

Why “Chemotherapy” Should be an Open Access Journal

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Access to the scientific knowledge should be always free. The ‘Budapest open access initiatives, 2002’ first provides the definition of “Open Access” as ‘free and unrestricted on line availability of journal literature to the readers’[1]. And also free from most of the copyrights and licensing restrictions. But the cost of production of the journal is not free and very similar to any subscription journals! So, maintaining a journal without getting revenues from its readers is challenging. Again the literatures are of high qualities and are comparable to subscription journals as peer reviews do not depend on the price barrier. There are various models of maintaining journals. Subscription based journals generally get their revenue through subscribing institutions, paid from individual readers and advertisements. ‘Open Access’ journals mainly depend on author charges, institutional subscriptions and advertisements or sponsors. Author charges are not high and affordable from various scientific grants. In cases of hardship, journals generally waive author charges. But why this paradigm shift was necessary from subscription journals to ‘Open Access’ journals. And still why is it worth of it for ‘chemotherapy’?

Chemotherapy i.e. treatment of diseases with chemical compounds has a long history but until now it is the principle scientific way for treating diseases because much promising alternative field ‘gene therapy’ have major setbacks for various reasons [2-4]. This is because of mainly due to the unavailability of suitable vectors for gene delivery as viral vectors could integrate anywhere in the genome, thus disrupting essential genes leading to unwanted health problem. However, recent explosion of disease specific genetic and genomic information boosted traditional chemotherapy field for gene or genetic signature specific drug design and development. Based on the genetic signature, the importances of individual specific drug development or ‘personalized medicine’ for every disease are enormous. Scientists from academia and from industry throughout the world are involved in this area of research and it takes stepwise long processes for a successful drug development that ultimately goes for marketing. Additionally, the amount of huge informations and experiences generated throughout the process must be shared with the scientific and public communities because a major portion of research in academia takes place using public funds, those are disseminated through foundations and government organizations. Thus the right for sharing this knowledge of drug development is obvious, and when it is freely accessible, author avoids moral responsibilities for making the data available for everybody.

Now what are the advantages to readers? The impact is enormous. A substantial part of the readers of scientific journals are students and junior scientists such as graduate students, post doctoral scientists etc. Unless open access journal, they are bound to consult only subscription journals those are provided by their institutions. And in these days, considering the enormous number of subscription journals, no institution library could subscribe all journals! Even for ‘on line pay per article’ that hosted by many subscription journals appears to be expensive to a junior scientist who cannot reimburse the money from grants etc. Additionally, for a topic, one need to consult more than one

article and paying for them is a gambling without knowing what is inside and whether those will be at all useful for the specified purpose!

A substantial part of the readers are from low income countries. But a major part of the research in chemotherapy is being done in countries other than US and Western Europe. The chemotherapeutic research that comprises the translation of basic research from bench to clinic is also cost effective when it is done in other parts of the world. Before conceiving the ideas, making strategies and for developing successful collaborations, it is necessary to have awareness about the ongoing research in the field that would contribute to these translational researches. If the access to the scientific literature is limited due to price barriers, incomplete information leads to wasting of years of research and resources. Especially, in low income countries, price barrier free scientific literatures are immensely important for successful execution of chemotherapeutic development.

OMICS Group developed a successful business model for distributing these scientific literatures of chemotherapeutic research to the readers all over the world with free of charges, thus facilitating faster dissemination of the scientific knowledge of drug development. And it adopts ‘author pay model’ for cost of literature production. This minimum author charges has a double advantages because author has the flexibilities to pay for the article from various grants etc and could include the cost with the research. Readers from any part of the world have free access to the scientific literature thus could conceive and execute chemotherapeutic strategies. Additionally, OMICS Group specially considers distribution of scientific literatures through digital books, audio version and social networks. The cutting edge research and breakthroughs would be delivered in personal electronic devices immediately and listening to them would be more exciting than reading them in computer monitors for hours. The published papers will be translated to more than 50 languages, so readers in any part of the world can read the literature in their own languages, thus avoiding the language barriers which are a problem for mainly non-English speaking countries. OMICS also encourages discussing any topics in social networks like Facebook or Twitters etc. These special features of OMICS Group would make the delivery of scientific literatures of drug development more exciting and communicable not only to the scientific communities but also to the scientifically curious people in the society.

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