



LMU Open Science Center Advisory Board Report

Prepared by Dr. Malika Ihle and Prof. Dr. Felix Schönbrodt, 21.05.2024

The Advisory Board members of the LMU Open Science Center (OSC) met with the Scientific Board, Managing Director, and Scientific Coordinator of the OSC for the first time on April 29, 2024.

Summary of the OSC's impact report and meeting presentation

LMU Open Science Center Impact Report 2017 – 2023: <https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.10285394>

Presentation of the OSC activities and strategies at the Advisory Board meeting: <https://osf.io/p4c6z>

The LMU Open Science Center (OSC) is a **cross-disciplinary grassroots initiative** that aims to support the adoption of open and transparent research practices across the university LMU Munich.

To this end it has provided peer-to-peer training, built communities of practice, and conducted meta-research since 2017. It is led by the managing director Prof. Dr. Felix Schönbrodt and a scientific board (chairs: Prof. Dr. Katrin Auspurg 2017-2022, Prof. Dr. Ralf Ludwig 2022-2024). This network of 100+ individual members, 15 institutional members, and 500+ community members (e.g. mailing list subscribers) has been managed by a full-time coordinator, Dr. Malika Ihle, since 2022.

Between May 2022 and December 2023, the OSC offered 100+h of **training**, received 4500+ registrations, often more than what could be accommodated, welcoming attendees from 16 out of 18 LMU Faculties. Participants rate this training highly and show great appreciation for the permanent accessibility of the material (e.g. online self-paced tutorials), the practical knowledgeability of their peer instructors, and an inclusive and effective hybrid format organisation.

OSC members from various disciplines and all career stages have initiated and maintained a number of grassroots initiatives for several years such as meet-ups and reading clubs, under the umbrella and support of the OSC. Such **community building** activities are crucial to propagate norms. OSC members also published 245+ peer-reviewed articles on open science topics, and were successful in securing large consortium grants for **meta-research**.

The OSC provides **expertise** to various parties including Cluster of Excellence applicants and provides **support** to researchers in the implementation of specific open research practices required by their funders. The OSC also effectively **liaises with stakeholders**, both local and external, contributing to the visibility of the LMU.

By securing **internal grants** (LMU Excellence Frontier Fund, Fund for the Promotion of Teaching, Central Study Grant) as well as **third-party funding** (Volkswagen Foundation Pioneer Project), the OSC was granted a total of 955K € between 2022 and 2027. These funds cover the salary of a full-time scientific coordinator from 2022 to 2027 and of a second one from 2025 to 2027.

Until 2027, the OSC priorities include **strategies** to

- **Multiply capacity in teaching and community growth** with a train-the-trainer programme and the expansion of the online offering of self-paced tutorials,
- **Institutionalise open research practices from the bottom-up** with a “switch-to-open” programme consisting in supporting individual research groups in their transition to open research workflows

The OSC's **long term goal** is to provide all researchers with continual appropriate support and modular training - a **systematic approach** which requires institutional support.

Feedback from the Advisory Board on the OSC's activities and strategies

It is often hard for large universities to come up with something new. The LMU Open Science Center (OSC) is an exception to that general rule: this researcher-led centre shows **impressive achievements for a grassroots initiative**, effectively training researchers, changing community norms across disciplines, and providing support to researchers in this transition to new standards of good research practices.

The OSC **contributes greatly to the LMU research environment and its reputation**.

To build on this strength, the LMU now has the opportunity to anchor this community-led effort into an institutional strategy to achieve **excellence** at scale.

Recommendations from the Advisory Board to the LMU governing board

The LMU is at risk of lagging behind without a University-wide **open science strategy**. Reproducible and transparent science is the **new standard for innovation and excellence for funders** (e.g. DFG, BMBF, Horizon Europe), **top international universities** have strategic plans that emphasise the role of open practices in underpinning research excellence (e.g. Oxford, Stanford, Harvard, California Berkeley, MIT, Imperial College London, ETH Zurich), and many **German excellence universities** have already included an open science strategy in their previous Universities of Excellence applications (e.g. Berlin University Alliance and U Konstanz).

The **OSC is an impactful researcher-led initiative** leading a bottom-up institutionalisation of open research practices, providing support to Cluster of Excellence applicants, and mentioned as an asset in most Cluster of Excellence applications. The OSC has a lot to **contribute to a University of Excellence application at LMU**.

To scale up the work of the OSC and allow a more systematic approach to making open practices the norm, we suggest the LMU governing board to:

- **Provide one full-time scientific coordinator position**
- **Showcase this commitment to good research practices** during the review process of cluster applications and in the University of Excellence self-assessment
- **Discuss options for a researcher-led governing structure** for the OSC to be embedded in University services

The Advisory Board will reconvene in 2025 and 2026.

Dr. Tanita Casci

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Dirnagl

Dr. Chelle Gentemann

Dr. Bernhard Goodwin

Prof. Dr. Stephan Hartmann

Prof. Dr. Richard McElreath