

The Changing Landscape of Open Access Publishing for HIV and Global Health Researchers

Panel Summary – April 3, 2025



Seth Kalichman
AIDS and Behavior
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Increasing access to scholarly publications can allow interested researchers, patients, families, healthcare providers, and members of the public to follow the latest advances and address the most critical health concerns facing their communities. This virtual panel aims to: 1) present an overview and key practices of open access publishing in global HIV-related fields, and 2) discuss the implications and opportunities for researchers and publishers.

Key Takeaways

Definitions:

- **Open Access (OA)**: free and immediate access to scholarly work with no paywalls for readers.
- **Article Processing Charges (APCs)**: fees paid by authors or institutions to publisher to cover the costs of OA publishing.
- **Diamond OA**: no fees for authors or readers; usually supported by institutions or government or non-government agencies.
- **Green OA (self-archiving)**: authors depositing accepted manuscripts in repositories; free for readers.



Kate Nyhan
Yale University

2024 US National Institutes of Health (NIH) Public Access Policy:

- The policy will apply to NIH-funded manuscripts accepted on or after July 1, 2025 (moved forward from December 31, 2025). It will require deposit of author manuscripts in PubMed Central upon acceptance, making them immediately available to the public without embargo.



Annette H. Sohn
Journal of the International AIDS Society
TREAT Asia - amfAR

Practical considerations before submitting a manuscript:

- Ensure that the journal's publishing policies align with authors' values regarding visibility, access, cost, and community impact.
- Review journals' APCs waiver and discount policies.
- Consider journals with transformative agreements that waive APCs for corresponding authors at participating institutions.



Luke Davis
Yale School of Public Health

Ethical considerations:

- APCs often fund OA journals, and in some cases support the journal's editorial board operations.
- APCs can raise ethical questions around financial barriers to publishing, sustainability, and transparency of publishing costs.
- Be cautious of predatory journals that pose as OA outlets and use pay-to-publish models. These journals often lack transparency in their submission and peer review processes, misrepresent APCs, and may falsely claim endorsements from reputable organizations.



Tracy Rabin
Yale School of Medicine

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Resources & Tools

APC Waivers – Example: Lancet Global Health*

- Full waiver if all authors are from Research4Life program's [Group A countries](#).
- 50% discount for [Group B countries](#).
- Individual waivers considered for unfunded authors or caregivers.
- Discounts based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita:
 - GNI < \$1,145 → 100% waiver
 - GNI < \$4,515 → 80% waiver
 - GNI < \$7,679 → 55% waiver
 - GNI < \$10,843 → 35% waiver
 - GNI < \$14,005 → 10% waiver

*Compiled from relevant sections of [Elsevier Policies on Journal Pricing](#).

Diamond OA Journals

- No fees for authors or readers.
- How to find diamond OA journals:
 - [DOAJ](#): use the "Without fees" filter
 - [Lens.org](#): Search > Journal filter > Non-APC Journals > Analyze results
 - [GAJET](#): a list of Medline-indexed diamond OA journals.

Green OA Journals (Self-Archiving)

- Some publishers allow green OA where authors self-archive the accepted manuscript of articles (after the peer review process and receiving an acceptance letter/email from a journal editor) in a freely accessible repository.
- Readers can find and read the free accepted manuscript version via Google Scholar, Google, [Unpaywall](#), and [Open Access Button](#).
- How to find green OA journals:
 - Visit the journal publisher's policies webpage (example: [Taylor & Francis](#))
 - [Jisc Open Policy Finder](#)
 - [ShareYourPaper](#)
 - [Zenodo](#)

NIH Public Access Policy (2024 and 2025 Updates)

- [NOT-OD-25-047](#): Applies to NIH-funded manuscripts, effective [July 1, 2025](#) (moved forward from December 31, 2025).
- Requires deposit in [PubMed Central](#) upon acceptance without embargo.
- See also supplemental guidance notices on [publication costs](#) and [government use license and rights](#).
- More information on [NIH Public Access Policy website](#).

Recommended Reading

- Frank J, Foster R, Pagliari C. [Open access publishing - noble intention, flawed reality](#). *Soc Sci Med*. 2023;317:115592. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2022.115592
- Laine C, Babski D, Bachelet VC, et al. [Predatory journals: What can we do to protect their prey?](#) *JAMA*. 2025;333(9):761–762. doi:10.1001/jama.2024.27514
- [Yale Library's Open Access Publishing Support](#)