Open Pharma position statement on open access

Pharmaceutical companies, which fund approximately half of all biomedical research,¹ are now leaders in the publication and disclosure of research.²,³ However, access to much company-funded research is restricted by journal paywalls.⁴ We, as Open Pharma, a group of pharmaceutical companies and other research funders, alongside healthcare professionals, regulators, patients, publishers and other stakeholders in healthcare, recognize the importance of publishing research with open access, where papers can be read without payment of a one-off access charge or subscription. Open access ensures that the highest quality, peer-reviewed evidence is available to anyone who needs it, anywhere in the world. Publishing with open access improves transparency, advances medical science and, we believe, ultimately improves patient care.

Our immediate priority

Our immediate priority is to secure authors publishing company-funded research the same right to publish open access as authors publishing research funded by other sources, so that all research can be made free to read from the date of publication. This would enable pharmaceutical companies to follow the lead of other research funders in requiring all the research they fund to be published with open access, without impacting on journal choice.⁵–⁷ In order to provide publishers the time to adapt their policies and protect their copyright interests, any variant of Creative Commons or equivalent licence could be used.

Our long-term goal

Our long-term goal is to secure authors publishing company-funded research the same terms as authors publishing research funded by other sources, so that all research can be made free to read – and reuse – from the date of publication. This would enable pharmaceutical companies to follow the lead of other research funders in maximizing the impact of the research they fund on patient health. Open Pharma is committed to working closely with publishers and pharmaceutical companies to ensure that the gold standard Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) licence can sustainably be used.⁸

Acknowledgements

This Open Pharma position statement on open access represents the opinions of the individual members: Catherine Skobe (Pfizer), Chris Rains (Takeda), Chris Winchester (Oxford PharmaGenesis), Julie Newman (Gilead), Lise Baltzer (Novo Nordisk), Sarah Sabir (Oxford PharmaGenesis) and Valerie Philippon (Takeda), and not necessarily those of their individual companies. We thank the members, supporters and followers of Open Pharma for their input and valuable discussion.

References


Endorsements

Publishers
F1000 Research Ltd.
Wiley

Organizations
Ataxia & Me
Cambridge Rare Disease Network
Galapagos NV
Kidney Research UK
Observational and Pragmatic Research Institute Pte
Oxford Health Policy Forum
Oxford PharmaGenesis
SUDEP Action
ThinkSCIENCE, Inc.

Individuals
Alan Thomas, Ataxia & Me
Gavin Giovannoni, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry
Martin Delahunty, Inspiring STEM
Robert Sim, Department of Respiratory Science, Leicester University
Pali Hungin, Newcastle University
Kajsa Wilhelmsson, Oxford Health System Reform Group
Elizabeth Kinder, patient advocate
Richard Stephens, patient advocate
Angela Sykes, Pfizer
Courtney Leo, Pfizer
J. R. Meloro, Pfizer
Ellie Challis, PTEN UK & Ireland
Dermot Ryan, Respiratory Effectiveness Group
Victoria Woods, Quality Improvement Lead – Patient and Public Engagement, Thames Valley Cancer Alliance at NHS England
Zbys Fedorowicz, The Care Combine and North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust
Stuart Taylor, The Royal Society
Erik Michels, UCB Pharma
Meredith Hays, Department of Medicine, Uniformed Services University
Stephen Bradley, University of Leeds

Chas Bountra, Professor of Translational Medicine, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford
Edith Sim, Professor Emeritus, Department of Pharmacology, University of Oxford
Stevan Harnad, University of Southampton
Alvaro Diaz, Departamento de Biociencias, Universidad de la República de Uruguay

Endorsements last updated on 21 October 2019