**FMCH Departmental Policy on Funding Open Access Journal Publication Fees**

The department is interested in supporting wide dissemination of scholarship by faculty, residents, and medical students. Open Access (OA) Journals publish their articles and make them available freely online to all readers. To support this, OA Journals charge processing fees to the submitting author that can range from $500-$5200. As of February 2019, the number of open access, high-quality, peer-reviewed journals exceeded 12,000. There are several varieties of open access journals, including full open access journals with all content open access and hybrid open access journals where only some of the content is open access. Some open access journals, known as predatory journals, lack a rigorous peer review process, diminishing the overall quality of publishing. Other indications of predatory publishing include:

* Notifying academics of article fees only after papers are accepted.
* Aggressively campaigning for academics to submit articles or serve on editorial boards.
* Listing academics as members of editorial boards without their permission.
* Appointing fake academics to editorial boards.
* Fake or non-existent impact factors.

With the current selection of higher quality professional open access publishers available, such as PLOS and BioMedCentral, there may be times when publication in an open access journal is warranted to provide immediate public dissemination of research. For information on specific journals, you can check: “Think, Check, Submit” at: <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>.

While the Department will make available limited funds to support publications within these journals, given the poor quality of many of these journals (and their predatory publishing practices), the following guidelines have been established:

* The journal must have a peer-review process for all manuscripts submitted.
* The journal must be indexed in PubMed or PsychInfo, Scopus, or another major indexing database such as the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).
* The author(s) must have initially tried to publish their work in a relevant journal that doesn’t include publishing fees before seeking out an OA journal *(unless there’s a legitimate reason for going directly to an OA journal, e.g. the journal is the best subject fit for the article or the most influential of the journals available)*. No ‘hybrid’ OA journal publishing fees will be approved.
* There must be *prior departmental approval* for funding *before* attempting to publish in an OA journal.
* The department expects that publishing fees be shared between the author(s) (at 25%) and the department (at 75%). However, faculty who have access to funds through grants, contracts and/or indirect resources must pay this fee themselves.
* Departmental funds for OA publications are a ‘funding source of last resort’. These funds are only available for publications for which no other sources of funding are available.
* Only salaried faculty and those faculty at FHCW are eligible to apply for these funds.
* The faculty member applying for funds must be the first author of the publication.
* An individual can receive funds to support an OA publication no more than once every two years.
* Faculty are strongly encouraged to build dissemination costs into future grant/contract budgets.
* The Department will establish a cap of available funds each year.

**For further information about the policy, contact Suzanne Mitchell (Suzanne.Mitchell2@umassmed.edu). For further information about Open Access journals, please see the medical school’s library website:** [**https://libraryguides.umassmed.edu/openaccess/home#s-lg-box-wrapper-12458094**](https://libraryguides.umassmed.edu/openaccess/home#s-lg-box-wrapper-12458094)**.**

**NOTE: Additional information about OA journals/publishing are attached. Please see select listing of journal fees and FAQs on the following pages.**

**Journal OA Publishing Models and APCs by Journal Citation Reports Category and Rank**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Journal** | **Publisher** | **OA Model** | **APC** | **Rank** | **JCR Category** |
| Academic Medicine | Wolters Kluwer/AAMC | None | N/A | 71/979 | education |
| Addictive Behaviors | Elsevier | Hybrid | $2,400 | 26/249 | clinical psychology |
| American Family Physician | AAFP | None | N/A | 16/33 | primary health care |
| American Journal of Epidemiology | Oxford University Press | Hybrid | $3,360- $3,833 | 19/87 | public, environmental & occupational health |
| American Journal of Preventive Medicine | Elsevier | Hybrid | $2,600 | 18/478 | public health, environmental and occupational health |
| American Journal of Public Health | American Public Health Association | Hybrid | $2,500 | 13/165 | public, environmental & occupational health |
| Annals of Family Medicine | AAFP | Full OA | $0 | 1/33 | primary health care |
| Annals of Internal Medicine | American College of Physicians | None | N/A | 12/121 | medicine, general & internal |
| Annual Reviews of Public Health | Annual Reviews | None | N/A | 2/478 | public, environmental & occupational health |
| BMC Family Practice | BioMed Central | Full OA | $2,145 | 2/33 | primary health care |
| BMC Medicine | BioMed Central | Full OA | $3,170 | 8/841 | general medicine |
| BMJ | BMJ Publishing Group | Full OA | £3,000 | 37/841 | medicine, general & internal |
| British Journal of General Practice | RCGP | Hybrid | £2,000 | 9/33 | primary health care |
| Bulletin of the World Health Organization | World Health Organization | Full OA | $0 | 33/478 | public, environmental & occupational health |
| Canadian Family Physician | CFPC | Full OA | $0 | 12/33 | primary health care |
| Environmental Health Perspectives | National Institutes of Health | Full OA | $0 | 5/478 | public, environmental & occupational health |
| Epidemiologic Reviews | Oxford University Press | Hybrid | $3,150-$3,570 | 5/87 | public, environmental & occupational health |
| Epidemiology | Wolters Kluwer | Hybrid | $3,300-$4,100 |  | public, environmental & occupational health |
| European Journal of Epidemiology | Springer | Hybrid | $4,390 | 7/87 |  |
| Family Medicine | STFM | Full OA | $0 | 14/33 | medicine, general & internal |  |
| International Journal of Epidemiology | Oxford University Press | Hybrid | $3,308- $3,179 | 13/87 | public, environmental & occupational health |
| International Journal of Public Health | Springer | Hybrid | $3,760 | 81/478 | public health, environmental and occupational health |
| JAMA | AMA | Embargoed | N/A | 9/841 | medicine, general & internal |
| JAMA Internal Medicine | AMA | Hybrid | $5,000 | 10/121 | medicine, general & internal |
| Journal of Cachexia Sarcophenia and Muscle | Wiley/SSCWD | Full OA | $3,125 | 1/237 | medicine, general & internal |
| Journal of General Internal Medicine | Springer | Hybrid | $3,760 | 48/121 | internal medicine |
| Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine | ABFM | Full OA | $0 | 3/33 | primary health care; family practice |
| Lancet | Elsevier | Hybrid | $5,000 | 4/841 | general medicine |
| Lancet Global Health | Elsevier | Full OA | $5,000 | 14/841 | general medicine |
| Medical Education | Wiley/ASME | Hybrid | $4,300 | 130/979 | education |
| New England Journal of Medicine | MMS | Embargoed | N/A | 2/841 | general medicine |
| PLOS Medicine | Public Library of Science | Full OA | $3,000 | 5/841 | general medicine |
| PLOS One | PLOS | Full OA | $1,595 | 16/177 | general agricultural and biological sciences |
| Preventive Medicine | Elsevier | Hybrid | $2,950 | 28/478 | public health, environmental and occupational health |
| Primary Care Diabetes | Elsevier | Hybrid | $3,150 | 53/121 | internal medicine |
| Primary Care Respiratory Journal | Nature | Hybrid | $2,680 | 75/478 | public health, environmental and occupational health |
| Scandinavian Journal of Primary Health Care | Taylor & Francis | Full OA | $1,695 | 138/478 | public health, environmental and occupational health |
| Tobacco Control | BMJ Publishing Group | Hybrid | $2,525 | 6/241 | health (social science) |

**Additional Information on Evaluating Open Access Journals – FAQs**

Open Access sometimes involves a fee to be paid by the author to support publication and peer-review costs. Evaluation of open access journals is fairly new to many researchers and scholars, and differs in some points from traditional publishing evaluation, but there also are many overlapping criteria. For further information about Open Access journals, please see the medical school’s library website: <https://libraryguides.umassmed.edu/openaccess/home#s-lg-box-wrapper-12458094>.

Here are some questions to ask when you are considering publishing in an Open Access journal:

**Who is the Publisher?**

*Do they have an OASPA Membership?*

OASPA is committed to setting standards and promoting open access publishing. These Open Access publishers share information and are more likely to have higher standards than non-members.

*Do they have a recent date of establishment or an unusually high number of journals?*

Keep in mind that a newer publishers might not be a member of OASPA as of yet. However, a publisher that has a high number of journals (50+) and is recently established may be more questionable in terms of their ability to do high quality peer evaluation of submitted materials.

*What is their profit model?*

A non-profit organization may have more altruistic motives for launching an open access publication than a for-profit organization.

*Did they solicit your article or chapter?*

Sometimes publishers will send out notices to students or academics offering to publish their work for a fee. While this practice is sometimes used by reputable Open Access and traditional publishers, direct e-mail solicitations are a possible sign that one should spend some time researching the publisher before responding.

**What about the journal?**

*Are they members of DOAJ?*

DOAJ is an Open Access Directory that reviews the quality of the journals it accepts and adds to its listings. Journals accepted into DOAJ tend to be more reputable.

*What are the Journal metrics?*

Check if the journal has an impact factor. How high is the impact factor? For some newer open access journals, impact factor may not be available. There are other metric tools available as well such.

*What Peer Review standards do they use?*

Check if the peer review guidelines are openly posted by the journal or contact the journal to ask for details about their peer review process. For example, does the journal use blind peer review? In this model the reviewers' and author's names are not disclosed to each other. Or do they use open peer review in which identity of the author and the reviewer are disclosed to each other? Take into consideration that blind peer review and open peer review are both considered a credible standard for scientific publishing.

*Who is on the Editorial Board?*

Identify who is on the editorial board and check how qualified they are to review your work. You might want to read profiles or look up board members on the Internet to review their credentials. In the case of a newer journal, you might consider contacting one of the members of the editorial board to ask questions about the peer review process.

*What is their acceptance procedure?*

How long did it take for the journal to accept your paper for publication? Did they immediately accept it before a review process? How long is the time between acceptance of the paper and publication? Too quick acceptance of a paper and a timeline that would not allow enough time for quality peer review may be cause for more investigation.

*What is the journal's publication history?*

Does the journal have a regular publication schedule? Look for how many issues are published per year, and for how many years.

*Who are authors that have previously published in the journal?*

Check who the authors are that are submitting to the publication. Are they all from the same institution? Are there repeated authors or groups across a few issues, or one dominant author?

*What is the quality of the articles in the journal?*

Read a few articles. Are they well-written, and/or provide data and a sound scientific method?

*What university was the research affiliated with?*

Check that the author is affiliated with an institution or university that is reputable. Does the institution have a program or expertise in the field that is being written about?

*What are the citation counts on some individual papers?*

Check the citation counts of several articles in the journal. Are these articles being cited by others in that field? A low or non-existent citation count for an article that has been published for a while may mean that an article has not made a significant enough contribution to scholarship in the area. There are different places where you can check the citation counts for articles. Scopus is a database that offer article citation counts. As well Google Scholar now records citation counts at the article level. If you need help finding this information, you can contact your subject librarian.

**If you need any assistance or have any questions, please contact your Subject Librarian.**

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**Evaluating Open Access Journals - Materials from UMMS Library**

**Open Access (OA) publishing enables the free, immediate, and online availability of research and scholarly products.** Open Access journals have been successfully producing and disseminating high quality research for over a decade. The [Directory of Open Access Journals](https://doaj.org/) currently lists over 12,000 vetted Open Access Journals.

**There are different business models that support Open Access publishing.**

* **Full Open Access** journals make all of their content immediately openly available at the time of publication. These journals do not operate on a traditional subscription model but instead levy Article Processing Charges (APCs) to cover publication costs. Note that not all Full OA journals impose APCs.
* **Hybrid Open Access** journals are subscription-based journals which give authors the option to purchase immediate open access to their papers. Only those papers that have paid-APCs will be openly available at the time of publication. Hybrid journals are effectively paid twice for their Open Access content.
* **Embargoed Open Access** journals are subscription-based journals that make their content openly available after a limited embargo period. In this model, new content is only available to subscribers, while older content is openly accessible. There are no APCs for embargoed content.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| OA Model | Subscription | APC | Embargo | Example |
| Full OA | No | Yes | No | BMC Family Practice, BMC Medicine, Annals of Family Medicine, Family Medicine |
| Hybrid OA | Yes | Yes (on top of subscription costs) | No | The Lancet, Epidemiologic Reviews, American Journal of Public Health, American Journal of Preventive Medicine |
| Embargoed OA | Yes | No | Yes | JAMA Internal Medicine, New England Journal of Medicine |
| None | Yes | No | No | Annual Reviews of Public Health |

**Predatory Publishers are publishers that charge APCs for Open Access publishing without providing the editorial and administrative services associated with legitimate journals.** Predatory publishers engage in unethical or questionable practices to solicit and process content, such as:

* Eliminating or automating peer review
* Misrepresenting editorial boards and impact metrics
* Not submitting content to major indexing and abstracting databases
* Cloaking APCs until the article has been published
* Harassing authors to submit manuscripts or submit payment

**Not all Open Access journals are predatory.** They are an aggressive exception. Authors should evaluate each venue they consider for publication before submitting a manuscript. There are several resources to help authors distinguish an ethical publisher from an unethical one.

* [Think. Check. Submit.](http://thinkchecksubmit.org/check/) provides a checklist of quality indicators for a journal.
* [Open Access Journal Quality Indicators](http://www.gvsu.edu/library/sc/open-access-journal-quality-indicators-5.htm) is a listing of positive and negative indicators of journal quality.
* [Directory of Open Access Journals](https://doaj.org/) is a database of high-quality, peer-reviewed Open Access journals.
* [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](http://oaspa.org/) is a group of committed Open Access publishers with criteria for membership and a code of conduct.