

# F1000Research, an open science journal

**F1000Research (<http://f1000research.com>) is the first Open Science journal for life scientists.**

Open Science publishing means:

<b>1. No Publication Delay</b>	All articles, including research findings, analyses of scientific developments, opinions, and comments should be made visible without delay.
<b>2. All Data Included</b>	Reports of findings of new research should always be accompanied by the complete dataset on which they are based, provided in a form enabling confirmation or reuse of the data by other researchers.
<b>3. Post-publication Peer Review</b>	Refereeing of reports of new research is important and should be carried out after publication to prevent delay.
<b>4. Open Refereeing</b>	All referee reports and commentary should be published with the names and affiliations of the referees and commenters visible.
<b>5. Full Open Access</b>	All articles must be published without any restriction of access.

**F1000Research is the first Open Science Publisher** and we will work strictly within these rules. We will also provide a range of services that will make the submission of research findings and the relevant data as easy as possible and will encourage communication and commentary between authors and readers, and we will provide tools for readers so that they can make efficient use of the information we publish. We aim to be an effective and ethical publisher servicing the needs of researchers.

### No Publication Delay

The current system of publishing research findings produces an inevitable delay of months, often over a year. This is due to a number of factors, chief among them being the way refereeing is implemented. *F1000Research* will publish all submitted research articles immediately - after a quick internal check for obvious inappropriateness - making the new research findings open for scrutiny by all who want to read them. The immediate publication will trigger a structured process of peer review, and the status of that process will be clearly stated at all times. Avoiding lengthy delay in making new findings available can bring significant benefits to authors and readers.

### All Data Included

We believe that it is essential in reporting new findings to provide a full set of data on which the findings are based (being sensitive to areas where there are genuine data protection issues), in a form that other scientists can use. This enables others to judge the validity of the report, repeat and verify the findings, and combine the data with other data to seek deeper understandings and new findings. This is an ambitious goal, but *F1000Research* is working hard to come as close to achieving this as is practical. We are seeking close collaborations with the many groups currently developing tools to present and store data in forms that can be actively explored and manipulated.

### Post-publication Peer Review

*F1000Research* will carry out full and thorough peer review, ensuring that every article is refereed by at least two nominated experts. The peer-review process is triggered by the immediate publication of the article, and the peer review status is always clearly visible as part of the essential citation information for each article. All papers that pass peer review will be placed in PubMed Central and listed in PubMed and other significant bibliographic databases.

### Open Refereeing

*F1000Research* believes that there are many benefits in completely removing the traditional secrecy and anonymity of peer review. All referee responses are published as soon as they are received, with the names and affiliations of the referees openly stated.

### Full Open Access

*F1000Research* is part of the group that launched BioMed Central, one of the first to enter the battle to remove the restriction of access to published research findings. The benefits of Open Access are now generally accepted and we believe it will become the standard in science publishing, especially in biology and medicine. *F1000Research* will ensure full unrestricted access to all the articles we publish, and we will encourage reuse and redistribution of published articles and data - providing that the integrity of the information is maintained and attribution to authorship is always provided.

Our goal is to improve the way research findings are communicated, and the key points we describe above are the rules we have set ourselves in order to achieve this. If we succeed, we believe that *F1000Research* and others like it will bring significant benefit to scientific communication, and communication is the very essence of scientific research. We recognise that what we are proposing will be hard to do, and we know it is ambitious. We will be open to criticism and we will work with our authors, readers and referees to make our systems better, day by day, as we develop the many tools and practices needed to achieve our goal of establishing Open Science publishing.

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**More about *F1000Research*:**

Online Information Pack:

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