

Editorial

Open Access

The importance of APC

Vitaly Ablamunits*^{1,2}

Address: ¹Department of Medicine, St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York, NY, USA and ²Institute for Human Nutrition, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA

Email: Vitaly Ablamunits* - ablamunits@excite.com

* Corresponding author

Published: 26 April 2005

Received: 12 April 2005

Journal of Autoimmune Diseases 2005, **2**:3 doi:10.1186/1740-2557-2-3

Accepted: 26 April 2005

This article is available from: <http://www.jautoimdis.com/content/2/1/3>

© 2005 Ablamunits; 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

Readers in immunology are familiar with the importance of antigen presenting cells in mounting immune responses. For the purpose of this particular editorial article, however, the abbreviation APC will stand for article processing charges. The publisher will introduce APCs for this *Journal* in May, 2005. Here we explain why article-processing charges are important to maintain our Open Access journal.

Journal of Autoimmune Diseases is published by BioMed Central, an independent publisher committed to ensuring peer-reviewed biomedical research is Open Access – universally and freely available online to everyone, with authors retaining copyright, and the full text being archived in numerous internationally recognised free repositories [1]. *Journal of Autoimmune Diseases* however, has taken this further, by making *all* its content Open Access. To fund this, authors of articles accepted for publication in the *Journal* will be asked to pay an article-processing charge (APC). In 2005, that charge will be 330 GBP.

Traditionally, readers pay to access articles, either through subscriptions or by paying a fee each time they download an article. Escalating journal subscription prices have resulted in libraries subscribing to fewer journals [2], and the range of articles available to readers is therefore limited. Although traditional journals publish authors' work for free (unless there are page or colour charges), having to pay to access articles limits how many can read, use and cite them.

Journal of Autoimmune Diseases' Open Access policy changes the way in which articles are published. First, all articles become freely and universally accessible online, and so an author's work can be read by anyone at no cost. Second, the authors hold copyright for their work and grant anyone the right to reproduce and disseminate the article, provided that it is correctly cited and no errors are introduced [1]. Third, a copy of the full text of each article is permanently archived in a number of online repositories separate from the journal. Articles published in *Journal of Autoimmune Diseases* are archived in PubMed Central [3], the US National Library of Medicine's full-text repository of life science literature, and also in repositories at the University of Potsdam [4] in Germany, at INIST [5] in France and in e-Depot [6], the National Library of the Netherlands' digital archive of all electronic publications.

Who benefits from the Open Access?

Open Access has four broad benefits for science and the general public. First, authors are assured that their work is disseminated to the widest possible audience, given that there are no barriers to access their work. It has been shown that free online articles are more highly cited because of their easier availability [7]. Second, the infor-