Multiple Sclerosis Society Public Access to Research Policy for Award Recipients

The Recipient must ensure that the Awardholders and others supported by the Award are made aware of and comply with this Policy

1. Introduction

1.1. The MS Society is committed to open and unrestricted access to results of MS Society funded research. We believe the publication of results in open access journals allows the outputs from our funded research to be publically available— not just to other researchers, but also to potential users in business, charitable and public sectors, and to the general public.

1.2. This policy applies to all peer-reviewed, primary research publications that are supported in whole or in part by MS Society funding.

2. Background

2.1. Open Access publication

- An open access publication is one that can be read and downloaded for free and in full via an online repository, by anyone with internet access.

2.2. PubMed Central (PMC) and PubMed

- PMC is an online repository of biomedical and life sciences journal publications.

2.3. Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC)

- Europe PMC is an online searchable archive of biomedical and life sciences journal articles providing free access to full-text peer-reviewed research publications to anyone with internet access. Europe PMC is linked to PMC

- Europe PMC is useful for evaluating research outcomes. It contains information on all grants and Principal Investigators funded by the Europe PMC Funders’ Group.

- The Europe PMC Grant Reporting Service allows for easy tracking of publications to research grants, which can help individual researchers and funding organisations to determine and demonstrate research outcomes.

- Europe PMC is funded by UK and European biomedical research funders

- MS Society is a member of the Europe PMC Funders’ Group.
3. **Open/Public Access Author Requirements**

3.1. It is a condition of grant award that peer reviewed research papers resulting from research funded, in whole or in part, by the MS Society are published in an Open Access environment and made available through Europe PMC.

3.2. Such papers must become Open Access as soon as possible following publication, and in all cases within 6 months of the publication date.

3.3. Where authors are required to pay an open access fee, the MS Society regretfully cannot cover these costs.

4. **Compliance**

4.1. An author can comply with the requirement that MS Society-funded research is made freely accessible via Europe PMC/PMC in two ways:

   4.1.1. publishing in a journal that automatically deposits all final published articles in PubMed Central without author involvement. Articles will either be made available as open access on date of publication or after an embargo period. An expectable embargo period being 6 months.

   4.1.2. depositing a copy of the final, peer reviewed manuscript in Europe PMC. In cases where a manuscript is deposited, the paper must be made freely available as soon as possible or within 6 months of the publication data. An author manuscript submission system is available on the Europe PMC website for researchers to self-archive papers.

4.2. In order to self-archive authors must ensure certain rights are reserved in any agreement with the publisher. Specifically, authors will need the right to deposit peer-reviewed manuscripts in Europe PMC immediately upon its acceptance for publication and to make it publicly available within 6 months after publication.

4.3. Authors must acknowledge MS Society’s support in every article arising from MS Society funding. The acknowledgement statement must include the MS Society three digit grant number in square brackets. This will enable MS Society to link the published outputs of research to the support it has provided.

4.4. Example acknowledgement:

   ‘This work was supported by the Multiple Sclerosis Society [grant number].’

5. **Non-compliance**

5.1. In exceptional circumstances authors can publish in journals that are non-compliant with the MS Society’s open access policy if it is considered to be the most appropriate journal to publish in.

5.2. In the event that authors decide to publish in a journal that is not compliant with MS Society’s open access policy, authors should notify the MS Society of this when a manuscript is submitted, providing justification for the decision.