Open Access: An Important Pathway for the Advancement of Science and Patient Care

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Open Access (OA) is a distribution model providing no-cost, no-wait, online access to academic works such as peer-reviewed journal articles, theses, monographs and book chapters [1,2], thus it is an important pathway to accelerate the pace of scientific progress and to improve patient care.

The benefits of the OA publication in the advancement of science and patient care have been shown in several aspects, such as: 1) it accelerates communication and thus discovery and innovation; 2) publishers benefit from the wider dissemination, greater visibility and impact of their articles; 3) scientists, clinicians, and the public benefit from an immediate open access option to published scientific and clinically relevant information [3-6].

The Journal of Pulmonary & Respiratory Medicine, which started as a new OMICS Publishing Group journal in October 2011, represents an excellent example of an OA platform. It aims to advance our understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of lung diseases, as well as secondary prevention (Tuberculosis). It is an international, peer-reviewed journal, publishing an overview of pulmonary medicine which includes the contents geared towards the fields of pulmonology, thoracic surgery, and intensive care medicine. For more details: http://www.omicsonline.org/jprmhome.php.

OMICS Publishing Group, an Open Access Publisher and Scientific Events Organizer for the Advancement of Science & Technology, enables the dissemination of research articles to the global community by publishing about 200 journals (except for the above-mentioned Journal of Pulmonary & Respiratory Medicine) and organizing 50 (on average) scientific events per year via OA model. The special features of the OMICS Publishing Group include: 1) providing digital book, which enables readers to listen to their research almost immediately; 2) supplying audio listening; 3) offering user friendly/feasible website-translation of published papers to more than 50 languages, which enables worldwide communication with researchers in a variety of languages; 4) enabling readers to share their views on their research or on OMICS articles in various social networking sites such as Face book; and 5) ensuring quality and quick editorial and review processing with the efforts of 5,000 editorial teams and 10,000 reviewer teams, and it owns 1 million readers. For more details: http://www.omicsonline.org/special-features.php.

There are some opponents to OA model arguing that OA journals face many uncertainties such as quality, impact, and sustainability, and there are others who worry about the copyright issue raised by the OA model [1,2,7]. Despite these disputes, recent studies have revealed that the number of articles published in OA journals has grown quickly [3-6,8].

In summary, although many issues remain to be resolved for successful implementation of the OA publication model, the OA approach in medical research publication is proving to be successful and will continue to grow through constant efforts of scientific leaders and information professionals as well as the public as a whole [9,10].

References

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