

## Overview

- Pancreatic Cancer UK strongly believe in open access research and its benefit to both the research community and wider audiences.
- Pancreatic Cancer UK are a member of the AMRC Open Access Research Platform and Europe PMC. Both of these act as central hubs for open access research.
- **All Pancreatic Cancer UK grant holders** must make their publications open access by depositing them in Europe PMC as soon as possible and **no longer than 6 months** after publication.
- Grant holders are also encouraged to upload any other data from their projects to the AMRC Open Access Research Platform including those that contain negative or null results or replicate another study.

## What does the policy mean for Pancreatic Cancer UK grant holders?

- **All Pancreatic Cancer UK grant holders** must deposit an electronic copy of each peer-reviewed research publication on Europe PMC. This should happen as soon as possible, and **no later than six months after publication**.
- All previous publications attributed to Pancreatic Cancer UK awards should be made open access where at all possible. In some cases, when an embargo period has passed, the grant holder will be required to take responsibility for uploading their publication to Europe PMC. In other cases, the journal will take responsibility for doing this. Grant holders should contact the journal they have published in if they have any queries regarding this.
- The charity is unfortunately unable to cover any Article Processing Charges however, this cost can be covered by any underspend on your award.

We do not wish to prevent our grant holders from submitting research articles to the most appropriate journal. As a result, in exceptional circumstances you may publish in a journal that does not allow the article to be deposited in Europe PMC within 6 months. In this instance, Pancreatic Cancer UK grant holders should contact Pancreatic Cancer UK's Research Team in advance of submitting their manuscript to make a case for publishing in such journals.

## Why is open access important?

Pancreatic Cancer UK is committed to ensuring that data and publications resulting from pancreatic cancer research are accessible to as many people as possible. Pancreatic cancer is a particularly difficult cancer to research and our dedicated community of pancreatic cancer researchers are still working to answer some of the basic questions about the disease. Open access publishing is therefore, essential for the research community as it encourages timely sharing of knowledge, prevents duplication and waste and ultimately accelerates research progression. The wider community also benefits, as open access research platforms allow members of the public and supporters of the charity to see the progress the research they donate towards is making.

## How are Pancreatic Cancer UK supporting open access?

### ***Europe PubMed Central (PMC) Membership***

Pancreatic Cancer UK is a funder of [Europe PMC](#). Europe PMC is an online repository of full text peer reviewed research publications, patents and clinical guidelines that anyone can permanently access for free worldwide.

There are two different open access routes for publication via Europe PMC:

- The **gold open access route** involves paying an Article Processing Charge (APC) fee to the journal who will then make the full text freely available on Europe PMC immediately after publication. If using this route, adoption of a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) license for the publication is recommended so that it can be freely copied and reused.
- Alternatively, if you do not have funds available to cover the APC, you may use the **green open access route**. As Pancreatic Cancer UK is now a member of Europe PMC, any Pancreatic Cancer UK grant holder may make their publications open access for no extra charge by depositing on Europe PMC after an embargo period. The full text article can be deposited on Europe PMC either by the journal on your behalf or directly by yourself depending on the journal's policy. More information on journal policies is available on the [SHERPA website](#).

### ***Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC) Open Research platform***

As a member of the AMRC, we have signed up to the [AMRC Open research platform](#). This new initiative provides all researchers funded by the participating charities with a place to rapidly publish any and all of the results they want to share in a transparent and accessible way. To submit articles to the AMRC Open Research platform, the work must be original and must not have been published anywhere previously. Please see a more extensive list of what you can publish on the platform in *Appendix 1*.

If you have any questions regarding our OA policy or how it affects you as a grant holder please contact [research@pancreaticcancer.org.uk](mailto:research@pancreaticcancer.org.uk).

## Appendix 1

### ***What can I publish on the AMRC Open Research Platform?***

AMRC Open Research publishes scholarly articles reporting any basic scientific, translational, applied and clinical research (including quantitative and qualitative studies) that has been funded (or co-funded) by the any of the participating AMRC member charities.

#### *Research Articles*

Research Articles should present original findings, such as the results of basic and translational research, clinical and epidemiologic studies, or clinical trials, as well as qualitative and observational research relating to any of the areas funded by the participating charities. Null and negative findings, and reanalyses and replications of previous studies leading to new results are all encouraged.

#### *Method Articles*

Method Articles describe new experimental, statistical, or computational methods, or tests/procedures in basic, translational or applied research, and should have been well tested. This includes new study methods, substantive modifications to existing methods or innovative applications of existing methods to new models or research questions. We welcome technical articles that describe tools that facilitate the design or performance of experiments, provide data analysis features or assist medical treatment such as drug delivery devices.

#### *Study Protocols*

Study Protocols describe in detail any study design, including (but not limited to) experimental design of basic, translational and applied research, clinical trials or systematic reviews. All protocols for randomised clinical trials must be registered and follow the SPIRIT guidelines. Study pre-protocols (i.e. discussing provisional study designs) may also be submitted and will be clearly labelled as such when published. Study Protocols for pilot and feasibility studies may also be considered.

#### *Systematic Reviews*

Systematic Reviews should usually be based on medical interventions or animal model studies. Systematic Reviews should deal with a clearly formulated question and use systematic and explicit methods to identify, select, and critically assess the relevant research. Systematic Reviews should be written following the PRISMA reporting guidelines.

#### *Software Tool Articles*

A Software Tool Article should include the rationale for the development of the tool and details of the code used for its construction. The article should provide examples of suitable input data sets and include an example of the output that can be expected from the tool and how this output should be interpreted.

## *Clinical Practice Articles*

Clinical Practice Articles describe case series (i.e. group or series of case reports involving patients who were given similar treatment), but should not be based on a single case (single cases are published as Case Reports).

## *Research Notes*

Research Notes include single-finding papers that can be reported with one or two illustrations (figures/tables), descriptions of unexpected observations, and lab protocols.

## *Data Notes*

Data Notes are brief descriptions of scientific datasets that promote the potential reuse of research data and include details of why and how the data were created; they do not include any analyses or conclusions.

## *Case Reports*

A medical Case Report should be original and provide adequate detail of a single patient case. It does not need to describe an especially novel or unusual case as there is benefit from collecting details of many standard cases.

## *Open Letters*

Open Letters are short, peer-reviewed articles discussing policies relevant to a broad research community, presenting guidelines or white papers, or announcing new initiatives. An Open Letter should usually represent the views of a consortium or group of researchers funded by one of the participating charities; publication does not imply endorsement by the AMRC or the participating charities.

## *Correspondence*

Correspondence articles are short, peer reviewed comments directly relating to one or more articles published in AMRC Open Research. Correspondence articles must provide scholarly discussion, supported by evidence from the published literature.

## *Registered Reports*

Registered Reports are a form of empirical article in which the methods and proposed analyses are published and reviewed prior to research being conducted. This format seeks to neutralise a variety of inappropriate research practices, including inadequate statistical power, and selective reporting of results. These articles are denoted by a Registered Report badge.