

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Biosciences Federation welcomes Universities UK / RIN guidelines on funding open access publishing

The Biosciences Federation supports the recommendations made by the recent Universities UK / Research Information Network report on open access publishing. This report lays out guidelines to make it easier for researchers to access funds to satisfy funding bodies' open access mandates. The report recommends:

- Higher Education Institutions should each set up a dedicated budget to pay author-side open access publication charges.
- Funding bodies should clarify how they will provide support for researchers to meet their open access policies, especially regarding the payment of open access publishing fees.

The guidelines also note that authors should make use of resources such as the Biosciences Federation's "[Authors' guide to UK funders' policies on open access](#)".

An earlier [report](#) by the Biosciences Federation identified that, although funders were increasingly insistent on published research being open access, researchers experienced considerable difficulty in accessing the appropriate funds to do this. This new report, produced by Universities UK and the Research Information Network, brought together representatives from relevant stakeholders including funding bodies, publishers, institutional administrators and the Biosciences Federation to produce guidelines on how to implement fee-paid open access sustainably.

Dr Richard Dyer OBE, Chief Executive of the Biosciences Federation said:

"The Biosciences Federation has been aware for some time that the main stumbling block to effectively implementing open access policies is the need for a sustainable model of funding. This report represents an important step towards achieving this. If these guidelines are implemented, we will have a joined-up approach that will enable authors to satisfy funding bodies' requirements without relying on unfunded mandates. This can only be good for science, researchers and the learned societies to which they belong. The learned societies are important because of the huge financial and professional support they provide to the scientific community in the UK and beyond."

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Notes for editors:

The **full UUK/RIN report** is available at: <http://www.rin.ac.uk/openaccess-payment-fees>.

Learned societies' financial support to UK academia was recently quantified in the results of a Bioscience Federation survey. The 17 societies surveyed made direct contributions to UK academia of £3.9M, whilst taking only £1.8M in journal subscriptions, a net direct contribution of £2.1M. (See http://www.bsf.ac.uk/journals/BSF_survey_report_July_2008_FINAL.pdf.)

The **Biosciences Federation (BSF)** is a single authority representing the UK's biological expertise, providing independent opinion to inform public policy and promoting the advancement of the biosciences. The BSF actively works to influence policy and strategy in biology-based research - including funding and the interface with other disciplines - and in school and university teaching. The BSF is also concerned about the translation of research into benefits for society, and about the impact of legislation and regulations on the ability of those working in teaching and research to deliver effectively. The BSF supports researchers through its Member societies, of which there are 45 plus 9 Associate Members. These cover the full range of biosciences from physiology and neuroscience, biochemistry and microbiology, to ecology, taxonomy and environmental science. For more information, please visit <http://www.bsf.ac.uk>. The Biosciences Federation Authors' guide to UK funders' policies on open access is available at: http://www.bsf.ac.uk/journals/journals_authors%27guide.htm

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For more information, please contact:

Emma Southern

Tel: 01223 400189

Email: esouthern.bsf@physoc.org

Jennie Evans

Tel: 01454 642 230

Email: jennie.evans@endocrinology.org