

A successful first year of open access

In 2001, the *International Wound Journal* has successfully completed the transition to become an open access journal. The great advantage of the transition is that everyone was able to read the journal irrespective of specialty, host institution or location.

Our decision to transition was not taken lightly, and several environmental factors drove this change. As discussed in our editorial at the end of last year¹, open access publishing creates more a permissive use and sharing of authors articles, which in turn helps to increase the dissemination of their research. Since the *International Wound Journal* has a global authorship base, many of whom are in regions where open access publication is accelerating; the change was necessary for continued growth. As many institutions and global funders create open access policies and mandates for their authors our responsibility as editors is to ensure, we meet the needs of our authors. The reality is that many journals have already moved to this model, given the requirement of so many agencies for immediate open access. As such, we wanted to lead the way in the wound care space and embrace the evolving trend early.

So how have we done? How successful has the transition been?

As expected, we did see a small drop in submissions, which is not unusual in this situation. We did however notice an upswing of submissions from geographies where publication in open access was either mandated or is highly encouraged by funders of research. Another consequence was we did see some authors struggle to submit their research to us due to difficulties related to

payment of the open access fees. This is also not unusual as the funding model is not a perfect one, but we anticipate further evolution of this will occur to ensure the vision and mission of the IWJ heritage is not lost.

The IWJ in 2022 will be establishing a mechanism to provide qualifying authors with fee waivers to permit publication of their work. This will be in addition to the Wiley waiver program and more details will follow in early 2022. Wiley offers waivers and discounts to corresponding authors based in low- and middle-income countries. For more details regarding which countries qualify, please visit <https://authorservices.wiley.com/open-research/open-access/for-authors/waivers-and-discounts.html>.

In summary, the transition has been successful and will further evolve next year to ensure continued success. Embracing evolving publication models from funding body influence early in the process benefited both the journal and its readers.

All that remains are for us to wish you a very enjoyable holiday season and an early Happy New Year from the editorial team here at the IWJ.

Keith Harding, Editor-in-Chief
Douglas Queen, Editor

REFERENCE

1. Harding K, Queen D. Important News from the International Wound Journal. *Int Wound J*. 2020;17(5):1105. doi: 10.1111/iwj.13504