American Physiological Society’s Journey
Transformation Into and Beyond....

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Who is the American Physiological Society?

- The American Physiological Society (APS) is a nonprofit organization that publishes 16 highly respected scientific journals.

- APS publishes work that strengthens our community dedicated to solving major problems that affect life and health.

- As a self-publishing society, APS reinvests any income completely back into the research community we serve and the science we support.

- Staff culture embodies openness, trust, respect, integrity, collaboration, curiosity, healthy debate, and fearlessness.

www.journals.physiology.org
The APS OA Journey
Phase 1: Navigating Open Access within our Community

What is Open Access anyway?

- **Rebrand** Author Choice to APS Open Access

- **Inform** what OA can do for our authors & members (not publishers!)

- **APS serves a community** of nearly 10,000 members who advance scientific discovery, understand life, and improve health.

Creating Equitable Access

The goal of APS Open Access is to help create a more equitable system of knowledge that is open to anyone, anywhere. When you publish your work in the highly regarded, peer-reviewed APS journals, you benefit from our dedicated production and promotion efforts to help your work reach the world without barriers.

Publishing open access opens doors for your research by:

- Retaining Copyright
- Reaching a Wider Audience

Initiating Sustainable Progress

Publishing your research through APS Open Access will help APS build toward an open science future. Academic publishing has always been an essential part of our mission as a Society, but we also have a rich history of supporting physiologists and their science beyond publishing. As a self-publishing society, APS reinvests any income completely back into the research community we serve and the science we support. APS will continue to grow our OA content as well as explore new business models, such as our Read, Publish & Join program, to continue publishing your important research.
The APS OA Journey
Phase 1: Navigating Open Access within our Community

But seriously, what is Open Access again..and again?

- **Promote** OA heavily to the community
- **Storytelling** from APS membership and libraries to share experiences
- **Build** external relationships in scholarly publishing
Timeline for Read, Publish and Join (RPJ)

- APS Considers Transformative Pilot 2019
- APS Launches RPJ January 2020
- One Partner: Iowa State
- Implementation: Manual (EEK!)
The APS OA Journey
Phase 3a: Collaboration & Recalibration

Internal Teamwork
Change – Test —Pivot
(repeat 20-30 times)

- Societies operate differently than a publishing entity—both efficiently.
- Internal systems are created to support the Society.
- The data does not match from system to system.
- Systems do not “talk” to each other in this case.
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Phase 3b: Collaboration & Recalibration

External Vendors
Change – Test —Pivot
(continual repeat and evaluate)

• Authors need a seamless way to verify their institution

• Each transformative agreement is different—unfortunately.

• APS needs to set up deal variations

• New billing process & automate OA payments

• Report to all stakeholders!
The APS OA Journey
Phase 4: Expansion of RPJ with Unlimited Publishing

Timeline for Read, Publish and Join

• Automation!
• At Scale!
• Unlimited Publishing!
• Jisc Deal Launched!
• Total Institutions since 2020: 34
The APS OA Journey
Phase 5: Did I mention pivot?

- OSTP Announcement 8/22
- Calls for all federally funded research to be made available for free without embargo
- Over half of APS published papers have at least one US Funder
- APS Members & Authors need to be compliant by 2025
- Publish with Purpose™ EST 2019
- Sustainably transition- APS reinvests any income completely back into our community
The APS OA Journey
Phase 6: Business Model Evaluation

- What model will ensure our community is compliant when they publish with APS?
- How can we do this by 2025?
- Without adding a financial burden to our authors and members?
- At scale and...did I mention by 2025?
- Sustainably transition to continue to serve our members and authors while enabling the transformation to open access
Phase 6: Business Model Evaluation

Open Access Models

Diamond OA or Platinum OA: No fees are charged to authors or readers; publication may be funded entirely by the community, such as nonprofits, institutions or consortia.

Gold OA: Researchers, their institutions or their funders pay an article processing charge (APC) when an article is accepted, and the final version of record of the article is made open access immediately upon publication. Authors keep the copyright to their work under a Creative Commons license.

Bronze OA: Publications are free to publish and free to read but are not openly licensed for reuse.

Green OA: Gives authors a self-archiving option of the accepted version of their manuscript. The researchers can post this earlier version of the article in a freely accessible online repository. The authors avoid an APC. The publisher or affiliated society often keeps the copyright to the work. There may be an embargo on when the content is available to the public.

Hybrid: Offers authors the option of paying an APC to make their article open access. These journals publish a mix of gated and open access content.

Subscribe to Open (S2O): Converts subscriptions to open access without relying on APCs. Under this model, if enough institutions renew their subscriptions under the S2O terms, the publisher commits to making the content open for that subscription year so all readers can access content and researchers are not required to pay an APC to publish in the journal. Otherwise, the journal remains gated and continues to be accessed by paying subscribers.

At the end of 2023, the APS Council approved a new way forward for the Society.
The APS OA Journey
Current Phase: Ready..Set….Subscribe to Open in 2025

- 10 primary research journals starting in 2025
- Transforms library subscriptions
- Equitable Publishing- no APCs
- Continue to serve members & community
- Accelerate our OA journey

S2O incentives
- Ensures authors meet funder requirements
- OA Guarantee for package Subscribers
- Green policy for all others
- Licensed term access to APS Legacy content
- Coming soon: Partner with Purpose™ with libraries

https://journals.physiology.org/s2o