



Washington DC Principles  
*for*  
Free Access to Science

[www.dcprinciples.org](http://www.dcprinciples.org)

## **Washington D.C. Principles For Free Access to Science** *A Statement from Not-for-Profit Publishers*

(MARCH 16, 2004) - WASHINGTON, DC – As scholarly, not-for-profit publishers, we reaffirm our commitment to innovative and independent publishing practices and to promoting the wide dissemination of information in our journals. Not-for-profit scientific, technical, and medical publishers are an integral part of the broader scholarly communities supporting scientists, researchers, and clinicians. We work in partnership with scholarly communities to ensure that these communities are sustained and extended, science is advanced, research meets the highest standards, and patient care is enhanced with accurate and timely information.

We continue to support broad access to the scientific and medical literature through the following publishing principles and practices.

1. As not-for-profit publishers, we see it as our mission to maintain and enhance the independence, rigor, trust, and visibility that have established scholarly journals as reliable filters of information emanating from clinical and laboratory research.
2. As not-for-profit publishers, we reinvest all of the revenue from our journals in the direct support of science worldwide, including scholarships, scientific meetings, grants, educational outreach, advocacy for research funding, the free dissemination of information for the public, and improvements in scientific publishing.
3. As not-for-profit publishers, we have introduced and will continue to support the following forms of free access:
  - Selected important articles of interest are free online from the time of publication;
  - The full text of our journals is freely available to everyone worldwide either immediately or within months of publication, depending on each publisher's business and publishing requirements;
  - The content of our journals is available free to scientists working in many low-income nations;
  - Articles are made available free online through reference linking between these journals;

- Our content is available for indexing by major search engines so that readers worldwide can easily locate information.
4. We will continue to work to develop long-term preservation solutions for online journals to ensure the ongoing availability of the scientific literature.
  5. We will continue to work with authors, peer-reviewers, and editors for the development of robust online and electronic tools to improve efficiency of their important intellectual endeavors.
  6. We strongly support the principle that publication fees should not be borne solely by researchers and their funding institutions, because the ability to publish in scientific journals should be available equally to all scientists worldwide, no matter what their economic circumstances.
  7. As not-for-profit publishers, we believe that a free society allows for the co-existence of many publishing models, and we will continue to work closely with our publishing colleagues to set high standards for the scholarly publishing enterprise.

The following not-for-profit publishers endorse the above principles:

**American Academy of Pediatrics**

*Pediatrics*  
*Pediatrics in Review*  
*NeoReviews*

**American Association for Cancer Research**

*Cancer Research*  
*Clinical Cancer Research*  
*Cancer Epidemiology Biomarkers & Prevention*  
*Molecular Cancer Therapeutics*  
*Molecular Cancer Research*

**American Association for Clinical Chemistry**

*Clinical Chemistry*

**American Cancer Society**

*CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians*

**American College of Chest Physicians**

*CHEST*

**American College of Nutrition**

*Journal of the American College of Nutrition*

**American College of Physicians**

*Annals of Internal Medicine*  
*ACP Journal Club*

**American Dairy Science Association**

*Journal of Dairy Science*

**American Diabetes Association**

*Diabetes*  
*Diabetes Care*  
*Diabetes Spectrum*  
*Clinical Diabetes*

**American Physiological Society**

*American Journal of Physiology (AJP)*  
*AJP - Cell Physiology*  
*AJP - Endocrinology and Metabolism*  
*AJP - Gastrointestinal and Liver Physiology*  
*AJP - Heart and Circulatory Physiology*  
*AJP - Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology*  
*AJP - Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology*  
*AJP - Renal Physiology*  
*Journal of Applied Physiology*  
*Journal of Neurophysiology*  
*Physiological Reviews*  
*Physiological Genomics*  
*Advances in Physiology Education*  
*News in Physiological Sciences*

**American Psychiatric Publishing**

*American Journal of Psychiatry*  
*Psychiatric Services*  
*Psychosomatics*  
*Academic Psychiatry*  
*American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*  
*Journal of Psychotherapy Practice and Research*  
*Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences*

**American Roentgen Ray Society**

*American Journal of Roentgenology*

**American Society of Animal Science**

*Journal of Animal Science*

**American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**

*The Journal of Biological Chemistry*  
*Molecular and Cellular Proteomics*  
*Journal of Lipid Research*

**American Society for Clinical Investigation**

*Journal of Clinical Investigation*

**American Society for Clinical Nutrition**

*American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*

**American Society for Investigative Pathology**

*The American Journal of Pathology*  
*The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*

**American Society for Microbiology**

*Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*  
*Applied and Environmental Microbiology*  
*Clinical and Diagnostic Laboratory Immunology*  
*Clinical Microbiology Reviews*  
*Eukaryotic Cell*  
*Infection and Immunity*

*Journal of Bacteriology*  
*Journal of Clinical Microbiology*  
*Journal of Virology*  
*Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews*  
*Molecular and Cellular Biology*

**American Society for Nutritional Sciences**

*The Journal of Nutrition*

**American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics**

*Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics*  
*Pharmacological Reviews*  
*Molecular Pharmacology*  
*Drug Metabolism and Disposition*  
*Molecular Interventions*

**American Society of Clinical Oncology**

*Journal of Clinical Oncology*

**American Society of Hematology**

*Blood*

**American Society of Plant Biologists**

*Plant Physiology*  
*The Plant Cell*

**Association for Molecular Pathology**

*The Journal of Molecular Diagnostics*

**Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology**

*Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science*

**Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities**

*Journal of Biomolecular Techniques*

**Biophysical Society**

*Biophysical Journal*

**Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press**

*Genes & Development*  
*Genome Research*  
*Learning & Memory*  
*Protein Science*  
*RNA*

**Company of Biologists Limited**

*Development*  
*Journal of Cell Science*  
*Journal of Experimental Biology*

**European Molecular Biology Organisation**

*The EMBO Journal*  
*EMBOreports*

**Federation of American Societies for  
Experimental Biology**

*FASEB Journal*

**Genetics Society of America**

*Genetics*

**Project Hope**

*Health Affairs*

**Protein Society**

*Protein Science*

**Radiological Society of North America**

*Radiology*  
*RadioGraphics*

**Royal College of Psychiatrists**

*British Journal of Psychiatry*  
*Psychiatric Bulletin*  
*Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*

**Society for Experimental Biology and  
Medicine**

*Experimental Biology and Medicine*

**Society for Leukocyte Biology**

*Journal of Leukocyte Biology*

**Society for the Study of Reproduction**

*Biology of Reproduction*

**Society of Nuclear Medicine**

*Journal of Nuclear Medicine*  
*Technology*  
*The Journal of Nuclear Medicine*

**Society of Surgical Oncology**

*Annals of Surgical Oncology*

**The American Society of Nephrology**

*Journal of the American Society of*  
*Nephrology*

**The Botanical Society of America**

*American Journal of Botany*  
*Plant Science Bulletin*

**The Endocrine Society**

*Endocrine Reviews*  
*Endocrinology*  
*Journal of Clinical Endocrinology &*  
*Metabolism*  
*Molecular Endocrinology*  
*Recent Progress in Hormone*  
*Research*

**The Histochemical Society**

*Journal of Histochemistry and*  
*Cytochemistry*

**The Physiological Society**

*The Journal of Physiology*

**The Rockefeller University Press**

*The Journal of Cell Biology*  
*The Journal of Experimental Medicine*  
*The Journal of General Physiology*

**Society of National Association  
Publications**

*Representing 265 publications*

**Background:** Since 1995, more than 100 society and university not-for-profit publishers have been working with Stanford University's HighWire Press to transform traditional print journals into enduring and dynamic online journals. These publishers have invested millions of dollars in online technology for information presentation, distribution, and management; created unique and powerful online services for the education and convenience of scientists; initiated some of the largest and most influential experiments in online-only publishing; led the charge in making information free to people who cannot afford to pay for it; and developed state-of-the-art software to support authors, reviewers, and editors. By effectively harnessing new technologies, these not-for-profit society and university publishers have promoted the wider dissemination of scientific information as well as free and unfettered access to journal content for both the scientific community and the public. In so doing, these not-for-profit publishers have become leaders in the online revolution for scientific publishing.

Through these not-for-profit publishers, the scientific community and the public have easy online access to over 1.6 million articles of which more than 600,000 full-text articles are free. In addition, access is provided to the abstracts of more than 12.6 million articles in more than 4,500 Medline journals, as well as useful alerting and information management tools.

The experiments that have been conducted since 1995 and that are ongoing have only been possible because these not-for-profit publishers have been successfully adapting their proven business models to the online environment. As a result, these society and university press journals remain high impact and well-respected custodians of the scientific literature. Through numerous organizations that serve the entire scholarly publishing community, not-for-profit publishers have freely shared their ideas and innovations, with the common goal of improving the dissemination of vital scientific and medical information throughout the world.

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