

*Preprint title:*

## **Open access policies of high impact medical journals: a cross-sectional study**

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## **Abstract**

### **Introduction**

Journal publishers increasingly offer governmental and charitable research funders the option to pay for open access with a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence, which allows sharing and adaptation of published materials for commercial as well as non-commercial use. The Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association recommends this licence as the least restrictive Creative Commons licence available. We set out to investigate whether pharmaceutical companies are offered the same options.

### **Methods**

Using Journal Selector (Sylogent, Newtown, PA, USA), we identified journals with a 2015 impact factor of at least 15 on 24 May 2017, and excluded journals that only publish review articles from the analysis. Between 29 June 2017 and 26 July 2017, we collected information about the journals' open access policies from their websites and/or by email contact. We contacted the journals by email again between 6 December 2017 and 2 January 2018 to confirm our findings.

### **Results**

Thirty-seven non-review journals listed in the Journal Selector database, from 14 publishers, had a 2015 impact factor of at least 15. All 37 journals offered some form of access with varying embargo periods of up to 12 months. Of these journals, 23 (62%) offered immediate open access with a CC BY licence under certain circumstances (e.g. to specific research funders). Of these 23, only one journal confirmed that it offered a CC BY licence to commercial funders/pharmaceutical companies.

### **Conclusion**

The open access policies of most medical journals with high impact factors restrict the dissemination of medical research funded by the pharmaceutical industry. To give the scientific community freedom to read, reuse and adapt medical publications, publishers and academic journal editors would ideally allow pharmaceutical companies to fund unrestricted and immediate open access with a CC BY licence.

## Introduction

Freely accessible research publications support innovation in the public and private sectors by allowing previous research to be built upon, encouraging collaboration, speeding up research dissemination and improving the transparency of research across the world.<sup>1-3</sup> It also benefits public health by supporting informed decision-making.<sup>4,5</sup>

Open access means that readers do not have to pay to access peer-reviewed scientific research articles; however, open access is more ambitious than just making content free to read.<sup>2</sup> To realize the full potential of open access in supporting innovation, research publications should, on the condition that the source is appropriately attributed:

- be freely available to the end user at the time of publication
- allow for unrestricted reuse of content.<sup>3</sup>

Creative Commons licences attached to publications allow authors to retain copyright of their work and to stipulate the restrictions that apply to its reuse.<sup>6</sup> A Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence allows sharing and adaptation of published materials for commercial as well as non-commercial use.<sup>6</sup> It is recommended by the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association as the least restrictive type of Creative Commons licence available and by the Budapest Open Access Initiative as the optimal licence for open access publishing.<sup>7,8</sup>

There is no harmonization between journals in their options for publishing open access and a key area of difference is the types of Creative Commons licence on offer: common derivatives of the CC BY licence include CC BY-NC, which restricts commercial reuse; CC BY-ND, which restricts adaptation; and CC BY-NC-ND, which restricts both (Table S1).<sup>9</sup>

Governmental and charitable research funders increasingly mandate publishing open access with a CC BY licence.<sup>10-13</sup> The Medical Research Council, for example, requires grantees to publish their work in journals that offer immediate access with a CC BY licence.<sup>10,14</sup> In 2014, the Charity Open Access Fund was established by six partner UK charities (Arthritis Research UK, Bloodwise, the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, Parkinson's UK and the Wellcome Trust) to ensure that the researchers and organizations they support

can access the funds required to pay article processing charges and make research papers open access with a CC BY licence.<sup>15</sup>

Although the pharmaceutical industry funds approximately half of all medical research,<sup>16,17</sup> no pharmaceutical company currently mandates that the research they fund is published open access with a CC BY licence.

We set out to clarify the open access options offered by journals with high impact factors and whether pharmaceutical companies are given the same options as non-commercial funders.

## Methods

Using Journal Selector (Sylogent, Newtown, PA, USA), we identified journals with a 2015 impact factor of at least 15 (accurate on 24 May 2017); we excluded journals that only publish review articles. We collected information on the open access policies of the selected journals from their websites and by email contact, making up to three attempts between 29 June 2017 and 26 July 2017.

We categorized the least restrictive open access variant offered by each journal, using our own classification, according to:

- whether a CC BY licence was offered
- whether there was an embargo period
- which version of the article would be available (published, accepted, submitted).

For journals that offered a CC BY licence, we also assessed:

- article processing charges
- funding requirements for obtaining a CC BY licence.

Between 6 December 2017 and 2 January 2018 we sent emails to the journals requesting confirmation of our findings (Table S2).

## Results

### Least restrictive open access variant offered by journals

Fifty-three journals listed in the Journal Selector database had a 2015 impact factor of at least 15. Sixteen review journals were excluded and 37 journals from 14 publishers were included in this analysis. Table 1 shows the categories for the least restrictive open access variant offered by each journal.

**Table 1.** Categories for the least restrictive variant of open access offered by each journal.

Category	Version of article available	Embargo period	CC BY licence offered by the journal?
1	Published	None	Yes
2	Published	None	No
3	Published	6 months	No
4	Accepted	6 months	No
5	Accepted	12 months	No

CC BY, Creative Commons Attribution.

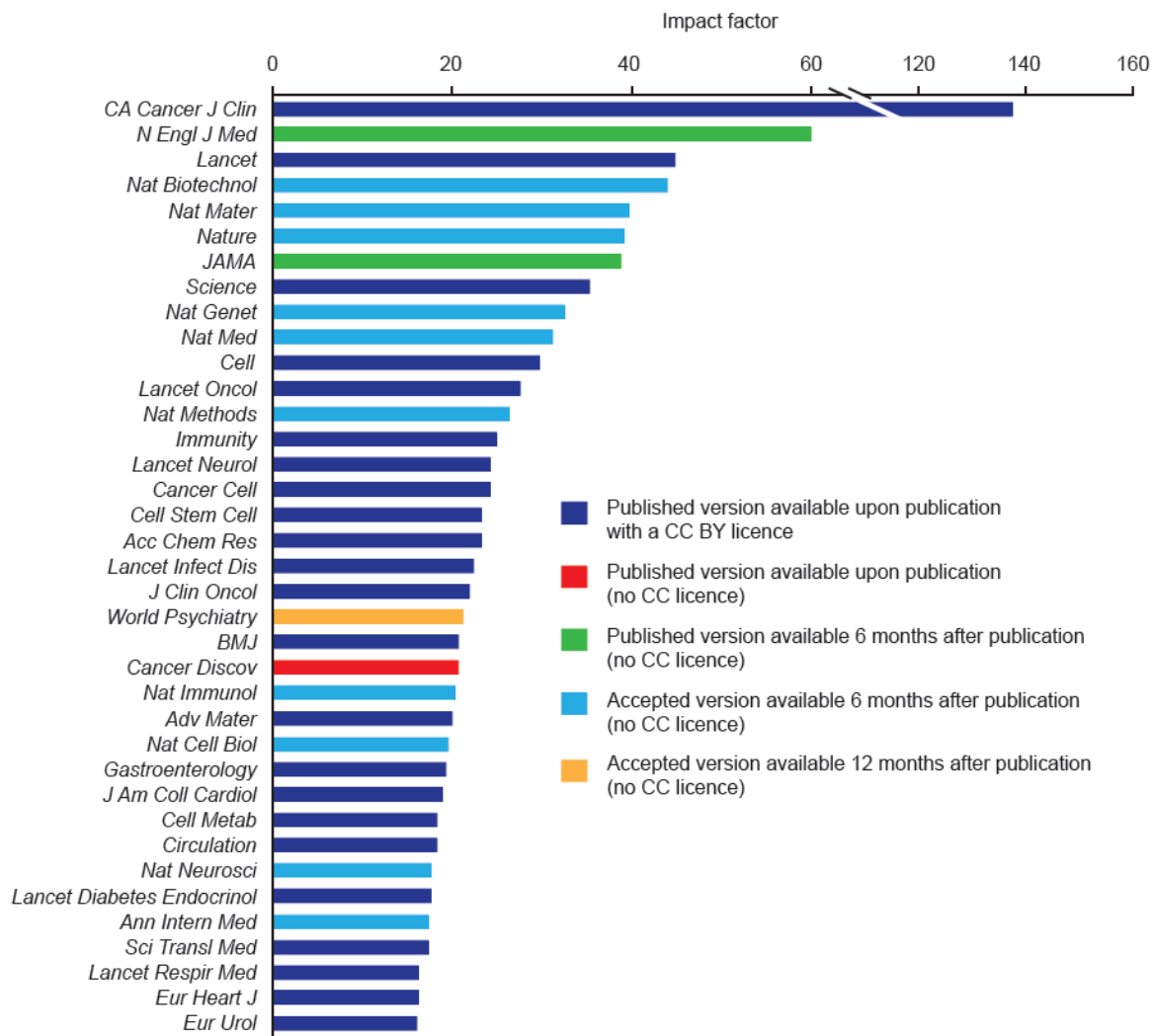
Immediate open access with a CC licence was offered by:

- 3 (30%) of the 10 journals with the highest impact factor (impact factor 30.4–137.6)
- 23 (62%) of the 37 journals analysed (Figures 1 and 2).

The types of CC licence available from these 23 journals were:

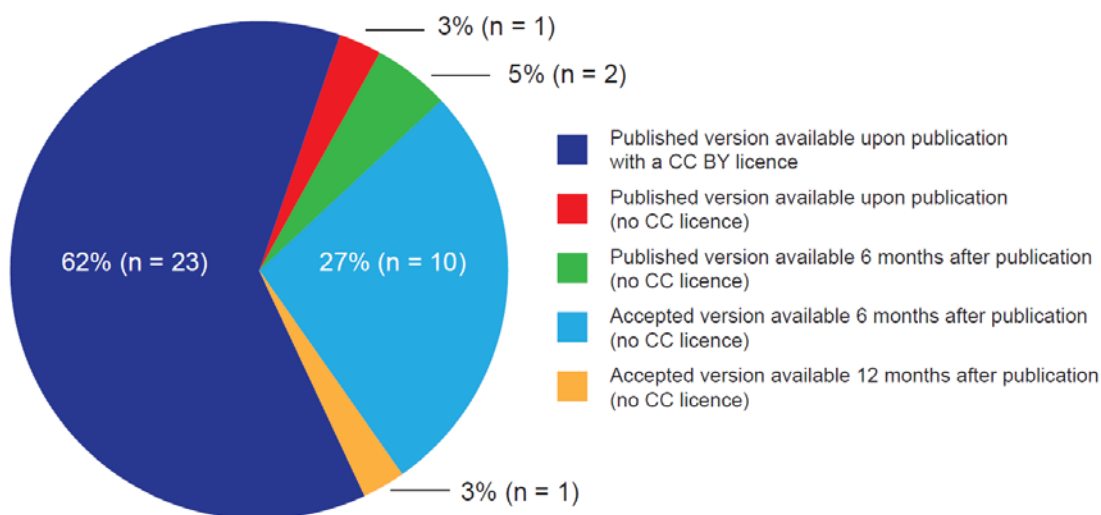
- CC BY from 23 journals (100%)
- CC BY-NC from 5 journals (22%)
- CC BY-NC-ND from 20 journals (87%).

The 14 journals, from six publishers, that did not offer open access with a CC licence offered access to different versions of the article either immediately, after a 6-month embargo period or after a 12-month embargo period (Table 2).



**Figure 1.** Journals ranked by impact factor and categorized by their least restrictive open access variant available (n = 37).

CC, Creative Commons.



**Figure 2.** Journals categorized by their least restrictive open access variant available (n = 37).

CC, Creative Commons.

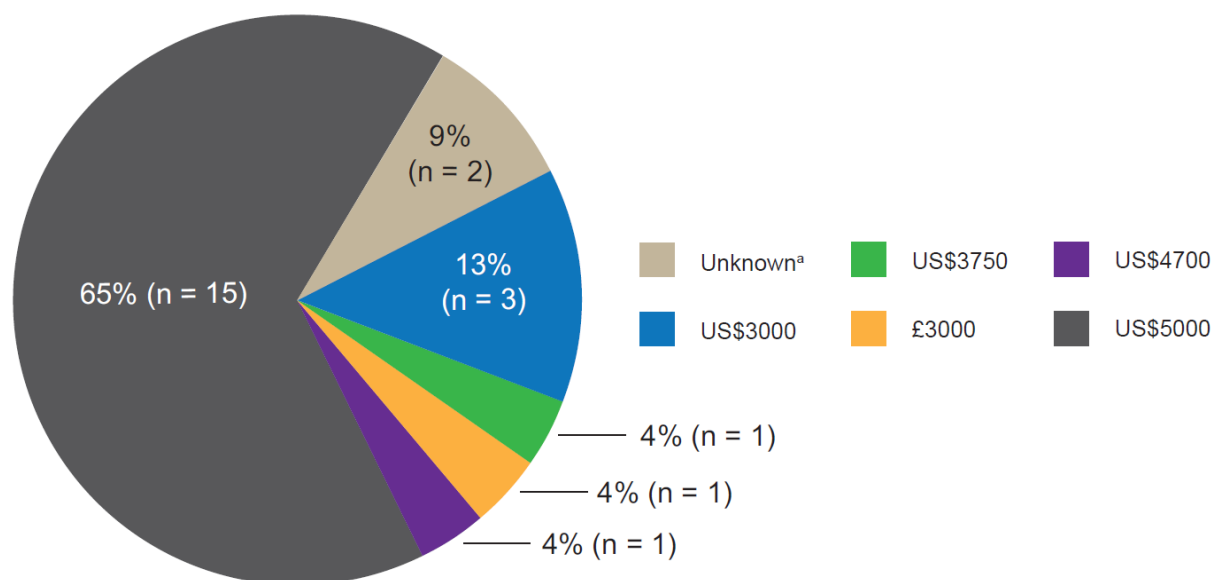
**Table 2.** Access policies of journals with high impact factors that do not offer open access with CC licences.

<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Journals included (n = 14)</b>	<b>Open access variant</b>
<b>American Association for Cancer Research Journals</b>	<i>Cancer Discov</i>	<i>Immediate: PV 6–12 months after publication: AV</i>
<b>American College of Physicians</b>	<i>Ann Intern Med</i>	<i>6 months after publication: AV</i>
<b>American Medical Association</b>	<i>JAMA</i>	<i>Immediate: PV 6 months after publication: PV</i>
<b>Massachusetts Medical Society</b>	<i>N Engl J Med</i>	<i>6 months after publication: PV</i>
<b>Nature Publishing Group</b>	<i>Nature; Nat Biotechnol; Nat Cell Biol; Nat Genet; Nat Immunol; Nat Mater; Nat Med; Nat Methods; Nat Neurosci</i>	<i>6 months after publication: AV</i>
<b>Wiley-Blackwell</b>	<i>World Psychiatry</i>	<i>Immediate: SV 12 months after publication: AV</i>

AV, accepted version; CC, Creative Commons, PV, published version; SV, submitted version.

### *The cost of open access with a CC BY licence*

Of the 23 journals that offered a CC BY licence, 21 (91%) disclosed article processing charges on their websites. Across these journals, charges ranged from US\$3000 to US\$5000; the most common article processing charge (65% of journals) was US\$5000 (Figure 3). Details of the fees charged by the remaining 2 journals (9%) are not available from their websites because the details are only provided when the article is accepted.



**Figure 3.** Article processing charges of journals that offer immediate open access with a CC BY licence (n = 23).

The article processing charge for obtaining a CC BY licence from *Acc Chem Res* (US\$5000) is lower if authors are paid members of the American Chemical Society.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Details on processing fees are provided at acceptance.<sup>19</sup>

### **Relationship between authors' funding source and the availability of open access variants**

Table 3 shows the open access policies of journals with high impact factors that offer open access with a CC BY licence. Of the 23 journals listed, only one – *Accounts of Chemical Research* – had an open access policy that allowed this option for commercial funders/pharmaceutical companies.



**Table 3.** Open access policies of journals with high impact factors that offer immediate open access with the CC BY licence (n = 23).

<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Journals included (n = 23)</b>	<b>Open access variant</b>	<b>Funding requirements for obtaining open access with a CC BY licence</b>
<b>American Association for the Advancement of Science</b>	<i>Science;</i> <i>Sci Transl Med</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, no CC licence (AV – personal/institutional website) <b>6 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (AV) <b>12 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (PV)	The American Association for the Advancement of Science will allow authors funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to publish their research with a CC BY licence
<b>American Chemical Society</b>	<i>Acc Chem Res</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, CC BY-NC-ND, no CC licence (PV) <b>12 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (PV)	Authors who wish or are required by funders to have a CC BY license may purchase for a fee  Following email contact, the publisher confirmed that the CC BY licence is available to all authors, regardless of their source of funding
<b>American Society of Clinical Oncology</b>	<i>J Clin Oncol</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, CC BY-NC-ND <b>6 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (PV) <b>12 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (PV)	CC licences available only if funders are academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, philanthropic foundations or government agencies
<b>BMJ Group</b>	<i>BMJ</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, CC BY-NC	CC BY licence available for authors when the funder requires it (funders who mandate CC BY include the Wellcome Trust, RCUK and the MRC)
<b>Cell Press</b>	<i>Cancer Cell; Cell;</i> <i>Cell Metab;</i> <i>Cell Stem Cell;</i> <i>Immunity</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, CC BY-NC-ND <b>12 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (AV)	CC licences available only to authors covered by a funding body agreement (these non-commercial funding bodies are listed on the journal websites)

<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Journals included</b> (n = 23)	<b>Open access variant</b>	<b>Funding requirements for obtaining open access with a CC BY licence</b>
<b>Elsevier</b>	<i>Eur Urol</i> ; <i>Gastroenterology</i> ; <i>J Am Coll Cardiol</i> ; <i>Lancet</i> ; <i>Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol</i> ; <i>Lancet Infect Dis</i> ; <i>Lancet Oncol</i> ; <i>Lancet Neurol</i> ; <i>Lancet Respir Med</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, CC BY-NC-ND (includes AV) <b>6 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (PV)	CC licences are available to authors funded by specific funding bodies (these non-commercial funding bodies are listed on the journal websites)  Elsevier has established agreements and developed policies to allow authors who publish in Elsevier journals to comply with manuscript archiving requirements of various funding bodies (these non-commercial funding bodies are listed on the journal websites)
<b>European Society of Cardiology</b>	<i>Eur Heart J</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, CC BY-NC, CC BY-NC-ND, no CC licence (AV/SV) <b>12 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (AV)	Authors funded by RCUK or the Wellcome Trust can use the CC BY licence for their articles
<b>Lippincott Williams &amp; Wilkins</b>	<i>Circulation</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, CC BY-NC, CC BY-NC-ND <b>6–12 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (AV)	Note that authors funded by RCUK or the Wellcome Trust may choose the CC BY licence if they agree to pay the article processing charge and commercial reuse of the article is not a factor
<b>Wiley-Blackwell</b>	<i>Adv Mater</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, CC BY-NC, CC BY-NC-ND, no CC licence (SV) <b>12 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (AV)	Authors whose funders have licensing mandates will be automatically directed to a CC BY licence (the select funders that have unique agreements with Wiley are outlined on the journal's Funder Agreements page)
<b>Wiley-Blackwell</b>	<i>CA Cancer J Clin</i>	<b>Immediate:</b> CC BY, CC BY-NC, CC BY-NC-ND, no CC licence (SV/PV) <b>12–24 months after publication:</b> no CC licence (AV)	All authors funded by RCUK or the Wellcome Trust will be directed to the CC BY licence

AV, accepted version; CC, Creative Commons; CC BY, Creative Commons Attribution; MRC, Medical Research Council; NC, Non-Commercial; ND, No Derivatives; PV, published version; RCUK, Research Councils UK; SV, submitted version.

## Discussion

We found that the majority of journals with a high impact factor that were included in this study offer open access with a CC BY licence; however, with the exception of one journal that does not publish evidence from clinical trials, this option appeared to be available only to authors funded by non-commercial organizations. Some journals allowed authors to obtain a CC BY licence when the work was supported by funders who mandated its use; however, at present, pharmaceutical companies do not mandate CC BY licences.

Here, we present a thorough analysis of open access policies of journals with a high impact factor, including society-owned journals, from multiple publishers. We met our objective to clarify the open access policies of all journals analysed, and received confirmation of our findings by email from 97% of the journals. Although our study covers only a small number of journals, extending such a manual analysis to a greater number of journals without loss of detail and still being able to confirm our findings efficiently would be difficult. When more extensive mining of journal (meta-)data becomes available, however, this study could be easily repeated for a bigger cohort of journals. To our knowledge, it has not been reported previously that the availability of open access options depends on authors' source of funding.

Limitations of this study are that we only investigated journals listed in the Journal Selector database with an impact factor of at least 15, and that, because impact factors and the open access policies of journals and publishers are subject to change, the information may not be current. Furthermore, by selecting journals with a high impact factor, our analysis does not include prestigious journals from certain therapy areas and regional journals.

The constraints imposed by journals and publishers that prohibit commercial funders from publishing open access with a CC BY licence are incompatible with key political declarations such as the Budapest Declaration,<sup>8</sup> the Berlin Declaration<sup>20</sup> and the Bethesda statement,<sup>21</sup> which aim not only to give end users immediate access to research articles but also to give them the opportunity to reuse material without restrictions. Moreover, pharmaceutical companies fund medical research with the aim of helping to develop effective treatments that address unmet patient needs; placing restrictions on access to this research is not in line with key ethical principles such as those laid out in the Declaration of Helsinki.<sup>22</sup>

Good Publication Practice version 3 (GPP3) guidelines state that authors should take responsibility for the way research findings are published.<sup>23</sup> In line with these recommendations, pharmaceutical companies can and should advise authors to reach a consensus on which journal to publish with, to avoid predatory journals, and to adhere to sponsor guidelines and regulations. There may be scope for pharmaceutical companies to introduce internal guidelines recommending open access publishing.

Our research shows that roughly one-third of the journals with a high impact factor that we assessed do not offer immediate access to the published version of a manuscript upon publication, even though the open access policies of many funders with respect to embargo periods echo the recommendations set out by open access declarations.<sup>8,20,21</sup> The World Health Organization expects trial data to be published in a journal within 24 months of study completion.<sup>24</sup> The Research Councils UK policy supports open access, with a preference for immediate access with the maximum opportunity for reuse, which would be granted by a CC BY licence.<sup>10</sup> Horizon 2020 requires its beneficiaries to make publications open access as soon as possible upon publication and to make every effort to allow for maximum reuse of the materials, whether that be copying, distributing, searching, linking, crawling, mining or some other use.<sup>2</sup> This position is supported by the European Research Council.<sup>25</sup>

A potential conflict of interest for publishers in relation to their willingness to offer CC BY licences to the pharmaceutical industry is the revenue generated from reproducing article content and reprints. Fees for the reproduction of copyrighted materials can, for example, range above several thousand dollars for using a single chart.<sup>26</sup> Recent research by Lundh *et al.*<sup>27</sup> aimed to quantify reprint revenues as a proportion of journal income. Of the six journals investigated, only the two European journals – the *BMJ* and *The Lancet* – disclosed the information requested. The editors of the US journals – *Archives of Internal Medicine*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *JAMA* and the *New England Journal of Medicine* – did not provide the data. For the *BMJ*, reprint revenues constituted 3% of its overall income; *The Lancet* obtained 41% of its revenue from reprints.<sup>27</sup> In *The Lancet*, industry-funded publications constituted a large proportion of highly reprinted articles (63/88) compared with a sample of control articles from the same journal (23/88).<sup>28</sup>

Another factor that may be causing publishers to place restrictions on the reuse of materials funded by the pharmaceutical industry could be concerns over the possible misuse or misrepresentation of pharmaceutical data by any end user; however, such activities would be offences under existing compliance regulations and would attract fines.<sup>29</sup> In support of credible evidence-based medicine, and owing to the competitive nature of pharmaceutical companies, it is likely that they scrutinize their competitors' evidence, and identify and report any breaches of good practice to regulators.

Two of the journals included in our analysis, *Science* and *Science Translational Medicine*, both published by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, do not disclose article processing charges on their websites; instead, they provide this information upon their acceptance of an article.<sup>19</sup> This practice is common among predatory journals and does not comply with the Directory of Open Access Journals guidelines,<sup>30</sup> which state that processing fees must be stated clearly on journal websites in a place that is easy to find for potential authors prior to submitting their manuscript.

Future research could focus on a larger selection of journals than the current study, or on journals from a specific therapy area, to further clarify the use of open access variants in the medical publication landscape.

## **Conclusion**

To maximize societal benefit from medical research and to align journal policies with open access declarations, funders of research, including the pharmaceutical industry, should be allowed to have their research read and reused immediately after its publication. This is best achieved by publishing research open access with a CC BY licence, which is recommended as the least restrictive licence available. At present, journals with a high impact factor restrict commercially funded research from being published with this licence, and pharmaceutical companies do not mandate its use.

To align publishing policies with the open access declarations,<sup>8,20,21</sup> the Horizon 2020 program supported by the European Research Council,<sup>2,25</sup> and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors<sup>31</sup> and GPP3<sup>23</sup> guidelines, the publishing industry and the pharmaceutical industry must work together. By offering authors the option of publishing

their research with a CC BY licence, irrespective of funding source, publishers and journals can support immediate and unrestricted open access to publications to give the global scientific community, patients and the public the opportunity to learn from and build on medical research.

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## **Competing interests**

Tim Ellison, Tim Koder, Laura Schmidt and Amy Williams are employees of Oxford PharmaGenesis, Oxford, UK. Chris Winchester is a Director and a shareholder of Oxford PharmaGenesis Holdings Ltd.

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Conceptualization, project administration, T.E. (<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0307-725X>), T.K. (<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6152-7365>), L.S. (<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6117-781X>), A.W. (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9354-6402>); methodology, resources, investigation, formal analysis, T.E.; writing – original draft, T.E. and L.S.; visualization, T.E.; writing – review and editing, T.E., T.K., L.S., A.W., C.W. (<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3267-3990>); supervision, T.K., L.S.

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## Supplemental information

**Table S1.** Definitions of CC licences commonly used by medical journals.<sup>6</sup>

Type	Definition
<b>CC BY</b>	Free to distribute and adapt the original work, even commercially, if the original creation and authors are credited
<b>CC BY-NC</b>	Free to adapt the original work non-commercially and, although derivative works must also acknowledge the authors and be non-commercial, they do not have to be licensed on the same terms
<b>CC BY-NC-ND</b>	Free to download the original work and share it if the authors are credited, but the work cannot be adapted or used commercially

CC, Creative Commons; CC BY, Creative Commons Attribution; NC, Non-Commercial; ND, No Derivatives.

**Table S2.** Emails to and from journals.

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
American Association for Cancer Research Journals	<i>Cancer Discov</i>	(To: pubs@aacr.org) (Sent: 6 December 2017)  I have been looking on the AACR website for information about open access options for Cancer Discovery. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are:  Immediate open access: open access to the published article without a Creative Commons (CC) licence Access 6–12 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to a repository – only if funded by a specific non-commercial organization)	(From: ...@aacr.org) (Received: 14 December 2017)  I have copied our archiving and open access policies below. You can also find these policies on our website ( <a href="http://aacrjournals.org/content/authors/copyright-permissions-and-access">http://aacrjournals.org/content/authors/copyright-permissions-and-access</a> ). If you have any other questions, please let me know.
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	<i>Science</i> ; <i>Sci Transl Med</i>	(To: mailto:permissions@aaas.org) (Sent: 6 December 2017)  I have been looking on the AAAS website for information about open access options for the <i>Science</i> and <i>Sci Transl Med</i> journals for research I am conducting. Please could you confirm that the options available for these journals are:  <b>Immediate open access:</b> CCBY licence (only if authors are funded by the Gates Foundation); green open access with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to personal/institutional website) <b>Access 6 months after publication:</b> green open access with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to a repository) <b>Access 12 months after publication:</b> green open access with no CC licence (published version on journal website)	(From: permissions@aaas.org) (Received: 7 December 2017)  Thank you very much for getting in touch. This is essentially correct but I'm re-writing it a bit to clarify some points (I hope!).  For Science and Science Translational Medicine we offer a Science Journals Default license. This is not a Creative Commons license. It is Green open access which means after publication the author may:  -post the accepted version of his paper on his personal or institution's repository -after a 6 month embargo, the accepted version of the paper may be made available via your funding body archive or designated repository so long as the article copy is restricted to non-commercial research purposes -after 12 months the paper is available for free from the journal website. This is the final published version.

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
American College of Physicians	<i>Ann Intern Med</i>	(To:Annals@mail.acponline.org) (Sent: 6 December 2017)	<p>If you are an author funded by the Gates foundation your paper will be released under the Creative Commons with attribution license (CC BY). Under a CC BY license the paper will be immediately available to read and download under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0). Here is a link to the license: <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/</a></p> <p>I wanted to mention that our journal Science Advances currently only releases article under the CC licenses (CC BY and CC BY-NC). <a href="http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/article-licensing">http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/article-licensing</a> (From: Annals@mail.acponline.org) (Sent 6 December 2017)</p>
		<p>I have been looking on the American College of Physicians website for information about open access options for Ann Intern Med. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are:</p>	<p>Yes this is correct.</p>
		<p>Immediate open access: open access with a Creative Commons (CC) licence is not available for this journal Access 6 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to a repository – only if funded by NIH)</p>	
American Chemical Society	<i>Acc Chem Res</i>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (To: ACS Publications Support [via website]) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (From: support@services.acs.org) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p>
		<p>I have been looking on the ACS Publications website for information about open access options for the Acc Chem Res journal for research I am conducting. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are: Immediate open access: CC BY licence (any author can obtain this licence regardless of funding source); CC BY-NC-ND; open access with no CC licence (published version) Access 12 months after publication: open access with no CC licence (published version)</p>	<p>Please note that all ACS Author Choice options you mentioned are available for the Accounts of Chemical Research.</p> <p><a href="http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/openaccess/index.html#achre4">http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/openaccess/index.html#achre4</a></p> <p>For more information, please check the following links:</p> <p><a href="http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/authorchoice/options.html#optona">http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/authorchoice/options.html#optona</a> <a href="http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/authorchoice/understanding_options.html#order">http://pubs.acs.org/page/4authors/authorchoice/understanding_options.html#order</a></p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
		<p><b>Email 2:</b> (To: support@services.acs.org) (Sent: 7 December 2017)</p> <p>Thank you for your response and for providing extra information. Please could you clarify one point – is the Creative Commons CC BY licence only available to authors who are required to have one by their funding sponsors? Is the CC BY licence available to authors funded by commercial funders as well?</p>	<p><a href="http://pubs.acs.org/pb-assets/documents/4authors/authorchoice_flowchart.pdf">http://pubs.acs.org/pb-assets/documents/4authors/authorchoice_flowchart.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Email 2:</b> (From support@services.acs.org) (Sent: 8 December 2017)</p> <p>Please note that Creative Commons CC BY licence is available to all authors, including the ones funded by commercial funders.</p> <p>Some funders require a CC-BY license for all published research and that is the reason we point that information, but you may choose the CC-BY even if it is not required by your funder.</p> <p>Please check this decision tree and you will see that there is an option: "Do you need or would you like a Creative Commons license?"</p>
<b>American Medical Association</b>	<i>JAMA</i>	<p>(Via: <a href="https://sites.jamanetwork.com/help/">https://sites.jamanetwork.com/help/</a>) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on the JAMA website for information about open access options for JAMA. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are: Immediate open access: open access to the published article via the JAMA Network Reader (not subject to a Creative Commons [CC] licence) Access 6 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (published version uploaded to journal website / repository).</p>	<p><a href="http://pubs.acs.org/pb-assets/documents/4authors/authorchoice_flowchart.pdf">http://pubs.acs.org/pb-assets/documents/4authors/authorchoice_flowchart.pdf</a> (From ...@jamanetwork.org) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>Your query was forwarded to me. JAMA does not have an author-pay open access. As indicated in JAMA's Instructions for Authors:</p> <p>“All research articles are made free access online 6 months after publication on the journal website. All articles are made free access on The JAMA Network Reader on the day of publication.”</p> <p>See <a href="https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/pages/instructions-for-authors#SecPublicAccess">https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/pages/instructions-for-authors#SecPublicAccess</a></p>
<b>American Society of Clinical Oncology</b>	<i>J Clin Oncol</i>	<p>(To: jco@asco.org) (Sent: 12 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on the American Society of Clinical Oncology website for information about open</p>	<p>(From: JCO@asco.org) (Sent: 13 December 2017)</p> <p>I would say the following is correct:</p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
		<p>access options for the J Clin Oncol journal for research I am conducting. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are:</p> <p>Immediate open access: CC BY and CC BY-NC-ND licences only available if funders are academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, philanthropic foundations, or government agencies</p> <p>Access 6 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (published version uploaded to an institutional or funding body repository)</p> <p>Access 12 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (published version uploaded to a repository – for research funded by NIH and other US government agencies)</p>	<p>Immediate open access: CC BY and CC BY-NC-ND licences only available if funders are academic institutions, not-for-profit organizations, philanthropic foundations, or government agencies</p> <p>Access 6 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (published version uploaded by the authors to an institutional or funding body repository)</p> <p>Access 12 months after publication: standard JCO licence with federal funding (published version deposited by ASCO to PubMed Central (PMC) – for research funded by NIH and other US government agencies)</p>
<b>BMJ Group</b>	<i>BMJ</i>	<p>(To: editor@bmj.com) (Sent: 13 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on the BMJ website for information about open access options for the BMJ journal for research I am conducting. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are: Immediate open access to the published article: CC BY licence (only if authors are funded by non-commercial organizations that mandate open access publishing with this licence); CC BY-NC licence (default option)</p>	<p>(From: ...@bmj.com) (Sent: 14 December 2017)</p> <p>Thanks for getting in touch. Those options you've suggested are pretty spot on - we offer CC BY-NC 4.0 as a default for all Research articles, although we offer a CC BY 4.0 licence on request when required by funders. All other article types are not OA by default, but authors can request and pay for OA if required. You can find out more about this here: <a href="http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/forms-policies-and-checklists/copyright-open-access-and-permission-reuse">http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-authors/forms-policies-and-checklists/copyright-open-access-and-permission-reuse</a></p>
<b>Cell Press</b>	<i>Cancer Cell; Cell; Cell Metab; Cell Stem Cell; Immunity</i>	<p>(To: support@elsevier.com) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on the Cell Press website for information about open access options for the Cancer Cell, Cell, Cell Metab, Cell Stem Cell and Immunity journals. Please could you confirm that the options available for these journals are:</p> <p>Immediate open access: CC BY and CC BY-NC-ND licences (only available to authors covered by a</p>	<p>(From: ...@Cell.com) (Sent: 15 December 2017)</p> <p>What you have as a statement about open access for the titles you listed is correct. However only a subset of those funding bodies have a mandatory open access policy (Research Council UK, Wellcome Trust, Gates Foundation) and those are the ones where authors can select open access. For example an NIH funded author is not offered a gold OA option but we do deposit the accepted article to PubMed Central with a 12 month embargo.</p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
		<p>funding body agreement – listed below)  Access 12 months after publication:green open access  with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to a  repository – for non-commercially funded research)</p> <p>Funding body agreements for CC BY and CC BY-NC-  ND licences :Arthritis Research UK, Arts and  Humanities Research Council (UK), Biotechnology  and Biological Sciences Research Council (UK), Bill  and Melinda Gates Foundation, Bloodwise, British  Heart Foundation (UK), Breast Cancer Now, Cancer  Research UK, CAPES (Coordenação de  Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior), Chief  Scientist Office, Department of Defense (US),  Department of Energy (US), Department of Health  (UK), Dunhill Medical Trust, European Molecular  Biology Laboratory (EMBL), European Research  Council (ERC), Engineering and Physical Sciences  Research Council (UK), Economic and Social  Research Council (UK), Free University of Brussels  (ULB), Gates Foundation, Howard Hughes Medical  Institute (US), Hungarian Academy of Science, Joint  Research Centre, Medical Research Council (UK),  Motor Neurone Disease Association, Natural  Environment Research Council (UK), National  Institutes of Health (US), National Research Council  Canada (NRC), Parkinson's UK, Research Councils  (UK), Robert Koch Institute, Science and Technology  Facilities Council (UK), Smithsonian Institution,  Telethon (Italy), UK Department for International  Development, United Nations University, VSNU  (NL), Wellcome Trust (UK), World Bank, World  Health Organization, Worldwide Cancer Research</p>	



Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
<b>Elsevier</b>	<i>Lancet;</i> <i>Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol;</i> <i>Lancet Infect Dis;</i> <i>Lancet Oncol;</i> <i>Lancet Neurol;</i> <i>Lancet Respir Med</i>	<p><b>Email 1:</b>            (To: editorial@lancet.com)            (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on individual journal websites for information about open access options for the Lancet, Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol, Lancet Infect Dis, Lancet Oncol, Lancet Neurol, and Lancet Respir Med journals. Please could you confirm that the options available for these journals are:</p> <p>Immediate open access: open access to the published article with CC BY and CC BY-NC-ND licences (only available to authors funded by specific non-commercial organizations – listed below); green open access with optional attachment of CC BY-ND-ND licence (accepted version uploaded to personal/institutional websites or a repository)            Access 6 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (published version uploaded to journal website and/or a repository)</p> <p>Gold and green access are only offered to research funded by specific organizations: Arthritis Research UK, Austrian Science Fund, British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research UK, UK Chief Scientist Office, UK Department of Health UK, UK Department of International Development (DFID), Dunhill Medical Trust, Motor Neuron Disease Association, Parkinson's UK, one of the UK Research Councils, Telethon Italy, or Wellcome Trust; WHO (including International Agency for Research on Cancer [IARC]); Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation; Breast Cancer Now or Bloodwise; Worldwide Cancer Research</p> <p><b>Email 2:</b>            (To: ...@elsevier.com)            (Sent: 7 December 2017)</p>	<p><b>Email 1:</b>            (From: ...@elsevier.com)            (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>In the instructions for authors <a href="http://www.thelancet.com/authors/lancet/authorinfo">http://www.thelancet.com/authors/lancet/authorinfo</a> there is a section dedicated to Open Access.</p> <p>You can reference this for your research.</p> <p>I hope this answers your question.            If there is anything else I can help you with, please let me know.</p> <p><b>Email 2:</b>            (From: ...@elsevier.com)            (Sent: 7 December 2017)</p> <p>Only papers submitted after a certain date and funded by specific organizations (see Open Access section of the Information for Authors for further details) can apply for Open Access.</p> <p>I hope this helps you better. Let me know if you require further help.</p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
<b>Elsevier</b>	<i>Gastroenterology;</i> <i>J Am Coll Cardiol;</i> <i>Eur Urol</i>	<p>Thank you for your response. Please could I get clarification on one point – is open access to the published article with the CC BY licence only available to authors funded by specific non-commercial organizations? Or is this licence available to all authors regardless of their funding source (e.g. authors funded by commercial organizations)?</p> <p><b>Email 1:</b> (To: support@elsevier.com) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on individual journal websites for information about open access options for the Gastroenterology, J Am Coll Cardiol, and Eur Urol journals. Please could you confirm that the options available for these journals are:</p> <p>Immediate open access: open access to the published article with CC BY and CC BY-NC-ND licences (only available to authors funded by non-commercial organizations with established agreements with Elsevier); green open access with optional attachment of CC BY-ND-ND licence (accepted version uploaded to personal/institutional websites or a repository) Access 6 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (published version uploaded to journal website and/or a repository)</p> <p><b>Email 2:</b> (To: support@elsevier.com) (Sent: 7 December 2017)</p> <p>Thank you for your response. Please could I ask for clarification on one point – is open access to the published article with the CC BY licence only available to authors funded by specific non-commercial organizations? Or is this licence available</p>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (From: support@elsevier.com) (Sent: 7 December 2017)</p> <p>I can confirm that Open Access and Green Open Access for these journals are available. However, the embargo period for these is 12 months.</p> <p>Should you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p><b>Email 2:</b> (From: support@elsevier.com) (Sent: 8 December 2017)</p> <p>I can confirm that, for these journals, CC BY license is only available to authors funded by specific non-commercial organizations.</p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
		to all authors regardless of their funding source (e.g. authors funded by commercial organizations)?	
<b>European Society of Cardiology</b>	<i>Eur Heart J</i>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (To: Journals.Permissions@oup.com) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on the European Society of Cardiology website for information about open access options for the European Heart Journal. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are:</p> <p>Immediate open access: CC BY licence (only available for RCUK/Wellcome Trust-funded authors); CC BY-NC licence; CC BY-NC-ND licence; green open access with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to personal/institutional websites, or submitted version uploaded anywhere provided there is a statement of acknowledgement of acceptance) Access 12 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to a repository)</p> <p><b>Email 2:</b> (To: Eurheartj@usz.ch) (Sent: 13 December 2017)</p> <p><i>(Same message sent as before)</i></p> <p><b>Email 3:</b> (To: openaccess.oup.com) (Sent: 2 January 2018)</p>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (From: Journals.Permissions@oup.com [automatic reply]) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p><i>(Automatic reply received detailing how to obtain journal permissions)</i></p> <p><b>Email 2:</b> <b>No response was received.</b></p> <p><b>Email 3:</b> (From: OpenAccess@oup.com) (Sent: 10 January 2018)</p> <p>I hope you are well. Thank you for your email regarding the open access options available to authors publishing in European Heart Journal. Please be advised that authors publishing in European Heart Journal can chose to make their papers freely available via the gold open access method, by publishing their paper under an open access licence - the Creative Commons Attribution licence (CC-BY) for RCUK or Wellcome Trust funded authors, or the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial licence (CC-BY-NC) for all other authors. Alternatively, authors can chose to make their papers freely available via the green open access method, by self-archiving a version of their paper. Authors may deposit the AoV (Author's Original Version) in personal/institutional websites, provided that once accepted they provide a statement of acknowledgment and, once published, this acknowledgment contains details of: volume number, issue number, DOI and a link to the published article. Or authors may</p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
		(Same message as above was sent)	deposit the AM (Accepted Version) on a personal webpage (excluding commercial websites) or institutional repository, on the proviso that it is not made publicly available until 12 months after publication. Further details as to how authors publishing in European Heart Journal can make their articles available via the green OA method can be found here: <a href="https://academic.oup.com/journals/pages/access_purchase/rights_and_permissions/self_archiving_policy_b">https://academic.oup.com/journals/pages/access_purchase/rights_and_permissions/self_archiving_policy_b</a> .
<b>Lippincott Williams &amp; Wilkins</b>	<i>Circulation</i>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (To: circ@circulationjournal.org) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on the Circulation website for information about open access options for the Circulation journal. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are:</p> <p>Immediate open access: CC BY licence (only available to authors funded by RCUK or Wellcome Trust if commercial reuse isn't a factor); CC BY-NC licence; CC BY-NC-ND licence Access 6–12 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (publisher will deposit accepted version to a repository if funded by NIH, HHMI or The Wellcome Trust)</p> <p><b>Emails 2 and 3:</b> (Same message as above was sent to the same email address on 13 December 2017 and 2 January 2018)</p>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> <b>No response was received.</b></p> <p><b>Email 2:</b> <b>No response was received.</b></p> <p><b>Email 3:</b> (From: circ@circulationjournal.org) (Sent: 2 January 2018)</p> <p>The Editorial Office is closed until January 2nd. We will respond at our earliest convenience. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the Circulation team.</p>
<b>Massachusetts Medical Society</b>	<i>N Engl J Med</i>	<p>(To: permissions@mms.org) (Sent: 2 January 2018)</p> <p>I have been looking on the journal website for information about open access options for N Engl J Med. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are:</p>	<p>(From: ...@mms.org) (Sent: 4 January 2018)</p> <p>Thank you for your email. In regards to your question, here is the NEJM information requested:</p> <p>Six months after publication, NEJM makes full texts of all research articles available free of charge at NEJM.org. Certain</p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
<b>Nature Publishing Group</b>	<i>Nature;</i> <i>Nat Biotechnol;</i> <i>Nat Cell Biol;</i> <i>Nat Genet;</i> <i>Nat Immunol;</i> <i>Nat Mater;</i> <i>Nat Med;</i> <i>Nat Methods;</i> <i>Nat Neurosci</i>	<p>Immediate open access: open access with a Creative Commons (CC) licence is not available for this journal  Access 6 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (published version uploaded to a repository)</p>	<p>materials may be released sooner at the discretion of NEJM editors. In particular, articles addressing matters of immediate interest to the public health are free from the time of publication. NEJM makes unrestricted immediate online access free to more than 90 low-income countries. NEJM does not offer an author-pays model, and there is no charge to submit or to publish in NEJM.</p> <p>If research supporting an article was funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Wellcome Trust, or another not-for-profit organization that requires authors to submit to a publicly available, not-for-profit (non-institutional) repository, NEJM will submit PDFs of the published version to the NIH Manuscript Submission System or Europe PubMed Central to be released six (6) months after the article is published.</p>
		<p>(To: OASupport@springernature.com)  (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on Nature journals' websites for information about open access options for the following journals:</p> <p>Nature  Nat Biotechnol  Nat Cell Biol  Nature Genetics  Nat Immunol  Nat Mater  Nat Med  Nat Methods  Nat Neurosci</p> <p>Please could you confirm that the options available for these journals are:</p> <p>Immediate open access: open access with a Creative Commons (CC) licence is not available for this journal  Access 6 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to a</p>	<p>(From: ...@springernature.com)  (Sent: 10 December 2017)</p> <p>Thank you for contacting Nature Research about Open access options for Nature journals.</p> <p>There are no paid immediate Open Access (OA) options available in this journal as Nature and the Nature Research journals support green OA deposition rather than gold OA publication, with the exception of Nature Communications, which is an open access title.</p> <p>Open access through manuscript deposition</p> <p>Authors publishing in Nature and in all other Nature Research journals are able to make the accepted version of their manuscript openly available six months after publication through self-archiving in the repository of their choice (<a href="#">see the full details of our self-archiving policy</a>). Please note that version which may be archived is the manuscript accepted following peer-review and author revision, but prior to copyediting and typesetting by Nature Research.</p> <p>We also offer a free Nature Research Manuscript Deposition</p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
		repository or shared by SharedIt content-sharing)	<p>Service of original research articles published in Nature, the Nature Research journals, and many of our society and academic journals. Corresponding authors whose funders have agreements with PubMed Central, Europe PubMed Central, and PubMed Central Canada may opt in to this service during submission. Nature Research will archive the accepted version of the manuscript on behalf of the author, and it will be made publicly accessible six months after publication with links back to the journal's website. For further information, please see here.</p> <p>Journals with immediate OA option</p> <p>If you are considering publishing an article via immediate (gold) OA in the future please do consult our <a href="#">list of journals with a paid open access option</a>. Articles published in these journals can be made OA immediately on publication through payment of an article-processing charge (APC). Our funding support service (OAfundingandpolicy@springernature.com) can assist you in locating potential sources of APC funding.</p>
<b>Wiley-Blackwell</b>	<i>Adv Mater</i>	<p>(To: advmat@wiley-vch.de) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on the journal website for information about open access options for the Advanced Materials journal. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are:</p> <p>Immediate open access: CC BY licence (only available to authors with licencing mandates); CC BY-NC licence; CC BY-NC-ND licence; green open access with no CC licence (submitted version uploaded to a not-for-profit repository or to personal/institutional website) Access 12 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to a not-for-profit repository or to personal/institutional website)</p>	<p>(From: advmat@wiley-vch.de) (Sent: 11 December 2017)</p> <p>Green open access is available in accordance with our copyright transfer agreement which is quoted at the end of this email.</p> <p>Your information on paid open access is correct. In addition the accepted version of NIH-funded manuscripts is automatically indexed on Pubmed central after the 12-months embargo has expired.</p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
	<i>CA Cancer J Clin</i>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (To: cs-journals@wiley.com) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on the journal website for information about open access options for CA Cancer J Clin. Please could you confirm that the options available for this journal are:</p> <p>Immediate open access: CC BY licence (only available to authors funded by RCUK or The Wellcome Trust); CC BY-NC licence; CC BY-NC-ND licence; green open access with no CC licence (published or submitted versions uploaded to a repository) Access 12–24 months after publication: green open access with no CC licence (accepted version uploaded to a repository)</p> <p><b>Email 2:</b> (To: cs-journals@wiley.com) (Sent: 2 January 2018)</p> <p>I just wanted to follow up on my previous email. Please could I ask for clarification on the availability of the CC BY licence for CA Cancer J Clin? Is the CC BY licence only available to authors funded by specific non-commercial organizations? Or is this licence available to all authors regardless of their funding source (e.g. authors funded by commercial organizations)?</p>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (From: cs-journals@wiley.com) (Sent: 11 December 2017)</p> <p>Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the above journal title.</p> <p>Please be advised Open Access are options for the above journal title, but as the journal is freely accessible, we have only ever had one article incorporate a CC BY license.</p> <p><b>Email 2:</b> (From: cs-authorlicencesupport@wiley.com) (Sent: 3 January 2018)</p> <p>Thank you for your follow up email regarding CC-BY license.</p> <p>For this journal, CC-BY is only offered in compliant with your funder's policy. When signing your license agreement in Author Services, please select your mandated funder to ensure you are offered the appropriate license compliant with your funder's policy. Not indicating a funder with a license mandate during this process will lead you to sign either CC-BY-NC or CC-BY-NC-ND.</p>
	<i>World Psychiatry</i>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (To: cs-journals@wiley.com) (Sent: 6 December 2017)</p> <p>I have been looking on the journal website for information about open access options for World Psychiatry. Please could you confirm that the options</p>	<p><b>Email 1:</b> (From: cs-journals@wiley.com) (Sent: 7 December 2017)</p> <p>Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the above journal title.</p>

Publisher	Journal (n = 37)	Email question	Email response
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