



## Open Access Journals- The New Front Line of Science

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Technology has moved forward exponentially in the past 50 years. New techniques and equipment have made the exploration of the body move forward by many orders of magnitude in our lifetimes. One new method leads to dozens of papers that then leads to new techniques leading to dozens of more papers. An unfortunate problem in today's science is the slow speed of publication. This results in a dissemination of knowledge that is far slower than the generation of new ideas. Research, if unknown to investigators, is needlessly duplicated and/or research directions are followed that may lead to poor results, wasting time and valuable and hard to find research funding. For this reason, open access journals provide a timely model for publication in a rapidly moving world.

With open access, both the public and people in research gain fast access and free access to research articles. Many journals, not carried by local libraries, charge substantial amounts of money to view full text

articles; only abstracts are given free access. In large institutions with well-endowed libraries, the journals are carried by the institution. But for many researchers in small countries and poorer universities, access to these journals is blocked. Further, in hard copy journals, articles can be in the review and the publication process for well over a year, holding critical results back from the scientific community.

Thus *Anatomy and Physiology*, offers fast access to articles about the anatomy and function of the body, available rapidly and with open use for both research and teaching. Teaching in particular has been hampered by the need to seek permission for the use of figures and material from scholarly publications. For those teaching anatomy and physiology and writing texts on the subjects, this new journal format gives immediate world wide access for teaching to state of the art research. *Anatomy and Physiology* is a welcome addition to the scholarly body of knowledge in science.

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