



AMHP's Open Access Option

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Many of you have read the news in an email: AMHP will offer authors the opportunity to publish articles open access (OA). For a fee, when an AMHP article is published, it can be made available for free to anyone who wants to read it. Currently, only AsMA members and subscribers to the Journal can access AMHP articles for free. Others can use a pay-per-view option and authors can purchase a PDF which can be sent to those who request it (the modern version of reprints). It is important to note that we are offering OA as an *option*—it will not be required. Authors who do not wish to pay a fee and who are satisfied with their articles being published in the traditional manner can continue to publish that way.

There are several reasons why AMHP is becoming a hybrid (OA optional) journal. One is that some authors have reached out to us requesting permission to post their article on a website or in a repository. When this happens, we indicate to the author that content of their article can be posted (the final accepted manuscript) but not the way the article appears in the journal. The journal owns the copyright for each article *as it appears* as part of the serial publication. This arrangement works, but it is clear that some authors would prefer to post the published version of the paper. Allowing for an OA option can accommodate this desire.

Another reason for AMHP to go OA optional is that some federal funding agencies require that the research they fund be readily available to anyone who wishes to access it—for free. So far we have handled this in the way previously mentioned. The research can be made available for free, but not the published version of the paper. This compromise has worked, but again it is clear that authors would prefer making the published version of the manuscript available for free. The typeset version is more attractive and it is the official record of the work.

Some of you may be familiar with Plan S, a European initiative that would require all research that is funded by public or

private grants to be made freely available either through a repository or an OA journal. The 'plan' calls for this to happen by 2021 and hybrid OA journals are not compliant with Plan S. It remains to be seen how successful Plan S will be, but there are some issues with it. The goal of Plan S is to make all science free and to remove 'paywalls.' However, in doing so, some important research findings may be left unpublished. Researchers who are not grant-funded will need to find some way of paying OA fees. This will be a burden for many researchers and for some make publishing impossible. It could also force some smaller publishers such as ourselves out of business.

What we are doing with AMHP is to provide an OA option at a reasonable fee. Many OA fees are several fold higher than the one for AMHP. The decision to go to a hybrid journal did not take place in a vacuum. The Editorial Board deliberated over the proposed change and AsMA leadership is aware and supportive. The decision was made after considerable research was conducted, mostly by Pam Day. Authors with no grant support who produce worthwhile research findings will still have the opportunity to publish with AMHP. Those with grant support, or who simply want to have their articles available OA, can do so. We here at the Journal think this is the best of both worlds.

I conclude here by stating something that I think is very important: the review process for AMHP manuscripts will be the same regardless of the OA option. *All manuscripts will be treated the same during the review process.* Reviewers will not know if the authors of a manuscript they are reviewing have opted for OA or not. In this way the integrity of the Journal will be preserved. We will remain in the business of publishing solid and worthwhile scientific papers.

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