

Open Access Policy

1. PURPOSE

This document sets out Snow Medical Research Foundation’s (**Snow Medical**) policy on access to published research, which may be amended from time to time.

This policy has been developed to maximise the benefits of research funded by Snow Medical for science, health and society.

Snow Medical expects the research and innovation that it supports to have the maximum possible impact. This can be achieved by providing open and unrestricted access to published research. Open Access facilitates the dissemination of knowledge and fosters innovation, ensuring important benefits to the researcher, the research community, and to society.

Snow Medical regards unrestricted access to the published output of research as fundamental to its charitable purpose of promoting health and the prevention and control of disease.

This policy is not intended to discourage filing of patent applications and recognises the need to safeguard intellectual property, to protect commercialisation opportunities of research outputs and that it may be necessary on occasion to delay publication or restrict release of data.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all authors producing peer reviewed publications arising from Snow Medical supported research (the **Individuals**).

It is the responsibility of each of the Individuals and the university or medical research institute that receives and manages Snow Medical funding on their behalf (the **Host Organisation**) to comply with this policy.

3. DEFINITIONS

Metadata	Structured information about the attributes of a research output or collection of research outputs that enables that output or collection to be identified, retrieved and managed over time.
Open Access	Making research outputs permanently and freely available via the Internet, permitting any user to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full text of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any lawful purpose, without financial, legal or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself.

Research Output	Dissemination of findings, whether in hardcopy, electronic or other form that communicates the products of research, which includes examples: a book, a journal, working paper series, conference proceedings, multimedia.
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4. POLICY PRINCIPLES

- a) Snow Medical supports the principles of Open Access.
- b) The Research Outputs arising from Snow Medical supported research should be freely available to the public, industry, government and researchers worldwide without restriction.
- c) Researchers must disseminate their Research Outputs as broadly as possible and at the earliest possible opportunity via an Open Access arrangement following publication.
- d) Any peer-reviewed publication arising from Snow Medical supported research must be made openly accessible in an institutional repository or other acceptable location (e.g. publisher website, subject repositories) within a 6-month period from the date of publication.
- e) Snow Medical does not support publisher embargoes greater than six months after the publication date.
- f) The transfer of copyright to the publisher should be avoided to enable the authors to publish and share their publications in any format at any time and use the Creative Commons Attribution licence, CC-BY, where possible when publishing their article.
- g) The Metadata for the peer-reviewed publication must be made openly accessible via an institutional repository as soon as possible but no later than 3 months from the date of publication.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH THIS POLICY

If Snow Medical has a reason to believe that an Individual has failed to comply with it, it will investigate the circumstances.

If it is found that an Individual has failed to comply with this policy, Snow Medical may take action against the Host Organisation. This may include withholding and suspending future grant payments, not accepting grant applications from the Host Organisation and seeking to terminate relationships with Snow Medical.

Contacts

For questions about this policy, contact Associate Director, Policy and Contracts.

Policy Revision History

Initial Policy adopted by Snow Medical on 25 November 2020 and revised on 16 January 2025