

Editorial

Open Access

## Cerebrospinal Fluid Research: The first six months and the introduction of article processing charges

Hazel C Jones\*

Address: Editorial Office Gagle Brook House, Chesterton, Bicester, Oxon OX26 1UF, United Kingdom

Email: Hazel C Jones\* - [hjones@ufl.edu](mailto:hjones@ufl.edu)

\* Corresponding author

Published: 19 July 2005

Received: 16 July 2005

Cerebrospinal Fluid Research 2005, 2:4 doi:10.1186/1743-8454-2-4

Accepted: 19 July 2005

This article is available from: <http://www.cerebrospinalfluidresearch.com/content/2/1/4>

© 2005 Jones; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

### Abstract

Article processing charges (APCs) have recently been introduced for authors submitting papers to *Cerebrospinal Fluid Research*. This editorial is to inform readers about the need and use of APCs and about the advantages of free open access publishing.

### Introduction

It is now over six months since the launch of *Cerebrospinal Fluid Research* in December 2004. *Cerebrospinal Fluid Research* is published by BioMed Central, an independent publisher committed to ensuring peer-reviewed biomedical research is Open Access. To fund this, from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 authors of articles accepted for publication will be asked to pay an article-processing charge (APC) of £330.00.

Traditionally, readers pay to access articles, either through subscriptions or by paying a fee each time they download an article. Escalating journal subscriptions and shrinking library budgets have resulted in libraries subscribing to fewer journals [1], and the range of articles available to readers is becoming more limited. Although traditional journals publish authors' work for free (unless there are page or colour charges), paying to access articles limits the number of people that can read, use and cite them. The benefits of Open Access and of *Cerebrospinal Fluid Research's* Open Access policy were highlighted in a previous editorial [2].

### Description of Payment

APCs will allow continued Open Access to all of *Cerebrospinal Fluid Research's* articles. Authors are asked to pay £330 if their article is accepted for publication. Waiver requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, by the Editor-in-Chief. Authors can circumvent the charge if their institution becomes a 'member' of BioMed Central, in which case the annual membership fee covers the APCs for the authors of all BioMed Central journals at that institution for that year. Current members include NHS England, the World Health Organization, the US National Institutes of Health, Harvard, Princeton and Yale universities, and all UK universities [3]. No charge is made for articles that are rejected after peer review. Many funding agencies have also realized the importance of Open Access publishing and have specified that their grants may be used directly to pay APCs [4]. Additionally, the UK Research Councils recently announced that they are considering their position on improved access to research outputs [5].

### What is your APC used for?

The APC pays for online submission and efficient peer review, for the article to be freely and universally accessible in various formats online, and for the processes