

The mission of the Society of Dairy Technology

The Society of Dairy Technology (SDT) is the recognised professional body fostering scientific and technological developments in the dairy industries of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Whilst its many members are predominantly from these two countries, it also has wider international representation through members drawn from other EU countries and worldwide. Our mission is to advance professional development and recognition through knowledge transfer and networking and our Journal, the *International Journal of Dairy Technology* (IJDT), is crucial to ensure this is achieved. The Journal, published in association with Wiley-Blackwell, ranks amongst the leading dairy journals published worldwide and is the Society's flagship. IJDT publishes original research papers submitted from all over the world, consistent with its growing international standing. These contributions are scrupulously peer reviewed, and also scrutinised by the Scientific Editorial Team and the Publications Committee. The Journal also contains review and non-research contributions, and more general papers of a technical or commercial nature, presented at the Society's symposia and conferences.

Potential impact of Open Access for the Society of Dairy Technology

The Society of Dairy Technology supports the principle of open access (OA), under which research publications are available to all as it aligns well with our mission to advance professional development and recognition through knowledge transfer. However, under an OA model, the financial costs of publication are shifted from the reader to the producer or funder of the research. Funding is not universally available to those publishing research, cOAlition S has chosen not to support publication in hybrid journals for research funded from January 2020. This is concerning.

With limited resources, it should be expected that many institutions and organisations will ration the amount they are willing to contribute towards OA costs and as a consequence some researchers will not be able to access funds to support publication. This is often the case where interesting findings come from work that has not been sponsored by a funding body and has effectively been achieved on a very small budget. Universities in the UK are currently looking to cut back expenditure in the face of threats to reduce student fees, which will further increase financial pressures on this type of work.

Besides being a research journal, the IJDT also serves as an aid to continuing professional development for scientists and technologists working in the industry to help them to keep up-to-date with developments in their area and to help them solve technical and industry-related problems. It is a concern that under an OA model the restrictions on publication, due to costs, would reduce the availability of this research which could impact greatly on industry challenges and developments.

Proposed extension to the January 2020 start-date for introduction of Open Access

Like many learned societies with charitable status, it is a concern that our activities, currently part-funded through subscription revenues from the publishing of our Journal, could suffer as a consequence of Plan S and impact the scientists and technologists in our

field, many of whom are voluntarily contributing to the Journal. We suggest an extension to the proposed January 2020 start-date to give more time to consider the wider implications (societal and economic) of OA and the different models that could be used to deliver it.