

# Open access publishing

## Information for authors

### 1. What is an open access publication?

An open access publication is one that is free-to-view for anyone to use for any reasonable purpose, subject to possible attribution of authorship. Specifically, a complete version of the work and associated permissions is deposited in a standard electronic format in a suitable online, open access repository immediately on publication.

A full recognised definition, the Bethesda Statement, was agreed by delegates at a meeting on open access publishing convened by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in July 2003.

### 2. What is PubMed Central (PMC)?

PubMed Central (PMC) is an archive of biomedical and life science journal literature operated by the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), a division of the US National Library of Medicine (NLM). Access to [PMC](#) is free and unrestricted.

### 3. What is Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC)?

The Wellcome Trust - in association with a number of other UK biomedical funders (the UKPMC Funders' Group, which includes Parkinson's UK from July 2011) - established a UK version of PMC. In November 2012, with addition of new partners, was rebranded as Europe PMC.

Europe PMC is a stable, permanent and free-to-access digital archive of the full text, peer-reviewed research publications (and datasets) that arise from research funded by Parkinson's UK and other members of the Europe PMC Funders' Group.

### 4. What are the benefits of Europe PMC?

Europe PMC enhances the visibility of research findings as Europe PMC content is freely available and can be accessed by all researchers, and not just those based at an institution that subscribes to a particular journal.

Europe PMC provides innovative tools and services for the research community: a single search to PubMed citations, PMC full text articles and other relevant content such as clinical guidelines and biomedical theses and the integration of text-mining tools which highlight and link biological entity types found within the text of an article to external data sources.

Europe PMC also assists in the assessment of research outcomes. Europe PMC currently holds the details of over 12,000 principal investigators and 23,000 grants, funded by the Europe PMC Funders' Group. Using the Europe PMC Grant Reporting Service the Europe PMC funding organisations can determine research outcomes by linking research grants to publications.

### 5. What is Parkinson's UK's open access policy?

We have a position statement on open access, which includes the obligations of institutions, grantholders and all others supported by grants. Specifically, we:

- expect authors of research papers to maximise the opportunities to make their results freely available and, where possible, to retain their copyright.
- will provide grantholders with additional funding to cover the open access charges levied by publishers who support the open access model.

- require electronic copies of any research papers that have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, and are supported in whole or in part by Parkinson's UK funding, to be made freely available from PubMed Central and any other PMC International (PMCI) sites, such as Europe PMC as soon as possible, and in any event within six months of the journal publisher's official date of final publication.

This policy applies to all peer-reviewed, original (primary) research publications that have been supported, in whole or in part, by Parkinson's UK.

## **6. As a result of this policy, what are the benefits to authors?**

Authors will benefit in two ways:

- Firstly, their research papers will be given much wider dissemination and will be able to be read without restriction by anyone with internet access. And, though the evidence is incomplete, what is available is starting to show that open access articles are cited more often than non-open access articles from the same journal and year.
- Secondly, as readers they will increasingly be able to search the full text of all the research published in their area, not just the research available to them via the subscriptions their institution offers.

## **7. What types of papers are covered by this policy?**

The policy applies to peer-reviewed, original (primary) research publications that have been supported, in whole or in part, by Parkinson's UK.

The policy does not apply to book chapters, editorials, reviews or conference proceedings.

## **8. How do Parkinson's UK-funded authors comply with this policy?**

The following steps should be taken by authors to ensure that their published research papers comply with the charity's open access policy.

**Step 1:** Check that the Parkinson's UK policy applies to the type of paper you plan to publish.

The policy applies to publications which are peer-reviewed (primary) research publications that have been supported, in whole or in part, by a Parkinson's UK grant. Not book chapters, editorials, reviews or conference proceedings.

**Step 2:** Check that the publication journal of choice has a publishing policy compliant with the charity's grant terms and conditions.

The SHERPA/RoMEO database also provides information as to whether or not a journal has a publication policy that is compliant with the charity's grant terms and conditions.

If your chosen journal is not listed in either of these databases you should speak directly to the journal's editorial staff to determine their policy.

**Step 3:** The next action is dependent on what type of Parkinson's UK-compliant open access option the journal offers:

- Open access journal (Parkinson's UK-compliant)  
Publishers who provide this option include open access publishers (such as BioMed Central and the Public Library of Science) who deposit the final published version of the paper to PMC and make it freely available on the day of publication.

An article processing fee is charged for publishing in these journals and Parkinson's UK will meet these costs.

- Paid open access option (Parkinson's UK-compliant)

A number of traditional publishers have introduced a paid open access option whereby individual articles can be made open access. The author pays a fee to make their article accessible for free online, immediately it is published in the journal. A copy of the article will be deposited in PMC and Europe PMC with immediate access.

Examples of publishers who have introduced a paid open access option (also known as the hybrid OA model) include OUP, Wiley, Springer, CUP, BMJPG and Elsevier.

A fee is charged for making articles open access in this way and Parkinson's UK will meet these costs.

- Author archives author manuscript

If the journal does not offer an open access option an author can still comply with the policy by depositing a copy of the final, peer reviewed manuscript in Europe PMC. When the author manuscript is deposited it must be made freely available as soon as possible, and in any event not later than six months after the journal publisher's official date of final publication.

An author manuscript submission system (Europe PMC+) is available on the Europe PMC website for Parkinson's UK authors to self-archive papers.

Examples of publishers who support this model include the American Medical Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

No fee is charged for making articles open access in this way.

- Publisher archives author manuscript

Some publishers will archive an author manuscript on the author's behalf. Authors usually have to opt-in to this service.

Examples of publishers who support this model include Nature Publishing Group.

No fee is charged for making articles open access in this way.

**Step 4:** Ensure that Parkinson's UK funding is acknowledged on all papers.

Authors should include in the manuscript the unique grant reference number (eg G-1011) in the relevant funding or acknowledgement section in any published work. This enables the charity to link the published outputs of research to the funding provided.

## **9. If a publisher offers a Parkinson's UK-compliant paid open-access option am I obligated to select this?**

If the publisher offers a Parkinson's UK-compliant paid open access option, the charity advises authors to select this rather than archiving the author manuscript.

If a publisher only offers a paid open access option (eg Elsevier) Parkinson's UK-funded authors must select this option to comply with the charity's policy, as archived author manuscripts from such publishers will be subject to take-down notices.

## **10. What should I do if the journal does not have an open-access option, nor does it allow me to self-archive my manuscript for inclusion in PMC/Europe PMC?**

Authors are unlikely to be able to comply with the grant terms and conditions if the journal does not have an open access option or does not allow self-archiving in PMC/ Europe PMC within six months of publication.

If this is the case, authors have three options:

- Grant a licence of their copyright to a journal instead of assigning copyright.

Such a licence would have to deal with the rights granted to the journal in such a way as to allow the journal to publish but still allow the author to make their research available through PMC/

Europe PMC. In this way, authors should be able to retain ownership of their copyright and still allow publication in a journal. This could be achieved, for example, through using the JISC SURF Licence to Publish.

- Agree to a journal's normal arrangements only on the condition that it be specifically agreed that deposition in PMC/ Europe PMC can take place.

Copyright agreements can take many forms, but the following is an example of the sort of wording that could be included in an agreement with a journal that would still allow an author to comply with the charity's grant terms and conditions:

'Notwithstanding any of the other provisions of this agreement, the journal acknowledges that the researcher will be entitled to deposit an electronic copy of the final, peer-reviewed manuscript for inclusion in PubMed Central (PMC), and for this manuscript to be mirrored to all PMC international sites, such as Europe PMC. Manuscripts deposited with PMC (and Europe PMC) may be made freely available to the public, via the internet, within six months of the official date of final publication in the journal.'

- Reconsider where to publish.

This is anticipated to be an exceptional circumstance.

### **11. In cases where I am self-archiving the paper for inclusion in PMC/Europe PMC, when should I do this, which version should I deposit and how do I do it?**

An electronic version of the author's final manuscript resulting from research supported, in whole or in part, by Parkinson's UK funding must be submitted upon acceptance for publication.

The version of the paper that should be archived is the final version that is accepted for journal publication and includes all modifications from the publishing peer-review process. When self-archiving, the publisher's PDF version should not be deposited.

All author depositions should be made via Europe PMC+.

### **12. Who can self-archive a manuscript in Europe PMC?**

Manuscript files may be submitted to Europe PMC (via Europe PMC+) by the author or anyone given access to the author's files (administrative personnel, graduate students, librarians, etc).

In cases where a paper has been written by someone other than the principal investigator (PI) (typically named as the grantholder), submission to Europe PMC+ should be made using a user-created login. (A login account can be created at the Europe PMC+ site.) In cases where the PI is the author, submissions should be made using the Europe PMC+ login account, automatically supplied to the PI. If you are a PI and have not received or have mislaid this login, please contact the British Library helpdesk on 01937 546699 or by email: [epmc@bl.uk](mailto:epmc@bl.uk).

Irrespective of who submits the paper, approval of the PDF receipt and web version of the manuscript requires review and authorisation. This authorisation is usually given by the PI - but the PI can also nominate another to do this on his/her behalf.

For example, in cases where research has been undertaken by staff other than the PI (eg research assistants etc), it might be more practical to grant approving rights to the actual author of the paper - not the named PI.

In any case, submitted papers are not processed until approval is given. Once approved, the citation in PubMed (and the full text in PubMed Central/ Europe PMC) will cite the authors as listed in the manuscript, irrespective of whether or not this includes the PI as a named author.

**13. How will open-access costs be met?**

Parkinson's UK-funded researchers can access additional funds to cover open access publishing costs. Please contact the Research and Innovation team by emailing [researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk)

Please note that the additional open access funding cannot be used to cover additional page and colour plate charges.

**14. Will Parkinson's UK pay the open access fee for a research paper which has been supported in part by Parkinson's UK and in part by another funding agency?**

Where a paper has arisen from research funded by more than one member of the Europe PMC Funders' Group, the costs of making that paper open access should be split proportionally.

Universities should have a mechanism whereby the proportional costs can be charged to the appropriate funder. Contact your research grants office for further information.

**15. Who can I contact for more information and/or help?**

If you have any queries about this policy and its implementation please email [researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk).

**16. How do I find out about other funders' policies?**

For links to other Europe PMC Funders' policies and FAQs, see the [Europe PMC site](#).