



Open Access (OA) Policy

Overview

- Breast Cancer Now is committed to ensuring its research findings are openly and freely available to everyone;
- This policy applies to all research outputs supported in whole, or in part, by Breast Cancer Now funding;
- Breast Cancer Now is a funder of Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC), a searchable literature repository accessible worldwide;
- All publications arising from funded research must be deposited in Europe PMC as soon as possible, and **no later than 12 months** following publication;
- There are no additional costs to grant holders for depositing a manuscript in Europe PMC;
- Current arrangements for the reimbursement of open access Article Processing Charges (APCs) in conjunction with the Charity Open Access Fund (COAF) will end in September 2016.
- Breast Cancer Now continues to encourage publications in open access journals and open access format and fees can be paid using any underspend on existing grants.

Why is Open Access important?

Breast Cancer Now's mission is to fund breast cancer research and we believe that if we all act now, by 2050, everyone who develops breast cancer will live. We want our research to have the maximum impact possible and believe this can be achieved by having our research findings openly and freely available to everyone.

Open Access (OA) provides unrestricted online access to research findings allowing them to be down-loaded, read, cited and used by individuals who do not have access to scientific journals through a personal or institutional subscription. This helps accelerate progress, promote innovation and ultimately should allow the charity's objectives to be achieved more quickly.

Models of Open Access

There are several open access models.

- (i) The 'Gold' model where the final published PDF of a research article is made available without the need for a journal subscription. A charge of between £500 and £2500 is made for each article.
- (ii) The 'Green' model where a copy of the accepted manuscript is deposited in an open access repository at no cost. Access to the article may be subject to a publisher's embargo period (usually 6-12 months) ¹ but self-archiving is possible.

¹ Information on the OA positions and embargo periods applied by different open access publishers can be found on the [SHERPA/ Romeo website](#)

Europe PMC membership

Breast Cancer Now is a funder of [Europe PMC](#), an electronic repository allowing worldwide access to patents, National Health Service guidelines and other records as well as published research manuscripts. The repository also permits text-mining of full articles through advanced key word searches. Importantly, Europe PMC permits Breast Cancer Now funded grant holders to deposit their manuscripts through the 'Green' route at no additional cost.

What does the policy mean for Breast Cancer Now grant holders?

- The policy applies to all researchers funded wholly, or in part, by Breast Cancer Now;
- All grant holders must deposit their manuscripts in Europe PMC as soon as possible, and no later than 12 months following publication;
- Previous arrangements for support of Open Access costs through the Charity Open Access Fund ([COAF](#)) will end in September 2016. From this date the charity will support the 'Green' Model of OA publishing, allowing grant holders to use any underspend on their grants towards open access charges ;
- Many journals automatically deposit papers in Europe PMC if the funder is a member of Europe PMC. If such a service is not provided, grant holders will need to self-archive using [Europe PMC plus](#).

Why has Breast Cancer now altered its Open Access policy?

After a two year pilot period, Breast Cancer Now recently reviewed its support of, and funding for, a 'Gold' open access (OA) model. Our review suggests that continued support for the 'Gold' model would cost Breast Cancer Now a significant amount of money per annum. Based on the current developments in a rapidly evolving open access landscape, the charity has decided to revert to promoting the 'Green' OA model at this time. We will continue to monitor changes in this landscape with the goal of continuing to provide open and unrestricted access to our publications at a reasonable economic cost.

Queries

Please direct any queries you have to grants_admin@breastcancernow.org.