



Open Access Policy

Why does Sarcoma UK support Open Access?

Open access publishing allows research funded by Sarcoma UK to reach as many people as possible. The more knowledge about Sarcoma that is accessible, the more researchers can build on that knowledge to better understand Sarcoma and work towards treatments.

Publishing research findings open access also means that Sarcoma UK's funded research is available to all and fully transparent.

What is Academic Publishing?

Academic publishing is the main method researchers use to share their results and distribute new ideas throughout the research community. When a researcher discovers new information which would be valuable to share with their community, they write up their findings in an academic article. The researcher then has several options available to them as to how to publish the article and share the results with their peers.

By publishing their research findings, researchers allow their work to be evaluated and critiqued by their peers and also shared more widely, thereby increasing the impact of the work and accelerating the process of scientific development.

What is Open Access Publishing?

Traditionally, academic articles have been published in subscription journals. This means that the academic articles are only accessible to people who either pay a one off charge to access the article, or who pay a subscription fee to receive the journal.

Open Access publishing is the process by which research articles are made freely available online and unrestricted, for anyone to access at any time and without the need for journal subscriptions or one-off charges. This allows anyone, regardless of their personal or institutional income, to access the research.

In most cases research is funded by either government bodies or the charity sector. Open access publishing allows the funders of research to access the results of the research free of charge.

Sarcoma UK's Open Access Policy

Sarcoma UK allows both 'green' and 'gold' open access publishing pathways.

This means that when a project funded by Sarcoma UK results in a research paper, that paper can be made available in one of two ways:

'Gold' OA pathway The article is published in an open-access journal. This means a copy of the final manuscript is made available to access immediately upon publication and free of charge. This requires an Article Processing Charge (APC) to be paid to the journal.

'Green' OA pathway A copy of the research article must be deposited in an open-access repository within 12 months of the date of publication. This process is free of charge, and allows more freedom as to which journal the article is published in.

Paying APCs and Dissemination Costs

Sarcoma UK allows grant holders to apply for 'dissemination costs' as part of their eligible grant costs, which can be used to pay for any expenditures associated with sharing the knowledge and ideas resulting from the project. This includes paying APC charges.

By allowing researchers to apply for dissemination costs as part of their eligible grant costs, Sarcoma UK acknowledges and supports the fact that sharing ideas is a vital part of the scientific process.

Who does this policy apply to?

Any researchers, host institutions or collaborators publishing original, peer-reviewed research publications resulting from work which has been funded by Sarcoma UK are obligated to comply with the policy outlined above.

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

Licencing

Sarcoma UK strongly supports the publication of research articles using a Creative Commons Attribution licence (CC-BY), but the charity does not mandate that our researchers have to publish with it.

By publishing with a CC-BY licence, researchers allow their papers to be freely copied and reused (for example, for text- and data-mining purposes or creating a translation). This allows other researchers to make use of the knowledge and build upon the findings by using the data in further studies.