



Michael Smith Foundation for  
Health Research

# Open Access to Research Outputs Policy

## Background

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Open Access to Research Outputs ensures that ideas and knowledge derived from publicly-funded research is accessible and available for public use. It is a growing movement with other research funding agencies worldwide. In Canada, CIHR's Policy on Access to Research Outputs went into effect on January 1, 2008.

Providing to the public, unrestricted access to the research that it has funded, demonstrates that MSFHR's commitment to building BC's capacity of excellence in health research.

## Policy

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All MSFHR Award Recipients who receive an award or an award renewal after July 7, 2009 must ensure that all final peer-reviewed journal manuscripts that arise from research supported by that award (in whole or in part) are made freely accessible through either the Publisher's website or an online repository within six months of publication.

The Policy applies to any manuscript that is supported from funding in whole or in part from a MSFHR Award. The manuscript must be peer-reviewed and is accepted for publication in a journal on or after July 7, 2009. This includes all graphics and supplemental materials that are associated with the article.

The Policy does not apply to non-peer-reviewed materials such as book chapters, reports, monographs, conference proceedings and editorials.

Additionally, Award Recipients are now required to deposit bioinformatics, atomic, and molecular coordinate data, as already required by most journals, into the appropriate public database immediately upon publication of research results.

Authors are encouraged, but are not required, to submit final peer-reviewed manuscripts accepted before July 7, 2009, if they have appropriate copyright permission. MSFHR Award Recipients are responsible for ensuring that any publishing agreements concerning submitted manuscripts fully comply with this Policy.

Award Recipients must acknowledge MSFHR contributions in all peer-reviewed publications.

## Compliance

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Compliance with this Policy is a requirement and a term of the Condition of Awards that the Award Recipient agrees to upon acceptance of MSFHR funds. This policy applies to MSFHR Award Recipients who have received award notification or renewal letters after July 7, 2009.

Compliance will be monitored through annual reporting requirements. Non-compliance to this policy may result in the termination of the award.

## **Publication Costs**

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Costs related to the publication of research outputs are considered eligible expenses as defined in the Eligible Expenses section under each Program area on the MSFHR website. Such costs incurred must be actual, allowable, and reasonable to advance the objectives of the award. Although more than one agency may share in the costs of publication, at no time should publication costs be charged to more than one funding agency.

In the event that Award Recipients encounter additional publications costs than the amount budgeted in the original application, they may approach MSFHR for supplemental funding to cover publication costs. Request for this funding must be in writing and have documented evidence that they have exhausted all other avenues for funding. The request should be submitted to the Senior Director of Programs for review. MSFHR reserves the right to decline any request.

## **Policy Review**

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MSFHR will review and update this policy on an annual basis or as needed.

## **For More Information**

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