

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR TELETHON'S OPEN ACCESS POLICY

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1. What is an Open Access (OA) publication?

An OA publication is one that meets the following two conditions:

(a) The author(s) and copyright holder(s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual (for the lifetime of the applicable copyright) right of access to the work, and a license to copy, use, distribute, perform and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works in any digital medium for any reasonable purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship, as well as the right to make printed copies for their personal use.

(b) A complete version of the work and all supplementary materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in a suitable standard electronic format, are deposited immediately upon initial publication in at least one online repository that is supported by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organisation that seeks to enable OA, unrestricted distribution, interoperability, and long-term archiving.

This definition of OA publication used here is based on the definition arrived at by delegates who attended a meeting on OA publishing convened by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute in July 2003.

There are two routes to achieving unrestricted access to the published research literature. One is to publish the original research paper in an OA publication (as defined in paragraph 1(a) above); the second approach is to publish in any journal that allows deposition of a copy of the final manuscript into a freely accessible digital repository.

In July 2010, Telethon decided that all its funded researchers and grant-holders must use Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC), as Telethon's required digital repository.

Grant-holders should note that deposition of their research paper into Europe PMC does not prevent them from also depositing a copy in their own institutional or another subject-based repository should they choose to do so, or be required to do so by their employing institution.

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

Based on PubMed Central (PMC) - the [US National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature – Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC) provides a stable, permanent and free-to-access online digital archive of full-text, peer-reviewed research publications.

Europe PMC is a service of the [Europe PMC Funders Group](#), working in partnership with the [British Library](#), [University of Manchester](#) and the [European Bioinformatics Institute](#) (EBI).

Launched in January 2007, UK PubMed Central (UKPMC) became [Europe PubMed Central](#) on the 1st November 2012.

Europe PMC comprises three key systems. One, a mirror of the data held in PMC, subject to permission from those publishers that participate in PMC. Two, an author manuscript submission and tracking system - the [Europe PubMed Central Plus \(Europe PMC plus\)](#) with supporting document conversion services. Three, a system to provide authenticated login services to the submission system.

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3. What is the Telethon policy in support of OA publishing?

Telethon considers supporting unrestricted access to the published output of research a fundamental part of its mission. To this end, Telethon actively took part in the initiative led by the Wellcome Trust to establish a European version of PubMed Central (Europe PMC).

Sharing a common approach with the other members of the Europe PMC Funders Group, in order to open up access to its funded research, Telethon implemented the [Telethon Open Access Policy](#), using the Wellcome Trust Position statement in support of open and unrestricted access to published research as a template.

The policy is mandatory for all funded grantholders.

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4. Which types of publications are covered by this policy?

The policy of promoting whenever possible the free access to the results of scientific research that have been supported, in whole or in part, by a Telethon grant, applies to all publications which are pertinent to the Telethon-funded grant.

The [Telethon Open Access Policy](#) is **mandatory** for publications that:

- have been accepted for publication in an English language journal and have been subjected to peer-review
- present results of original research (*original research articles*) resulting from a project funded by Telethon

And particularly:

- a) In the case of publication in a **journal that authorizes the self-archiving** of the article in **Europe PMC within six months** from the official date of publication, Telethon requires, as soon as possible but no later than six months after the official date of publication the deposit in Europe PMC of an electronic copy of articles
- b) In the case of publication in a **journal that does not allow self-archiving** in Europe PMC within six months of the date of publication, **but offers a paid Open Access option, Telethon will cover the Open Access costs** where:
 - the Telethon Principal Investigator (grant holder) is **listed as first, last or Corresponding author; if the Corresponding Author is a member of the PI's key personnel** that is also acceptable
 - the article is related to a Telethon-funded project, correctly acknowledged in the article, which is still active or has been completed no more than six months earlier.

Telethon's contribution must be acknowledged in all publications, quoting the relevant grant reference number.

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5. How do I comply with the Telethon Open Access policy?

As an author, you can comply with the policy following the guidelines provided in the document Guidelines for Telethon's Open Access Policy.

There are two routes:

"Green Route" - Many publishers allow authors to self archive the author manuscript version of their article and make these freely available from PMC/Europe PMC within six months of publication. Authors should archive these papers using the [Europe PMC plus](#) manuscript submission system.

"Gold Route" - Many publishers offer an open access option where, in return for a fee, the publisher will deposit the final version of the published article in PMC and Europe PMC and make this available at the time of publication. Telethon-funded authors are encouraged to select this option if the "Green Route" is not available.

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6. What is the difference between a PMCID and a PMID

The PubMed Central reference number (PMCID) is different from the PubMed reference number (PMID). PubMed Central is an index of full-text papers, while PubMed is an index of abstracts. The PMCID links to full-text papers in PubMed Central, while the PMID links to abstracts in PubMed.

PMIDs do not demonstrate compliance for published papers with Telethon's Open Access Policy.

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7. How do I find out which publishers and journals are compliant with Telethon's policy?

A [list of the journals frequently used by Telethon grantholders is available](#), along with advice – at the journal level – on how best to comply with Telethon's open access requirements in a way that also meets the journal's publishing policy.

If you have any doubts or questions, please send an email to openaccess@telethon.it.

You can search the SHERPA/RoMEO database, developed by the University of Nottingham, which provides information as to whether or not a journal has a publication policy that is compliant with Telethon's Grant Conditions.

If the journal to which you wish to submit your manuscript is not listed in the database, Telethon strongly encourages you to speak directly to the journal's editorial staff to determine their policy.

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8. What should I do if the journal does not have an OA option, nor does it allow me to self-archive my manuscript with Europe PMC?

Authors are unlikely to be able to comply with the Grant 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:

(i) 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](#), which was developed in consultation with the Wellcome Trust.

(ii) 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 Telethon Open Access Policy 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.

(iii) Reconsider where to publish.

This is anticipated to be an exceptional circumstance.

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9. If a publisher offers a paid open-access option, am I obligated to select this option?

It depends on the policy of the publisher.

If the publisher offers to deposit the accepted version of the author's manuscript into Europe PMC, setting a public release date of 6-months post-publication (at the latest), Telethon would encourage its authors to take advantage of this.

If a publisher only offers a paid open-access option - which provides free access to the published version in PMC/Europe PMC, at the time of publication - then to comply with the Telethon's Open Access policy the author must select this option.

A [list of the journals](#) frequently used by Telethon grantholders, along with advice – at the journal level – on how best to comply with Telethon's open access requirements in a way that also meets the journal's publishing policy is available.

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10. Which license should I choose for my article?

In the case of publication in a **journal that authorizes the self-archiving** of the article in **Europe PMC within six months** from the official date of publication, Telethon encourages authors and publishers to licence research papers using the Creative Commons Attribution licence so they may be freely copied and re-used (for example, for text- and data-mining purposes, or creating a translation), provided that such uses are fully attributed (eg, *Creative Commons licenses CC-BY, CC-BY-NC, or CC-BY-NC-ND*)

In the cases where Telethon pays the **Open Access option**, Telethon asks authors and publishers to allow the article to be covered by the **Creative Commons license CC-BY**.

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11. When an article is licensed under CC-BY, what does this mean?

[The CC-BY licence](#) allows anyone to:

- copy, distribute and transmit the work
- adapt the work
- make commercial use of the work under the condition that the user must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse the user or their use of the work)Further, none of the following rights are affected by the licence:
 - user's fair dealing or fair use rights, or other applicable copyright exceptions and limitations;
 - the author's moral rights;
 - rights other persons may have either in the work itself or in how the work is used, such as publicity or privacy rights.

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12. How will OA costs be met?

The additional fee for OA will be covered by Telethon through dedicated funds.

PLEASE NOTE: Telethon will subsidize Open Access fees of:

- peer-reviewed, original (primary) research publications in English language journals that have been supported, in whole or in part, by a Telethon grant. The policy does not apply to book chapters, editorials, reviews or conference proceedings
- articles which are strictly pertinent to the Telethon-funded grant
- a Telethon-funded project which is still active or has been completed no more than six months previously
- articles where the Telethon-funded author is listed as First, Last or Corresponding Author.

All other publication costs, such as colour printing or page charges, will continue to be covered by Authors, who may use funds from their Telethon grants.

Where a paper has arisen from research funded by more than one funding agency making an OA policy mandatory, the costs of making that paper Open Access should be split proportionally (**see no. 13**).

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13. When an open-access fee is levied what does Telethon require from the publisher?

In return for paying Open Access fees, Telethon requires the publisher to provide the following services:

a) Deposit, on behalf of the author, the final version of the article –which includes all the changes that arise from the peer-review, copy-editing and proofing processes –in PubMed Central (PMC), where it must be made freely available at the time of publication. A link to the article on the publisher site is not sufficient. [Details of the specific technical requirements for depositing papers in PMC can be found on the PubMed Central website.]

b) Attach to each author-pays article the Creative Commons, Attribution licence, Version 2.0 (CC-BY), which explicitly permits these articles to be freely copied, distributed, displayed, performed and modified into derivative works by any user. See: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/uk/>

c) Sign the PMC Selective Deposit Agreement in order to formalise the deposition process in PMC.

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14. Will Telethon pay the open access fee for an original research paper which has been supported in part by Telethon and in part by another funding agency?

Where a paper has arisen from research funded by more than one funding agency making an OA policy mandatory, the costs of making that paper Open Access should be split proportionally.

All other funding bodies must be specified in the dedicated field in our [Open Access Form \(Mod OA\)](#).

Please note that Gold Open Access fees are fully covered under the voice “**Dissemination Costs**” in **European Calls (FP7 and Horizon 2020)**.

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15. If I am self-archiving, which version of the article should I archive and when should I archive it?

An electronic version of the final manuscript resulting from research supported, in whole or in part, by Telethon 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 publishers PDF version should NOT be deposited.

Papers should be deposited via Europe PubMed Central Plus.

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16. Who can self-archive a manuscript?

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 plus should be made using a user-created login (a login account can be created at the Europe PMC plus site). In cases where the PI is the author, submissions should be made using the Europe PMC plus login account, automatically supplied to the PI. If you are a PI and have not received or have mislaid this login, please contact the Europe PMC helpdesk by email: helpdesk@europemc.org.

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 (e.g. 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. Manuscript submission user guides.

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17. 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. See, for example, the editorials published in '[BMJ](#)' and '[Nature](#)' and papers in '[PLoS Biology](#)' and '[Science](#)'.

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.

In turn, not only this will foster a richer scientific research culture, but also it will render the results accessible to Telethon's major stakeholders, the patients and donors.

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18. Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any queries about this policy and its implementation please email: openaccess@telethon.it.

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