

# Open Access Publishing

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March 16, 2011

# What does it take to succeed?

- Successful communication of outstanding concepts (grant) or findings (publications) to the scientific community
- **Consistent** publication record of significant findings in reputable journals
- Work on an important problem
- Fearless experimentation
- Objective analysis (willingness to admit your hypothesis is wrong)

# How does open access help?

- Dissemination of findings to a wide community
- Potential for broad recognition of important findings
- Ultimately, the impact of most work lies in its capacity to alter our understanding of biology/chemistry/human disease

# Which Journal?

Perception

I need a Cell/Science/Nature Article to get a Job/Grant/Promotion

Fact

I have never had a Cell/Science/Nature Paper

I got a job/multiple grants/promotion with tenure by publishing consistently in high quality “middle impact” journals

# My Students and Postdocs

- Everyone wants a high impact publication
  - Ultimately every publication comes to its own level of citation
  - Significant work is highly cited (ultimately) no matter the journal in which it was published
- Rapid publication circumvents “scooping” and gives appropriate credit for scientific concepts

# Good or Not?

- Increased Competition – rapid and wide access leads to increased competition
  - Good for society and science
  - Puts you in a more competitive situation
  - Broad exposure will lead to increased knowledge in the community, better funding, and more progress
- Increased awareness of your work may lead to increased scrutiny
  - Accountability to a large community for non-reproducible results
  - Potential to impact our understanding of human disease is enhanced

# Tensions?

- Publish two or three papers in lower impact journals more frequently versus 1 paper in a higher impact journal?
- Consider the benefits of rapid publication and open access for quality journals
- Consider that your work will come to its own level of citation and impact that is independent of the impact factor of the journal.

# Conclusions

- Publish regularly and consistently
- Aim for the highest impact journal possible
- Choose open access journals when possible and support these in the longer term.
- Don't sacrifice regular publication for higher impact – it doesn't benefit you in the long term
- Use open access publications to promote your important findings broadly