Europe PMC Guidelines for Researchers funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

1. What is Europe PMC?

Europe PubMedCentral (Europe PMC) is a free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. Based on PubMed Central (PMC), the US National Institutes of Health free digital archive, Europe PMC provides a stable and permanent online archive of full-text peer reviewed research publications and includes services to enable institutions, funding organisations and researchers to report and track the outcomes of their research.

Europe PMC is currently supported by 26 UK and European organisations making up the Europe PMC Funders' Group, including the Austrian Science Fund (FWF). Future plans are to extend membership of Europe PMC to other research funding bodies across Europe, with the aim of creating a single, Europe-wide open access repository for research outputs in the life sciences.

2. What benefits arise as a result of making research papers available through Europe PMC?

There are a number of benefits that arise through making research papers freely available through Europe PMC.

2.1 Greater visibility

Europe PMC content is freely available and can be accessed by all researchers, not just those based at an institution that subscribes to a particular journal.

Evidence is beginning to emerge which suggests that free Internet access widens the circle of those who read and make use of scientists' investigations, thus maximising the return on research investment and making the research process more efficient.

2.2 Improves the research process

Providing open access to the research literature through Europe PMC also enables these outputs to be linked and integrated with other resources. Specifically, Europe PMC has been enhanced:

- to provide the functionality – using text and data mining technologies – to integrate research articles with a range of other online sources, such as gene, protein and chemical compound databases;

- to enable discovery of, and provide access to, valuable and hard to find additional content such as clinical guidelines, theses and research reports;

- to integrate a range of bibliographic databases – including Medline, Patents and Agricola – into a single, seamless discovery tool;

- to integrate external links to paper related information or tools;

- to track data citations.

2.3 Simplifies grant reporting process

Through the Grant Reporting System (part of Europe PMC) grant holders can report on and share the outcomes of their grants by creating publicly available web pages that will update dynamically whenever a new publication is added to either PubMed or Europe PMC.

The service also provides users with a 'My Impact' report showing the number of citations each paper has attracted.

3. How are research papers added to the Europe PMC repository?

Researchers supported by the FWF who are requested to archive their publications in Europe PMC will be informed via an email from the Europe PMC Helpdesk of their login details for Europe PMC+. The account can be used for self-archiving papers, linking FWF grants to papers (where the publisher deposits the article to Europe PMC) and creating grant reports.

Researchers supported by the FWF must ensure that their published, peer reviewed research articles in the biomedical and life sciences are available through Europe PMC no longer than 12 months after publication.

This can be achieved through **one** of the following routes. For a detailed guide see *here*.

3.1 Fully-participating journals listed by Europe PMC

If a researcher publishes in a journal listed in Europe PMC as having a 'full' participation level (see for the Europe PMC journal list) and access is made available within 12 months after publication, then the researcher does not have to do anything to get this paper into Europe PMC but has only to link the paper with the Grant Reporting System:

3.2 Journals not listed by Europe PMC but offering an open-access, author pays option

If a researcher publishes in a journal that offers an **FWF-compliant** open access option, the author should select this option. Costs incurred in this way (for *Gold Open Access* and *Hybrid Open Access*) will be covered by the FWF program line *Peer-Reviewed Publications*. But please note: The author pays option cannot cover papers which have already been published.

An FWF-compliant open access option is one where:

a) The publisher deposits the final version of the article in PubMedCentral, where it can be made freely available at the time of publication. These articles will be mirrored to Europe PMC.

b) The publisher attaches a licence to these articles which allows these articles to be freely copied, distributed, displayed, performed and modified into derivative works by any user. That is the Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) license for *Gold Open Access* and *Hybrid Open Access*, for details see FWF's Open Access Policy.

A list of journals/publishers that offer an open access option that meets the above mentioned requirements can be found *here*. For some publishers publication costs are directly transferred by the FWF to the publishers with no charge payable by the authors, for a list see *Peer-Reviewed Publications*
The researcher using this option does not have to do anything to get this paper into Europe PMC but has only to link paper the Grant Reporting System, see *here*

3.3 Journals that allow self-archiving of author's final manuscript

If a researcher publishes in a journal that allows self-archiving of the author's final manuscript embargoed for no longer than 12 months after publication, the final manuscript has to be self-archived by the author via the Europe PMC+ manuscript submission system. For details see the User Guide
The paper should to be deposited immediately upon the date of acceptance for publication.
Europe PMC offers settings so that the publication is not made openly accessible until the embargo period has expired.

The RoMEO database can be used to determine the open access policy of nearly 1.300 publishers.

3.4 Journals which have an embargo policy longer than 12 months

If the publisher/journal does not allow the author to self-archive the author's manuscript within 12 months or if the publisher/journal does not have an open-access (author pays option), we advise the author to either suggest changing the copyright language, or look for another journal to publish in. The Wellcome Trust has set this out in more detail *here*.

4. In cases where the publisher makes the article available through Europe PMC how are articles linked to a particular FWF-funded project?

To link a paper to a specific FWF grant, grant holders should use the Europe PMC Grant Linking function, which forms part of the Europe PMC+ service. A walkthrough, showing how this works, can be found at the User Guide.

5. What type of publication should be made available through Europe PMC?

Peer-reviewed, original (primary) research publications that have been supported, in whole or in part, by the FWF should be made available through Europe PMC.

When depositing a paper in Europe PMC, relevant supplementary material should also be deposited.

FWF's contribution must be acknowledged in all publications, quoting the relevant grant reference number. Please quote as following:

Austrian Science Fund (FWF): [grant reference number]

6. When self-archiving a research article in Europe PMC, when should I do this, which version should I deposit and how do I do it?

An electronic version of the **author's final manuscript** resulting from research supported in whole or in part by the FWF must be submitted **upon acceptance for publication**.

The version of the paper that should be archived is the final version that is accepted for journal publication, and includes all modifications from the publishing peer-review process, see User Guide and FAQ

7. How are embargo policies handled?

As part of the submission process, the depositor (typically the PI) is asked to indicate how long this paper should be embargoed for. In line with the Open Access policy of the FWF the maximum permissible embargo is 12 months.

8. Where can I find further information?

If you have technical questions/problems please contact the Europe PMC HelpDesk: helpdesk@europepmc.org or +44-1937-54 66 99

If you have questions concerning the FWF Open Access Policy please contact: Falk Reckling, falk.reckling@fwf.ac.at, +43-1-505 67 40-8861