

Open Access Membership

BioMed Central's Membership Program enables academic and research institutions, societies, groups, funders and corporations to actively support open access in scholarly publishing and helps ensure the widespread dissemination of research published by their investigators or members.

To meet the cost of publishing, authors who publish in a BioMed Central, Chemistry Central or SpringerOpen journal are asked to pay an article-processing charge (APC) per published paper, the cost of which varies depending on the journal. To remove some or all of the financial cost from the individual author, organizations can join the Membership Program.

Benefits of BioMed Central Membership

• Automatic article deposits into your repository **NEW**

BioMed Central has developed an automated article-deposit system based on the SWORD protocol (Simple Web-service Offering Repository Deposit)*. Using this system, any open access article published in a BioMed Central journal will be automatically deposited in its official final published form into the author's institutional repository, offering significant savings of time and effort for both authors and repository administrators.

• Discount on all BioMed Central products

Member institutions receive a 10% discount on any of BioMed Central's subscription products.

• Increased exposure for your institution

All Member institutions have their own customized web page, featuring a list of articles generated at the institution and published in a BioMed Central or Chemistry Central journal. See our list of Members at www.biomedcentral.com/inst

• Cost-effective solution for organizations

The different Membership options ensure organizations have a pricing plan to fit with their requirements and budgets.

"Libraries and faculty researchers must do their part in actively supporting enterprises like BioMed Central that offer more rational and cost-effective systems for scholarly communication."

David Morse
University of Southern California, USA

* This service is offered at no additional charge to BioMed Central Member institutions.

Membership options

We offer flexible Membership packages to suit every institution and their individual needs:

PREPAY MEMBERSHIP

Prepay Membership enables an organization to cover the whole cost of publishing with no additional fees paid by their authors. This advance payment scheme works by a Member paying upfront for articles to be processed and published. Upon publication, the full APC for the journal in question, minus a loyalty discount, will be deducted from the account. The higher the amount paid in advance, the greater the discount given.

Key benefits include:

- No joining fee - money is only taken when an article is published
- No expiry - credit is carried over until it is used up
- Deposit as little or as much money depending on the budget available
- Account management - ability to cap accounts for budget control
- Loyalty discounts available
- Time saving and convenient - removal of the administrative burden from individual authors of having to pay the full APC directly each time one of their articles is accepted for publication

Prepay Membership online reporting system

BioMed Central is committed to providing its Members with the best possible service. The online reporting system enables Prepay Members to receive up-to-date information about the usage of their account; including published articles, 'in progress' articles, and the remaining balance on their account.

SUPPORTER MEMBERSHIP

Supporter Members pay a flat rate annual Membership fee based on the number of science and medical researchers and graduate students at their institution. Authors at Supporter Member institutions are given a 15% discount on the APC when they publish in a BioMed Central, Chemistry Central or SpringerOpen journal.

Supporter Membership is an ideal solution for institutions that want to show their support for open access but have not yet managed to organize a central fund or Prepay Membership to fully cover open access publishing fees.

SHARED SUPPORT MEMBERSHIP **NEW**

Shared Support Membership has been created in response to extensive communications with the library community and offers a manageable cost-effective alternative for both institution and author. This new Membership type is based on a deposit of funds that cover fifty percent of the APC for articles submitted and accepted from your researchers. The other fifty percent is covered by the authors and their grants.

Similar to Prepay, Shared Support Members are entitled to concessions. The higher the amount paid in advance the greater the loyalty discount given on each APC.

QUARTERLY POSTPAY MEMBERSHIP

Postpay Membership is suitable for medical and scientific societies and groups who wish to support and provide open access publishing for their members.

Their researchers can publish in any BioMed Central, Chemistry Central and SpringerOpen journal without directly incurring APC. Members are invoiced in arrears for articles authored by their members that have been published since the last invoice date. Invoice schedules are set on a monthly or quarterly cycle.

Why authors choose to publish in a BioMed Central journal

- **Broad subject coverage** – Choice of over 200 journals across biology, medicine and chemistry.
- **Quality, reputation and high standard of peer review** – All research articles have been through a stringent peer review process and each journal boasts a world-renowned Editorial Board.
- **Fast publication** – Online submission, electronic peer review and production make the process of publishing an article simple and efficient.
- **Compliance with all funding agency open access policies and mandates** – Publishing in any one of our journals complies with all current open access policies including those set by the NIH, RCUK and The Wellcome Trust.
- **High visibility** – Articles are immediately and permanently available for all to read and use, without charge, and the authors retain the copyright of their article.
- **Indexing and Impact Factors** – Many of our journals have been accepted by Thomson Reuters (ISI) for citation tracking and inclusion in Web of Science, and already have Impact Factors or will have an Impact Factor within the next two years.

