Incentivising open research – a research funder perspective

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QUESTIONS VIA SLI.DO
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1. Open Research – why and how we support it
Wellcome’s commitment to Open Research

• Wellcome is a global charitable foundation dedicated to improving health for everyone, by helping great ideas to thrive
• we want the outputs of the research we fund (including publications, data, software and materials) to be accessed and used in ways that maximise benefit to health & society
• we are a passionate champion and advocate of open access and data sharing, with long-standing policies in place
Knowledge and discoveries are shared, accessed and used in a manner that maximises health benefit

- Researchers are equipped, empowered and motivated to make research outputs open.
- Research outputs are findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR)
Our vision for Open Research

“A world where there are transformative improvements in human health because research outputs are managed, shared, and used in ways that unleash their full value”
Open Research – landscape

- increasing political and funder support for open research and a rapidly changing landscape
- considerable barriers and challenges remain:
  - extent to which researchers are bought in, equipped and incentivised for open research is variable
  - evidence base for the value of open research is underdeveloped
- partnership is at the heart of our approach – working with funders, researchers, institutions, journals and others
Open Research team – our work

Developing major initiatives to support the community and drive change.

Supporting researchers to develop cutting edge approaches to openness.

Leading in development of policies and practices to support, incentivize, and sustain open research.
Funder-led initiative – Wellcome Open Research

A publishing platform for Wellcome researchers to rapidly and openly publish their research outputs, providing a model that is:

- Faster
- Transparent
- Reproducible
- Inclusive
- Cost-effective

www.wellcomeopenresearch.org
Community-driven innovation – our Open Research funding

- **Research Enrichment – Open Research** ([link](#))
  - awards of up to £50k to Wellcome grantees for open research approaches to enhance impact of their research

- **Open Research Fund** ([link](#))
  - annual funding competition, open globally - awards of up to £50k to develop, pilot and evaluate cutting-edge approaches to openness
  - applications and review outcomes made available

- **Data Re-use Prizes** ([link](#))
  - prizes to support and celebrate innovative re-use of data – first two prizes on malaria & AMR surveillance in May 2019
Policy leadership – driving transition towards immediate Open Access

About Plan S
Plan S is an initiative for Open Access publishing that was launched in September 2018. The plan is supported by cOAlition S, an international consortium of research funders. Plan S requires that, from 2020, scientific publications that result from research funded by public grants must be published in compliant Open Access journals or platforms.

www.coalition-s.org/
2. Policy Focus: Incentives, recognition & DORA
DORA: committing to change research assessment practice

• Deeply-embedded research assessment practices in academia are a critical barrier to open research
• We are signatory (since 2013) of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and support its implementation

https://sfdora.org/
Its what you publish, not where you publish that should count..

Since 2005, our Open Access policy has affirmed that:

“…it is the intrinsic merit of the work, and not the title of the journal or the publisher with which an author's work is published, that should be considered in making funding decisions.”

https://wellcome.ac.uk/funding/guidance/open-access-policy
And now a key principle of Plan S

https://www.coalition-s.org/principles-and-implementation/
Implementing DORA as a funder

• Guidance and induction materials for funding committees makes clear our expectation that they:
  – focus on the content and quality of publications, rather than their number, venue of publication, or the impact factors of the journals in which they are published
  – take into account the diverse range of research outputs.
  – are sensitive to legitimate delays in publication & personal factors that may have affected an applicant’s outputs

• Application forms now ask an applicant to describe their research outputs, not just publications

• Outputs management plans assessed and funded as an integral part of research proposals

https://wellcome.ac.uk/news/how-we-judge-research-outputs-when-making-funding-decisions
Supporting institutions in implementing DORA

- Our new Open Access policy for 2021 requires that our funded institutions publicly commit to the core principles of DORA – for example, by signing DORA or equivalent statement.

- We have encouraged institutions to use our Institutional Strategic Support Fund awards to support DORA implementation.

- We are considering how we will assess the adoption of these principles during institutional audits and have committed to develop guidance for institutions (due Autumn 2019).
Developing incentives – other activity

• we commit to fund outputs management plans as integral part of grant

• we actively support development of tools and platforms to reduce barriers and enhance research practice

• we have joined with other funders to set out an incentivisation blueprint – identifying key steps for grant application and assessment

• we are supporting a NAS roundtable on aligning incentives with Open Research Funders Group

• we are working with the Behavioural Insights group to test new approaches

http://www.orfg.org/incentivization-blueprint
Any Questions?

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