigated for those institutions/ agencies that already have a **repository**

# General recommendations

- In order to maximise the value of biomedical research, build on the body of knowledge, accelerate the process of discovery and improve human health, outputs should be made freely available to all to read, use and re-use, with appropriate acknowledgement
- Scientists need to be given incentives to publish in OA and to be educated about the use and importance of OA publishing.
- Funders should adopt a clear statement in favour of OA and provide a mechanism for funding OA fees. Mandates by themselves are not enough but have demonstrated to make a clear difference when measuring numbers of papers freely accessible and growing evidence of higher citation rates.
- Funders will need to work with publishers to support the change in the scholarly publishing model.

## General recommendations *(continued)*

- Too little is known about how much it currently costs funding agencies to have research published in an OA format. Such information is necessary if the case for more sustainable OA is to be made. In the future, funding agencies should clearly demarcate OA charges and sub-charges so that this information is available if and when required.
- A discussion between funders, publishers and scientific societies which benefit from publication costs should be initiated to find a solution which would not harm any of the parties.
- In order to facilitate discoveries in biomedical research and the use of advanced text mining technology, the adoption of a central repository is recommended. Funders should collaborate to develop a Europe PMC as a mirror site to the US equivalent PMC, and there should be links between IRs and this putative Europe PMC.



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