

UC Davis SOM Financial Publication Support for Student Research

January 10, 2025

Publishing research can be expensive. Sometimes journals have a fee for the submission of a manuscript and/or may assess “page charges” once a manuscript is accepted for publication. More importantly, open-access publishing makes the publication freely available and often includes article processing charges (APCs), which may range from \$300 to \$5000. This document seeks to clarify the options for funding manuscripts in Open-Access journals and introduces a new option for medical students supported by the Office of Medical Education at the UC Davis School of Medicine.

Authors have various options for publication, and choosing the journal can impact the cost of publication:

Subscription Journals

These typically have free or minimal page charges. They are published behind a paywall, which limits reader access to your article. This can negatively impact the distribution of knowledge and may reduce the chances that your article is cited in the future.

Open-Access Journals

These typically require APCs of various amounts. While the information is then freely available to the public, the costs for pursuing this route can be prohibitive for authors who do not have research or other funding support.

Hybrid Journals

These are subscription journals that offer authors the option to publish open access for an APC.

The University of California supports open access publishing through a variety of mechanisms:

UC Open Access Publishing Agreements:

<https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/for-authors/publishing-discounts/>

Most of these agreements with publishers cover the full cost for open access publishing (in both open access and hybrid journals) for articles by UC-affiliated corresponding authors who have no research funding to pay for the open access cost. However, there are a few exceptions, so it is important to read the agreement details.

UC Davis Open Access Fund:

<https://library.ucdavis.edu/publish/open-access/open-access-fund/>

This local fund is available for articles by UC Davis affiliated corresponding authors if the journal is not covered by a UC-wide open access publishing agreement. The fund is capped at \$1,000 per article and is only available for articles in fully open access journals (not hybrid journals) that are

listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals. The author needs to cover any remaining APCs with other resources.

If funding through these two options is not sufficient to cover APC costs:

The senior author of the paper (often the student's mentor on the project and often the principal investigator of the group or lab) is generally responsible for publication fees. If the mentor/senior author is unable to cover the fees from research funds, they can:

1. Contact their department for support
2. Contact the Office of Medical Education and submit a request for funding. The request should come from the mentor/senior author, not from the student. OME will consider providing partial funding up to \$750 to defray publication fees.

Office of Medical Education Funding Option

Eligibility

The OME will consider providing partial funding up to \$500 to defray publication fees for MD students when:

- The UC Davis MD student is first author of a publication.
- The publication describes scholarly project work conducted while the student was enrolled at UC Davis SOM
- The mentor/senior author matches OME funding towards the publication fees

How to Apply

*Submit the following in a single PDF to hhly@ucdavis.edu

Applications are considered on a rolling basis. The mentor must submit:

- The mentor's name and contact info
- The student's name
- Journal name and draft of the manuscript being submitted for publication
- Documentation from the journal of the publication fee for submission and/or publication
- Explanation of the need for funding

If Approved

If the application is approved, the OME will reimburse the mentor through the following process: The mentor completes an OME reimbursement form and supplies proof of payment of the manuscript fee (showing who paid, date, paid to whom and payment amount) to:

Holly Ly (hhly@ucdavis.edu)

Example Scenario

A UC Davis medical student wishes to publish in *Nature: Scientific Reports*, a fully open access journal published by Springer Nature. The Mentor does not have research funding.

The APC for *Nature: Scientific Reports* is \$2690.

- 1) According to the UC open access publishing agreement with Springer Nature, the UC libraries will automatically pay \$1000 toward the APC. In this case, because *Nature: Scientific Reports* is in the Nature portfolio of Springer Nature journals, no additional funding is available, as specified in the UC open access publishing agreement with Springer Nature.
- 2) Since the APC for *Nature: Scientific Reports* is partially covered by the UC open access publishing agreement, it is not eligible to be covered by the UC Davis Open Access Fund.
- 3) The Mentor can request additional funding from their department.
- 4) The Mentor can request UC Davis SOM funding as described above if steps 1-3 do not sufficiently cover the APC.

Useful Links:

UC Office of Scholarly Communication [details of publishing discounts]:

<https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/for-authors/publishing-discounts/>

UC Davis Open Access Publishing Support [details of UC Davis Open Access Fund]:

<https://library.ucdavis.edu/publish/open-access/>

eScholarship [UC employees are required to deposit their scholarly works in eScholarship]:

<https://escholarship.org/repository>

UC Policy on Open Access:

<https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/scholarly-publishing/uc-open-access-policies-background/systemwide-senate/>

For questions about UC/UCD open access funding options, contact:

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