

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.

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Endorsements

Publishers

Betasciencepress Publishing

Ecancer

F1000 Research Ltd.

Frontiers Media SA

Future Science Group

MDPI

PLOS

Wiley

Organizations

Ataxia & Me

Autoinflammatory UK

Cambridge Rare Disease Network

Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders

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SUDEP Action

The Aarskog Foundation

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.10003304>

ThinkSCIENCE, Inc.

Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network

Individuals

Larisa Miller, Alexion Pharmaceuticals

Mary Kunjappu, Alexion Pharmaceuticals

Kenneth Pomerantz, Alexion Pharmaceuticals

Börje Wernersson, formerly of AstraZeneca

Saga Johansson, formerly of AstraZeneca

Alan Thomas, Ataxia & Me

Scott Armit, Ataxia & Me

John Wallace, Autoinflammatory UK

Gavin Giovannoni, Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry

Roland J.W. Meesters, Betasciencepress Publishing

E. Andrew Balas, Biomedical Research Innovation Laboratory, Augusta University

Durhane Wong-Rieger, Canadian Organization for Rare Disorders

Luis Alberto García Rodríguez, Centro Español de Investigación Farmacoepidemiológica (CEIFE)

Peter Unge, Cinclus Pharma Holding AB

Val Tate, Communications Consultant

Raj Kadadai, Cure SCA3

Inmaculada Silos-Santiago, Decibel Therapeutics

Douglas Levine, DSL Consulting

Brian S. Alper, EBSCO Information Services

Katie Foxall, ecancer

Laure Lacoïn, Epi-Fit

Wilbur Liu, Haalthy

Laverne Mooney, Independent Consultant

Jane Potee, Ingenta

Linda Edmonson, Innovative Strategic Communications

Tim Day, Innovative Strategic Communications

Martin Delahunty, Inspiring STEM

Anna Baikova, Ipsen

Kamila Novak, KAN Consulting MON. I.K.E

Christy Collins, M-CM Network

Grigorios Leontiadis, McMaster University

Franck Vazquez, MDPI

Rita Moreira de Silva, Medscape

Alben Sigamani, Narayana Health

Michael De Rosa, National Ataxia Foundation

Peter Llewellyn, NetworkPharma Ltd.

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.10003304>

Pali Hungin, Newcastle University
Klaus Boberg, Novo Nordisk
Heather Piwovar, Our Research
Tracy Bunting, Outcomes Positive, Inc
Serena Vanzan, Oxford Brookes University
Kajsa Wilhelmsson, Oxford Health System Reform Group
Adele Buss, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Adeline Rosenberg, PharmaGenesis
Alison Hillman, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Anja Becher, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Bobby Thompson, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Cassidy Fiford, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Emma Bolton, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Francesca Ounsworth, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Jessica Hardy, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Julie Beeso, Oxford Pharmagenesis
Mark Rolfe, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Michael Molloy-Bland, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Nicolas Bertheleme, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Paul Farrow, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Richard White, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Sally Bardell, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Sarah Sabir, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Steph Macdonald, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Tamzin Gristwood, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Tim Ellison, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Tim Koder, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Trevor Sills, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Zoe Watts, Oxford PharmaGenesis
Graham Shelton, Oxford University Hospitals Foundation
Charles Boyce, patient
Emily Medina, patient
Jeannie Smithball, patient
Danielle Grover, patient advocate
Elizabeth Kinder, patient advocate
Richard Stephens, patient advocate
Tracy Zervakis, patient advocate
Trishna Bharadia, patient advocate
Rosario Strano, Pedalling4Cure
Angela Sykes, Pfizer

<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.10003304>

Courtney Leo, Pfizer
J.R. Meloro, Pfizer
Nervana Habashy, Pfizer
Ellie Challis, PTEN UK & Ireland
Dermot Ryan, Respiratory Effectiveness Group
Rikke Egelund Olsen, Roche
Kris Pierce, SCN2A Australia
Susan Scott, Scott Pharma Solutions
Evguenia Alechine, Science Communicator
Jim Gavin, Scriva Medical Communications
David Peters, Sequoia Medical Communications Ltd
Sophie Berry, Smith & Nephew
John Gonzalez, Solanum Medical Communications Ltd.
Amy Whereat, Speak the Speech Consulting
Laura Paglione, Spherical Cow Group
Jane Hanna, SUDEP
William Spalding, Takeda
Raquel Billiones, Takeda Vaccines
Victoria Woods, 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
Caryn Jones, THINK Science
John Pernick, THINK Science
Erik Michels, UCB
Rachel Giles, Regenerative Medicine Center, UMC Utrecht
Meredith Hays, Department of Medicine, Uniformed Services University
Emmanuel Picavet, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
Martin Rossor, University College London
Stephen Bradley, University of Leeds
Robert Sim, Department of Respiratory Science, University of Leicester
Iain Chalmers, Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine, University of Oxford
Edith Sim, Department of Pharmacology, University of Oxford
Chas Bountra, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford
Stevan Harnad, University of Southampton
Álvaro Díaz, Departamento de Biociencias, Universidad de la República, Uruguay
Ronald Munatsi, Zimbabwe Evidence Informed Policy Network

Endorsements last updated on 10 July 2020