

Alzheimer's Society: Open access policy

Overview

- Alzheimer's Society is committed to open and unrestricted access to results of Alzheimer's Society funded research.
- This policy applies to all peer-reviewed, primary research articles that are supported in whole or in part by Alzheimer's Society funding.
- Alzheimer's Society is a member of [Europe PMC](#)
- All publications arising from research that the charity funds must be deposited in Europe PMC within six months.
- There is no additional cost to grant holders for depositing a manuscript in Europe PMC
- Alzheimer's Society encourages publication in open access journals, and open access format. However, Alzheimer's Society will at this time not pay these costs.

Why open access is important

Alzheimer's Society is committed to open and unrestricted access to results of Alzheimer's Society funded research. Making research accessible to all increases transparency and facilitates rapid sharing of knowledge. Open access provides unrestricted online access to scientific publications to the wider research community and members of the public. This helps to accelerate progress in medical research and promote innovation; ultimately enabling charities to achieve their objectives more quickly.

In December 2012, the UK government committed to open access publication of all publicly-funded scientific research. Closer to home, one of the 12 commitments made by ministers at the [G8 summit](#) in December 2013 was to encourage open access for dementia research publications.

Models of open access

There are several models of open access. The 'Gold model' whereby the journal makes the final published PDF of the article available without journal subscription. The journal will normally charge the author an article processing charge between £500 and £2500 for this. The 'Green model' is where a copy of the accepted manuscript is deposited in an open access repository at no cost. Access may be subject to an embargo, depending on the publisher's self-archiving policy.

Europe PMC membership

Alzheimer's Society has joined [Europe PMC](#), which allows for all Alzheimer's Society funded grant holders to deposit papers into Europe PMC, through the 'green model', at no additional charge.

The Society is funding [Europe PMC](#), in partnership with other biomedical and health research funders. Europe PMC is a unique, innovative, online repository where you can search over 30 million abstracts and 3 million+ full-text research articles from PubMed and PubMed Central. In addition, advanced text-mining allows you to search the full text of articles for key words, which is proven to increase the relevance of your search queries results.

What this policy means for Alzheimer's Society grant holders

- This policy applies to all researchers funded wholly or in part by Alzheimer's Society, from **1 May 2015**. We strongly encourage researchers funded before this date to comply with this Open Access Policy and self-archive previous publications supported by Alzheimer's Society.
- All grant holders must comply with our Open Access Policy and deposit an electronic copy of each peer-reviewed research publication, funded wholly or in part by Alzheimer's Society, in [Europe PMC](#). This should happen as soon as possible, and **no later than six months** after publication.
- Some journals such as Nature deposit publication manuscripts automatically on behalf of authors if it is indicated that the funder is a Europe PMC member. However, in the majority of cases grant holders will be required to self-archive manuscripts through Europe PMC plus <http://plus.europepmc.org>
- As open access costs and practices can be so varied the Society will not provide any additional funding to support gold-standard open access costs at this time. Historically, many of our grants finish with a small underspend which we are happy to consider requests to be used against open access charges.

Non-compliance

We do not wish to prevent our researchers from submitting research articles to the most appropriate journal, if it is not compliant with this policy. As a result, in exceptional circumstances you may publish in a journal that does not allow the article to be deposited in Europe PMC within 6 months. Researchers should contact Alzheimer's Society in advance of submitting their manuscript to make a case for publishing in such journals in advance.

Why Alzheimer's Society will not pay Gold standard open access publishing costs at this time

Based on the current number of publications citing Alzheimer's Society funding and costs of publication, we estimate the cost of such a policy could be in the region of £150k. As such, we have chosen not to implement this at this time. We will monitor this situation and review in June 2019.

Further Information

For further information about different publishers open access positions and embargo periods please view the [SHERPA/Romeo](#) website. If you have any questions please contact: grantenquiries@alzheimers.org.uk.