

# Embracing open access publishing

A new era for *Neurology*<sup>®</sup>

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“The time has come,” the Walrus said... (Lewis Carroll, from *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*, 1872).

By now, most of you have participated in conversations regarding open access (OA), or at least have heard about it. The “OA movement” began in the late 1990s as a result of the demand by the public, some funders, and some members of the academic community for free and rapid dissemination of research articles funded by government and other funding agencies. In addition, the proliferation of scientific research output throughout the world has overwhelmed the resources of traditional publishers; it has created a demand for more avenues of publication, opening the route for the establishment of OA journals by both traditional publishers and organizations solely devoted to OA publishing, such as PLOS (Public Library of Science). Controversy regarding publication quality, competition among publishers, and funding costs continues, but OA is now an important aspect of scientific journal publishing.

**Recent OA mandates.** Since April 2008, when an NIH mandate required that NIH-funded articles be deposited in PubMed Central (PMC) by 12 months after publication, our journal’s publisher has been depositing these articles in PMC. Shortly afterward, we began depositing articles in PMC within 6 months of publication for authors whose funders—such as Wellcome Trust—added requirements for more rapid public dissemination. One year ago, Research Councils UK (RCUK) released its new policy, effective with submissions to journals beginning April 2013, requiring not only immediate access to the content for which RCUK has funded any portion of the research but also the granting of a Creative Commons license, a copyright license that allows for the use of the content by the publisher, authors, or others. Wellcome Trust has the same requirement. *Neurology*<sup>®</sup> (including our spin-off *Neurology Clinical Practice*) has chosen to comply with the RCUK and Wellcome Trust policies because we do not want to exclude submissions from authors funded by RCUK, Wellcome Trust, or any other funders who may adopt similar policies. We want to be in a position to publish the best articles available.

**Recent *Neurology* OA practices.** Traditionally, most of *Neurology*’s content is available only to personal or library subscribers, with a few exceptions:

- Items we have made freely available include American Academy of Neurology guidelines and position papers, editorials, and articles selected monthly for promotion of the journal.
- We facilitate the deposit of articles for which the NIH has funded any part of the research into PMC so that they are free to everyone 12 months after publication.
- We facilitate the deposit of articles into PMC for which RCUK, Wellcome Trust, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Telethon, and the Swedish Research Council have funded any part of the research so that they are free to everyone within 6 months after publication.

**New *Neurology* hybrid OA policy.** We have been asked by a few authors if they can publish articles OA. The addition of an OA option allows authors to “opt in” so that their work can be immediately available to the global audience of researchers. Beginning in May 2013, we implemented the following options that provide authors the opportunity to choose OA publication and also comply with the RCUK and Wellcome Trust policies that research they fund be published in a journal with an OA option. *Neurology*’s options for OA publishing include so-called “gold OA” and “green OA.”

**Gold OA for authors who opt for an OA option.** Authors (including authors of commercially sponsored articles) may choose to have articles published in final form as OA. Authors must sign a license giving the publisher the right to publish the article, create derivatives, and sell reprints. The authors retain the copyright and anyone can use the article for noncommercial purposes with proper attribution. An article processing charge (APC) of \$3,000 per article is being levied in 2013.

**Gold OA for authors funded by RCUK and Wellcome Trust.** Authors funded by RCUK and Wellcome Trust are required to publish OA and must sign a license giving the publisher the right to publish the article.

From the American Academy of Neurology (P.K.B., R.A.G.), Minneapolis, MN; and Strong Epilepsy Center and University of Rochester Medical Center (R.A.G.), Rochester, NY.

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The authors retain copyright but anyone may reuse the article and create derivatives, even for commercial purposes, with proper attribution. At this time, only RCUK and Wellcome Trust authors are allowed to choose this option and must pay an APC of \$3,800 per article.

**Green OA for authors funded by RCUK and Wellcome Trust.** Authors funded by RCUK and Wellcome Trust are required to publish OA and sign a license giving the publisher the right to publish the article. The authors retain copyright but anyone may reuse the article and create derivatives with proper attribution. However, with green OA, authors do not pay an APC and their articles are deposited into PMC with an embargo period of at least 12 months.

The choice of these OA options is independent of the peer review and acceptance processes. All articles are subject to our standard editorial processes and articles are chosen for acceptance based on the editors' judgment of value to the readers of the journal.

**PLANNED HYBRID OA COMPANION JOURNALS** In the near future, we plan to launch spin-offs of our flagship journal *Neurology* in several subspecialty areas of neurology. With our current page allowances, we reject many excellent papers that are subsequently accepted by other journals. These manuscripts benefit from our peer review process, but they contribute to competing journals' impact factors when they are cited. Our objective is to capture many of these submissions in companion online-only journals that will also have a hybrid OA business model (in previous editorials, we have indicated that even the main journal *Neurology* will be online-only as early as 2015). The hybrid OA model will help us contain costs as a benefit of collecting APCs. Moreover, we predict that the advantage of having their work immediately available will be attractive to authors in areas of research that are developing rapidly.

The journal strives to meet the challenges that arise in the changing landscape of scientific publishing. We look forward to coming adventures in OA publishing. Your feedback is helpful and always welcome.

**MASTHEAD CHANGES** Readers will note several changes in our masthead:

- We thank Andrew G. Engel, MD, for his 6 ½ years of extraordinary service as an Associate

Editor and colleague. Dr. Engel decided to end his tenure with us as of July 1. Dr. Engel was responsible for leading the peer review process for articles related to neuromuscular disorders; we will miss his insights and will endeavor to maintain his high standards. Anthony A. Amato, MD, has graciously accepted our offer to be Associate Editor in this area. He has previously served on our Editorial Board.

- Also stepping down from his post as of July 1 is Eric J. Ashman, MD, who served for the past 2 years as our Associate Editor to lead the Level of Evidence (LOE) evaluation process. We greatly appreciate his excellent service in this effort. Gary S. Gronseth, MD, has been appointed as the new Associate Editor to lead the LOE evaluation team.
- The work for the *Neurology* podcasts has expanded substantially in the past few years with the addition of CME opportunities and the Delayed Recall and Academic Year Review broadcasts. We have appointed Andrew M. Southerland, MD, MSc, as Deputy Editor to assist Ted M. Burns, MD, in the editing of the podcasts.
- Megan Alcauskas, MD, and Chafic Karam, MD, have been appointed Deputy Editors of the WriteClick Rapid Online Correspondence feature. WriteClick is available on the neurology.org Web site. At WriteClick, we invite brief online comments on published articles; some comments are selected for publication in the printed journal.

## DISCLOSURE

Patricia K. Baskin, MS, is Executive Editor of *Neurology* and employed by the American Academy of Neurology. Her spouse is employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and University of Washington and receives research funding from the Department of Veterans Affairs and NIH. He is Executive Editor of *Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry* and receives a stipend for this activity. Ms. Baskin received reimbursement for travel expenses to 2 meetings in 2011 of The International Publication Planning Association (TIPPA), an association of industry professionals sponsored by Pharmaceutical Education Associates LLC., to present *Neurology's* authorship policies, and consulted with no stipend or reimbursements for the Medical Publishing Insights and Practices initiative at journal-pharma workshops in 2011 and 2012 and one TIPPA meeting in 2012. She also receives an honorarium as Editor-in-Chief of *Science Editor*, the publication of the Council of Science Editors.

Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN, is supported for educational endeavors by the University of Rochester Medical Center's Clinical and Translational Science Award from the NIH. Since his appointment as Editor-in-Chief in 2009, Dr. Gross has ceased participation in industry-sponsored clinical trials and speakers' bureaus. He receives an honorarium from AAN as Editor-in-Chief of *Neurology*. Go to Neurology.org for full disclosures.

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