

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to argue for the requirement of immediate preprint deposit for the following reasons:

1. The traditional publishing system is not working. Article processing charges (APCs) have not moved the open science and open publishing landscape far enough. Currently scientific outputs rely on slow evaluation and publication processes that impede the speed of scientific discovery. Moreover, science is an iterative process and enterprise, whereas its traditional publishing system is static.
2. APCs entrench the traditional publishing system and are not effective at accelerating the rate of scientific discovery dissemination. Publishing is too expensive, and stopgap measures such as Article Processing Charges add to publishing costs. APC prices have increased exponentially, and caps may introduce unintended cost consequences. Moreover, they re-inforce the traditional system of scientific discovery dissemination.
3. A new system for scientific outputs should be open and de-coupled from evaluation processes. In order for science to rapidly progress, all scientific outputs should be openly licensed and shared as soon as possible, including but not limited to preprints, data, code, tangible outputs, and the written interpretation of scientific results.
4. Open science infrastructures already exist; they cost much less than the broken publishing system and allow for new innovative science communication and business models. In order to build an open system of scientific discovery, investments should be made in existing infrastructures. Preprints systems that allow for appropriate metadata, deposit of code, datasets, tangible materials and other scholarly outputs already exist, as do the technical standards and community-governed organizations that allow for open science discovery.

In sum, APC payments need to be removed altogether, and other open infrastructures must be funded.

May we envision a future landscape of scientific dissemination unbundled from journal publication and join the growing consensus that APCs are unsustainably high.