

Internal Policy No. 66
EMBL Open Access Policy

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The European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) is one of the world's leading research institutions, and Europe's flagship laboratory for the life sciences. EMBL scientists publish the results of their research and technology development in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals.

EMBL believes that the rapid and unrestricted sharing of knowledge is a key driver of progress and ensures maximal impact of its research on the global scientific community, medicine, industry and society at large. EMBL is therefore committed to providing open and unrestricted access to published research.

EMBL's Open Access Policy consolidates its commitment to open access to publicly funded research outputs. The policy follows developments towards open access to scientific literature in EMBL's member states and is in line with the open access mandates of several major external funders of EMBL such as the European Commission, the Wellcome Trust and Research Councils UK. EMBL's policy supports and ensures compliance with the open access mandates and requirements of its funders.

EMBL uses Europe PMC, the database of life science research articles developed and hosted at EMBL's European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI), as its public repository for publications. Europe PMC already supports the mandates of 26 European funding bodies of life science research and hosts content from thousands of international scientific journals.

Rules to be observed as general principles of publishing results of scientific research at EMBL are described in the Staff Rules, IP51 'EMBL Rules of Good Scientific Practice- EMBL Rules of Procedure in Cases of Suspected Scientific Misconduct' (Section IV and V) and IP63 'EMBL Publication Policy'. EMBL's Open Access Policy defines the requirements for EMBL scientists to comply with EMBL's commitment to open access to its publications output.

1. All research articles published in peer-reviewed journals in which a researcher affiliating to EMBL under the EMBL Publication Policy (Internal Policy No. 63) is listed as an author must be deposited as an electronic copy in Europe PMC as soon as possible and in any event within six months of the journal publisher's official date of final publication.
2. Research articles for which EMBL has paid an article processing charge (APC) must be available immediately in Europe PMC.
3. EMBL strongly recommends that authors publish research articles with a Creative Commons attribution (CC-BY) license and where EMBL has paid the APC this license must be chosen. A CC-BY license, while requiring attribution to the author(s), permits a broad range of future uses (including commercial and derivative products) without the requirement of seeking prior permission from the author(s).
4. In exceptional circumstances - for example when a publisher does not permit open access; and/or when a CC-BY license cannot be chosen and another Creative Commons License has to be used instead - the Szilard Library located at the EMBL headquarters in Heidelberg is to be contacted for advice.

5. EMBL is committed to supporting APCs commensurate with its contribution to articles, in support of the APC provision made by external funding agencies.
6. The Szilard Library is to monitor the development and use of Creative Commons licenses and review their compatibility with the EMBL Open Access Policy as required.
7. All members of personnel are expected to comply with this policy in carrying out their duties for EMBL. EMBL reserves the right to take appropriate action against any employee who violates this policy.

Endorsed by

Keith Williamson
Chair of StAC

Date: 27/4/15

Signature:



Carmelo Lopez-Portilla
Deputy Vice Chair of StAC

Date: 4-5-15

Signature:

**Approved by**

Iain Mattaj
Director General

Date:

Signature

