

Editorial

Open Access

## Frequently asked questions about Molecular Cancer

Karsta Lüttich<sup>1</sup>, Christian Schmidt\*<sup>2,3</sup> and Guido M Sclabas<sup>3</sup>

Address: <sup>1</sup>Department of Dermatology, Weill Medical College of Cornell University, 1300 York Avenue, New York, New York, 10021, USA, <sup>2</sup>Editor-in-Chief, Molecular Cancer, BioMed Central Ltd, Middlesex House, 34–42 Cleveland Street, London W1T 4LB, UK and <sup>3</sup>Department of Surgical Oncology and Molecular Oncology, University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, 1515 Holcombe Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77030, USA

Email: Karsta Lüttich - [kal2003@mail.med.cornell.edu](mailto:kal2003@mail.med.cornell.edu); Christian Schmidt\* - [christian.schmidt@molecular-cancer.org](mailto:christian.schmidt@molecular-cancer.org); Guido M Sclabas - [guido.m.sclabas@molecular-cancer.org](mailto:guido.m.sclabas@molecular-cancer.org)

\* Corresponding author

Published: 31 January 2003

Received: 9 January 2003

*Molecular Cancer* 2003, 2:16

Accepted: 31 January 2003

This article is available from: <http://www.molecular-cancer.com/content/2/1/16>

© 2003 Lüttich et al; licensee BioMed Central Ltd. This is an Open Access article: verbatim copying and redistribution of this article are permitted in all media for any purpose, provided this notice is preserved along with the article's original URL.

### Abstract

Molecular Cancer is as a forum for cutting edge cancer-related papers. This editorial will answer frequently asked question about this open-access and on-line journal as well as its publisher BioMed Central.

### Editorial

There is no question that immediate and unrestricted access to information stimulates scientific communication. The Freedom of Information Act "provides individuals with a right to access to records in the possession of the federal government" <http://www.nih.gov/icd/od/foia/>. Indeed, almost every research funding comes from individuals and/or governmental institutions, and I firmly believe it is the right of everyone to access any kind of scientific information without barriers and free of charge. There is no limitation to positive data, because many "prominent medical journals often provide insufficient information to assess the validity of studies with negative results" [1] to allow a rigorous evaluation of the quality of these results. A newly launched journal focuses on "well documented results/conclusions that are unexpected, controversial, provocative and/or negative in the context of current tenets" [2]. Molecular Cancer and its publisher BioMed Central are fully devoted to open access publishing and there is no doubt that this will be the golden standard for scientific publishing [3–10].

Molecular Cancer is embedded in a family of related on-line journals, all with BioMed Central's open-access policy. Molecular Cancer focuses on all areas of cancer-related

science, from bench and bedside [11] and publishes immediately after accepting; this concept is paying us back [12–19]. We, the editors of Molecular Cancer, are willing to make the journal even more attractive and are not afraid of work and effort. We do not charge extra for colored pictures, amount of data presented in the paper and/or supplemental data and so on.

Everything produces costs [8]; who will pay for it [20,21]? BioMed Central charges a flat fee of \$500 after a paper is being accepted for publication. In return, the authors retain their copyright and the paper is freely accessible without barriers and fees to everyone. Again, visibility and access rates are higher. There are no costs for an **unlimited number** of papers if the submitting author's Institution is a member of BioMed Central <http://www.biomedcentral.com/inst/>. Next, a number of funding agencies explicitly allow direct use of their grants to covering the article processing charges:

- Canadian Institutes of Health Research <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/>
- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft <http://www.dfg.de/>

- Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung <http://www.fwf.ac.at/>
- Health Research Board <http://www.hrb.ie/>
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute <http://www.hh-mi.org/>
- International Human Frontier Science Program Organization <http://www.hfsp.org/>
- Israel Science Foundation <http://www.isf.org.il/>
- National Health Service <http://www.doh.gov.uk/>
- National Institutes of Health <http://www.nih.gov/>
- National Science Foundation <http://www.nsf.gov/>
- Rockefeller Foundation <http://www.rockfound.org/>
- Swiss National Science Foundation <http://www.snf.ch/>

There is further assistance in publication costs. The Soros Foundation <http://www.soros.org/> allows authors from certain countries to apply for help in getting manuscripts published.

### Conclusion

Molecular Cancer is an open-access and on-line journal; its publisher fulfills the Freedom of Information Act and guarantees access to papers without barriers and fees. Molecular Cancer does not charge for colored pictures, amount of data presented in the paper and/or supplemental data, page charges etc. BioMed Central charges a flat fee of \$500 after a paper is being accepted for publication; in return, the authors retain their copyright. A number of funding agencies explicitly allow direct use of their grants to cover article processing charges; there are no costs for an unlimited number of accepted papers if the submitting author's Institution is a member of BioMed Central.

### Authors' contributions

CS drafted the paper, and KL and GS provided suggestions and comments to the paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

### References

1. Hebert RS, Wright SM, Dittus RS and Elasy TA **Prominent medical journals often provide insufficient information to assess the validity of studies with negative results.** *J Negat Results Biomed* 2002, **1**:1
2. Pfeffer C and Olsen BR **Editorial: Journal of Negative Results in Biomedicine.** *J Negat Results Biomed* 2002, **1**:2
3. Verma IM **Censorship of scientific publications: a bad idea.** *Mol Ther* 2002, **5**:337
4. Trayhurn P **The public library of science and "open access" to the scientific literature.** *Br J Nutr* 2002, **87**:1-2
5. Suber P **Open access to the scientific journal literature.** *J Biol* 2002, **1**:3
6. Delamothe T **"Author pays" may be the new science publishing model** *BMJ* 2003, **326**:182
7. Smith R **The market for medical journals is anticompetitive, says expert** *BMJ* 2003, **326**:182
8. Eaton L **"Free" medical publishing venture gets under way.** *BMJ* 2003, **326**:11
9. Nenadic G, Mlima H, Spasic II, Ananiadou S and Tsujii J **Terminology-driven literature mining and knowledge acquisition in biomedicine.** *Int J Med Inf* 2002, **67**:33-48
10. Grivell L **Mining the bibliome: searching for a needle in a haystack? New computing tools are needed to effectively scan the growing amount of scientific literature for useful information.** *EMBO Rep* 2002, **3**:200-203
11. Schmidt C **Bench and Bedside.** *Mol Cancer* 2002, **1**:1
12. Lynch C, Tycko B, Bestor T and Walsh C **Reactivation of a silenced H19 gene in human rhabdomyosarcoma by demethylation of DNA but not by histone hyperacetylation.** *Mol Cancer* 2002, **1**:2
13. Arias-Pulido H, Narayan G, Vargas H, Mansukhani M and Murty VV **Mapping common deleted regions on 5p15 in cervical carcinoma and their occurrence in precancerous lesions.** *Mol Cancer* 2002, **1**:3
14. Ohnishi K, Ota I, Yane K, Takahashi A, Yuki K, Emoto M, Hosoi H and Ohnishi T **Glycerol as a chemical chaperone enhances radiation-induced apoptosis in anaplastic thyroid carcinoma cells.** *Mol Cancer* 2002, **1**:4
15. Gao X, Loggie B and Nawaz Z **The roles of sex steroid receptor coregulators in cancer.** *Mol Cancer* 2002, **1**:7
16. Zhang P, Gao W, Turner S and Ducatman BS **Gleevec (STI-571) inhibits lung cancer cell growth (A549) and potentiates the cisplatin effect in vitro.** *Mol Cancer* 2003, **2**:1
17. Moore PS, Beghelli S, Zamboni G and Scarpa A **Genetic abnormalities in pancreatic cancer.** *Mol Cancer* 2003, **2**:7
18. Juhasz M, Nitsche B, Malferteiner P and Ebert MP **Implications of growth factor alterations in the treatment of pancreatic cancer.** *Mol Cancer* 2003, **2**:5
19. Carew JS and Huang P **Mitochondrial defects in cancer.** *Mol Cancer* 2002, **1**:9
20. Wheatley D and Grynszpan D **Can we speed up the online publishing process? And who will pay for it, anyway?** *Cancer Cell Int* 2002, **2**:5
21. Velterop J **Author charges are the future.** *BMC News and Views* 2001, **2**:2

Publish with **BioMed Central** and every scientist can read your work free of charge

"BioMed Central will be the most significant development for disseminating the results of biomedical research in our lifetime."

Sir Paul Nurse, Cancer Research UK

Your research papers will be:

- available free of charge to the entire biomedical community
- peer reviewed and published immediately upon acceptance
- cited in PubMed and archived on PubMed Central
- yours — you keep the copyright

Submit your manuscript here:  
[http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/publishing\\_adv.asp](http://www.biomedcentral.com/info/publishing_adv.asp)

