

Parkinson's UK Open Access Policy

Parkinson's UK is the largest charitable funder of Parkinson's research in Europe. So far, we've invested more than £93 million in ground-breaking research.

Major advances have come from the research we've supported – helping to improve treatment and care for people living with Parkinson's, both within the UK and worldwide. The main output of this research is new ideas and knowledge, which Parkinson's UK expects its researchers to publish in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals.

In line with other major funders, Parkinson's UK believes the best way to share these papers as widely as possible is through free, unrestricted, online access. This means that the research we fund can be used to its best advantage by researchers all over the world, to the ultimate benefit of people affected by Parkinson's.

Specifically, Parkinson's UK:

- expects authors of research papers to maximise the opportunities to make their results available for free
- requires 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 available through PubMed Central (PMC) and Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC) as soon as possible and in any event within six months of the journal publisher's official date of final publication
- expects charity funded researchers to select publishing routes that ensure the work is available immediately on publication in its final published form, wherever such options exist for their publisher of choice and are compliant with our policy
- will provide grantholders with additional funding to cover open access charges, where appropriate, in order to meet the charity's requirements
- encourages - and where it pays an open access fee, requires - authors and publishers to licence research papers using the Creative Commons Attribution licence (CC-BY) 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. CC-BY is also the preferred licence for monographs and book chapters.
- affirms the principle that it is the intrinsic merit of the work, and not the title of the journal or the publisher with which an author's work is published, that should be considered in making funding decisions.

Open access options

Many journals will deposit the final published version of the article on behalf of the authors directly into [Europe PMC](#) (or into US PubMed Central, from where it is mirrored to Europe PMC) to be made freely available immediately on publication (often referred to as **gold open access**). Journals charge an Article Processing Charge (APC) for this option and Parkinson's UK provides financial support to pay these charges in most cases.

Alternatively, the journal may deposit the final, peer-reviewed manuscript in Europe PMC to be made freely available after a six month embargo period (often referred to as **green open access**). Usually no fee is charged for this service.

In some cases, the journal will not deposit the article but will allow the authors to deposit a copy of the final, peer-reviewed manuscript in Europe PMC to be made freely available after an embargo period. Europe PMC has an author manuscript submission system for authors to self-archive papers.

Paying open access costs

The Charity Open Access Fund (COAF) ended on **30 September 2020**.

From 2020, Parkinson's UK encourages grant applicants to include open access costs in the finance schedule of research grant applications.

Open access costs detailed in grants can also be used to support transformative agreements, negotiated between Research Institutions and publishing houses to reduce the costs of open access publishing.

For successful grants applications, grantholders must ensure that open access costs are included in the breakdown of costs submitted with any invoices. Invoices submitted to Parkinson's UK by the institution including publication costs, however, must also include supporting documentation detailing the transformative agreement publishing costs agreed with the publishing house.

Where a research paper has arisen from research funded by more than one funder that supports Open Access, the associated APC fees should be proportionally allocated to each appropriate funder by the Research Institution.

For additional APC's, above those included in the grant application, authors who receive funding from us may use any unspent grant money to pay for APCs or contact us at researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk to discuss their situation.

Alternatively, authors can comply with our policy by self-archiving their publication in [Europe PubMed Central](#) (Europe PMC) within six months of publication.

Authors should also consider [AMRC Open Research](#), which provides all researchers funded by the participating AMRC member charities with a place to rapidly publish any results they think are worth sharing. All articles benefit from rapid publication, transparent peer review and editorial guidance on making all source data openly available.

Selecting a publishing route

We recommend authors select publishing routes that ensure the work is freely available immediately on publication in its final published form.

Where APCs are paid by Parkinson's UK, authors and publishers must licence papers using a [Creative Commons Attribution licence](#) (CC-BY). This is so they may be freely copied and re-used (eg for text and data mining purposes), providing such uses are fully attributed.

Electronic copies of any research papers accepted for publication that are wholly or partially funded by Parkinson's UK must be made available via Europe PMC as soon as possible and no later than six months after publication.

Eligible publications

- Our open access policy applies to original research papers accepted for publication.
- Where APCs are met by Parkinson's UK, funding is available for original research papers only and does not cover additional page charges or colour plate charges.
- Our open access policy does not extend to editorials, letters, commissioned reviews, scholarly monographs, conference proceedings or book chapters.
- To be eligible for reimbursement all full research articles and non-commissioned reviews arising from Parkinson's UK-funded research must acknowledge us by stating the relevant grant number.

Open access FAQs

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 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 European biomedical funders (the Europe PMC Funders' Group, which includes Parkinson's UK) - has established a European biomedical and life science repository: [Europe PMC](#).

Europe PMC is a stable, permanent and free-to-access digital archive which contains PMC full text articles, all PubMed abstracts, and more.

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 finds PubMed abstracts, including the bibliographic details of books held in PMC Bookshelf, PMC full text articles and other relevant content, such as clinical guidelines and biological patent records. Articles have been integrated with relevant data using text-mining tools, which highlight and link biological entity types found within the text of an article to external data sources.

Europe PMC currently holds the details of over 20,000 Principal Investigators and 54,000 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?

The Parkinson's open access policy requires electronic copies of all original 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 (PMC) and Europe PMC, as soon as possible, and in any event within six months of the journal publisher's official date of final publication.

The charity will provide grantholders with additional funding, within the grant or upon application, to cover the open access charges levied by publishers who provide a Parkinson's UK-compliant paid open access option. Where a publishing fee is levied, such works must be available with embargo.

For research papers where the charity pays an open access fee, we require authors and publishers to licence research papers using the [Creative Commons Attribution licence](#) (CC-BY).

6. What are the benefits of open access to authors?

Authors will benefit in two ways:

First, their research publications will be given much wider dissemination and will be able to be read without restriction by anyone with internet access, resulting in a significant increase in readership. See for example, this [review of the literature on this topic in JMLA](#).

Second, 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?

Authors of research articles should take the following steps:

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

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:

- If the journal asks authors to pay an article processing fee for publishing their article, they will deposit the article in PMC and Europe PMC on the author's behalf immediately upon publication. The article must be licenced using the Creative Commons Attribution licence (CC-BY).
- If the journal does not offer a paid open access option an author can still comply with the policy by depositing a copy of the final, peer reviewed manuscript in Europe PMC. Parkinson's UK authors can use the author manuscript submission system - [Europe PMC plus](#) - to self-archive their papers.

Some publishers, such as Nature Publishing Group, will archive an author manuscript on the author's behalf. Authors usually have to opt-in to this service, but will not have to pay a fee.

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-1501) 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. What should authors do if the journal does not have an open-access option, nor does it allow them to self-archive their manuscript for inclusion in PMC/Europe PMC?

Authors are unlikely to be able to comply with the terms and conditions of grants 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](#).

(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 charity's terms and conditions of research grants:

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, as most journals in which Parkinson's UK-funded authors publish offer open access options.

10. In cases where an author is self-archiving their paper for inclusion in PMC/Europe PMC, when should they do this, which version should they deposit and how do they 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 deposited upon acceptance for publication. If necessary, an embargo of up to six months after publication can be set.

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 plus](#). View a [quick reference guide](#) detailing the submission process.

11. Who can self-archive a manuscript in Europe PMC?

Manuscript files may be submitted to Europe PMC - via Europe PMC plus - 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 website](#).) 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 British Library helpdesk on 01937 546699 or 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 (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.

[Manuscript submission user guides](#)

12. How will open-access costs be met?

Parkinson's UK encourages grant applicants to include open access costs in the finance schedule of research grant applications. For successful grants applications, grantholders must ensure that open access costs are included in the breakdown of costs submitted with any invoices, and documents supporting the claim must also be provided.

Authors who receive funding from us, may use any unspent grant money to pay for APCs or contact us at researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk to discuss their situation.

Alternatively, authors can comply with our policy by self-archiving their publication in [Europe PubMed Central](#) (Europe PMC) within six months of publication.

Failing to comply with the [Parkinson's UK grants terms and conditions](#) may result in any future for future funding being turned down.

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

Where a paper has arisen from research supported by one or more funding agency which mandates open access (and provides funding for this purpose), the costs of making that paper open access should be split proportionally between the different funders of the research. This should be in line with their relative funding contributions, as agreed by the authors on the paper.

Research Institutions should have a mechanism whereby the proportional costs can be charged to the appropriate funder. See individual institutional open access guides for further information.

In cases where the other research funders do not mandate open access, or where the Charity has been the lead funder on a piece of research, we are willing to meet the full cost of the open access fee. Please contact researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk for more information.

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

Queries specific to Parkinson's UK open access policy should be directed to researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk.

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

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