What to do when there is no COAF funding remaining

Introduction

COAF provide funding for the Article Processing Charges (APCs) for Gold Open Access Publications. When this funding runs out, authors need to make alternative arrangements to ensure that their work is Open Access, in line with the COAF Open Access policy.

COAF permit Green Open Access, but only in journals with an embargo period of 6 months or less. You can check the embargo required by your journal using Sherpa/Romeo. If the journal has an appropriate embargo you can comply with the policy by uploading a copy to Pure and uploading a copy to PubMed Central.

Funder Specific advice

Several of the individual COAF charities have provided instructions for recipients of their grants in these circumstances. These are outlined below:

Arthritis Research UK
Once the block grant runs out, you can apply direct to Arthritis Research UK (by emailing research@arthritisresearchuk.org) to request open access funding.

Alternatively, authors can comply with Arthritis Research UK policy by self-archiving their publication in Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC) within six months of publication.

Bloodwise
Researchers may use any unspent grant money to pay for APCs or contact Bloodwise (research@bloodwise.org.uk) to discuss their situation. Alternatively, authors can comply with the policy by self-archiving their paper in Europe PMC within six months of publication if the publisher permits.

British Heart Foundation (BHF)
Open access fees will be paid by BHF on a case-by-case basis. Please use our Open Access claim form to apply for funding:

https://libraryservices.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/open-access-fees-claim

If eligible, the OA team will pay the Open Access fee and then submit a claim to the BHF stating the BHF grant number, the principal investigator’s name and the finance registration number with a copy of the invoice and a copy of the published paper.

BHF can be contacted for more information at research@bhf.org.uk
Cancer Research UK (CRUK)
The advice for researchers in this situation is to either:

- pay for the APC using any underspend from their CRUK response-mode grant, or use other funding sources they may have access to, or

- publish in a journal that allows self-deposit within 6 months of publishing (this would be green Open Access and compliant with CRUK’s policy).

The FAQ section on the CRUK website may help answer any additional queries, but do please contact them (policies@cancer.org.uk) if you require any further advice.

Parkinson's UK
Authors may use any unspent grant money to pay for APCs or contact Parkinson’s UK (researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk) to discuss their situation.

Alternatively, authors can comply with the policy by self-archiving their publication in Europe PubMed Central (Europe PMC) within six months of publication.

Wellcome Trust
The Wellcome Trust provide the university with additional funding to support their papers if the COAF funding has run out. Authors are advised to continue to submit requests for Wellcome Trust APCs as normal.