



## Case Study:

# How Wellcome Open Research became the single most used publishing venue for Wellcome funded researchers

November 2021

F1000

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In 2020, the **Wellcome Open Research (WOR)** publishing platform reached a significant milestone when it became the single most used venue for Wellcome-funded researchers to share their research outputs. This was achieved after only four years since its conception.

Launched in late 2016, using the open research publishing model developed and run by F1000, Wellcome Open Research was created to provide a more open and collaborative approach to publishing for Wellcome-funded researchers. Wellcome's aim in launching this optional publishing initiative was to put the author at the centre of the publication process and give them the freedom to decide what they need to publish and when, empowering them to adopt research values of openness and transparency that are important to Wellcome.

*"I am delighted our funded researchers are embracing this new form of publishing. The model of immediate publication, followed by invited, post-publication peer review ensures research findings are shared quickly, but are still subject to formal peer review. As we move to a world in which all research findings will be shared in an open, transparent way, I hope others will emulate this model."*

**Robert Kiley**  
Head of Open Research  
at the Wellcome Trust



## A Banner Year

In 2020, Wellcome Open Research had a 40% increase in its total number of publications compared to 2019 (292 vs 208). Much of this increase was driven by researchers publishing articles related to the COVID-19 pandemic with a diverse range of content from clinical and biological through to sociological research.

Analysis also shows that Wellcome Open Research provides a significantly cheaper route to achieving Open Access, with its average Article Processing Charges (APCs) being 66% lower than the average APC paid by Wellcome in the 2018-19 year.

Wellcome Open Research encourages researchers to share all research findings which they consider valuable. Of the 292 articles published in 2020, around 49% were non-traditional research articles, which researchers may have had difficulties in getting published in more traditional publishing venues. As a result of this growth, data from the Dimensions and Europe PMC databases show that WOR was the single most used publishing venue for Wellcome-funded researchers in 2020.

No.	Journal	Number of Wellcome attributed papers published in 2020 (by journal)
1	Wellcome Open Research	292
2	Nature Communications	286
3	Scientific Reports	206
4	Plos One	187
5	eLife	166
6	BMJ Open	116
7	PNAS	105
8	Nature	85
9	Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases	73
10	Neuroimage	64

Top 10 journals (by volume) used by Wellcome-funded researchers

Speed of publication remains one of the platform's unique selling points. Most articles are published within 25 days of being submitted and receive the first peer review report some 21 days later. The median, end-to-end elapsed time, from submission to when article has passed peer review, is 94 days.

## Looking Ahead

There were many factors which contributed to Wellcome Open Research's success in becoming the single most used publishing venue for Wellcome-funded researchers in 2020:

- Increase in submissions due to the pandemic
- Lower Article Processing Charges
- Facility to publish non-traditional research articles
- Speed of publication

The future for Wellcome Open Research is bright. They are already exploring how best to share even more different types of research outputs which typically may not be suited to a traditional publication format, such as [Jupyter](#) notebooks.

**As evidenced, F1000's trailblazing technology can help empower researchers, advance knowledge and engage society. We partner with research organizations that want to do things differently. Reach out if you'd like to discuss your organization's publishing goals: <https://f1000.com/get-in-touch/>**

## Influence



**40%**

Increase in published articles over the past 12 months



**1<sup>st</sup>**

Most used publication venue for Wellcome funded researchers



**£811**

66% cheaper than the average APC Wellcome paid in 2018-19

## Authors



**5,319**

Authors



**1,643**

Institutions represented



**94**

Countries represented



**19**

Wellcome Centres and institutes

## Articles



**833**

Articles published



**636**

Articles sent to PubMed

## Speed

Median time for submission to publication



Median time to passing peer review



## Research outputs

**51%**

Traditional research articles

**49%**

Other article types

## Top article types

**51%**



Research article

**11%**



Study protocol

**8%**



Method article

**7%**



Open letter