

REPORT ON IARC OPEN ACCESS POLICY

1. The Agency's Open Access (OA) Policy went into effect on 1 January 2015. The policy applies to peer-reviewed journal articles in which the lead or corresponding author is an Agency author or the Agency takes a lead role in the project (e.g. funds the research).
2. Baseline data for the period prior to the Agency's implementation of its OA policy is limited to 2014; additionally data for 2017 is incomplete at the time of reporting. However, figures as indicated in the summary table below suggest that the OA policy and newly streamlined workflows for requesting funding support from the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) have had a positive effect on the proportion of articles being made available immediately through the payment of article processing charges (APC).

Proportion of immediate open access to total journal output*

	Gold (Fully OA journal)	Hybrid (APC payment in subscription journal)	Standard publication	TOTAL
2014	78 (21%)	27 (7%)	269 (72%)	374 (100%)
2015	77 (21%)	50 (13%)	248 (66%)	375 (100%)
2016	91 (25%)	51 (14%)	226 (61%)	368 (100%)
2017	76 (26%)	40 (14%)	174 (60%)	290 (100%)

*data as of 10 November 2017

3. At its 57th Session, the Governing Council through its Resolution [GC/57/R11](#) approved funding support from the GCSF to cover article processing charges for open access publishing in journals up to a maximum of €50 000 per annum for three years from 2015 to 2017.
4. In May 2017, the Agency reported the progress of its implementation of the OA Policy to the Governing Council. Given the strategy of the Agency to continue to promote open access publishing and recognizing that the funds approved under Resolution GC/57/R11 were considered sufficient to cover 2017 and 2018, the Secretariat decided not to request additional funds from the GCSF for this purpose at this time, on the understanding that the available funds from 2017 could be carried forward to 2018 (Document [GC/59/4](#), page 4).
5. As of 10 November 2017, €89 397.18 or 60% of the approved budget was utilized to fund a total of 37 articles—6 in 2015, 10 in 2016 along with support for a series of OA articles on Cancer in Central and South America, and 21 in 2017—a notable increase in the recent year. Overall 10% of the total 384 gold and hybrid articles published from 2015 to date have been funded through the GCSF; viewed on an annual basis, the figures are 5% of OA articles in 2015 funded through GCSF, 7% in 2016 and 18% in 2017 to date.

6. While the balance of funds approved under Resolution GC/57/R11 are considered sufficient to cover 2018, additional funds will be required for 2019 onwards. The Agency would appreciate the support of the Scientific Council in its request for continuing support, to be presented to the Governing Council at its 60th Session supplemented by a report on the results from the first three years of this initiative.

7. Alongside centralized funding support, implementation efforts include instructional workshops, individual consultations and updates to information shared via the Agency's intranet. The manuscript clearance system is currently undergoing a new phase of development, with added functionality to further raise awareness of, and compliance with, the Open Access Policy. Efforts to keep the Agency's policy and workflows in line with WHO's policy and best practices are also ongoing, with the objective of ensuring the broadest possible barrier-free access to IARC's research output.