



Australasian Society  
for Immunology Inc.

## Plan S - a submission.

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Responding individually or on behalf of an organisation: Organisation

Organisation: Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology

Country: Australia and New Zealand

*The Australian and New Zealand Society for Immunology (ASI) represents approximately 1500 immunologists. Formed in 1970 and amalgamated in 1975, ASI is a leading learned scientific society in the Asia Pacific region. ASI owns two journals [Immunology and Cell Biology](#) (ICB) and [Clinical and Translational Immunology](#) (CTI). ICB has a journal impact factor of 3.795 and CTI has a CiteScore of 3.55. Both journals publish a mix of scientific reports, scholarly reviews and special features, receiving author submissions from around the world. Both are “free to publish” journals and ICB provides an open access option which costs non-society members AUD2800 and members AUD2200. CTI is open access.*

ASI applauds the two goals of Plan S which are to promote free and immediate access to published scientific information and to ensure that ownership of the published information remains with the author.

However ASI has some concerns about the potential consequences of PlanS. First, it must be acknowledged that the cost of publishing a scientific paper is high. That cost is borne by either author/funder, reader/institution or both (hybrid model). The intention of PlanS appears to be to shift all cost to the author/funder to ensure free access to all readers. Coalition S is a collection of wealthy European funders who are more likely to offer the necessary funding to authors. Not so for the less well-funded researcher if their selected journal has moved to full open access in order to meet Plan S objectives.

The current reality is that the unit cost of publishing is lowest when it can be spread across multiple readers and subscribers. ICB is a hybrid journal that is “free to publish” for any author, while offering an open access option for those able to afford the up-front author costs.

Under PlanS, anyone who receives support from Coalition S funders will not be permitted to publish in hybrid journals such as ICB.

For ICB to remain an option for these authors (which would be our desire), it would need move to full open access, thus introducing significant author charges and ultimately limiting the pool of researchers financially able to submit manuscripts.

We note our concerns as points below:

1. Plan S has the potential to introduce impediments for those scientists without lucrative funding. While there are some mechanisms for researchers to publish from less developed countries, there are fewer avenues for those from developed countries with limited research funds. Plan S could force journals such as ICB to move to open access only, which would limit its current author base to those able to afford the publishing costs.
2. A move to open access in support of Plan S would result in a significant drop in revenue for ICB, revenue that directly supports ASI members.
3. Plan S could force journals such as ICB to accept more papers in order to sustain revenue.
4. Plan S could negatively impact smaller society and niche journals that do not enjoy large numbers of submissions each year. Larger journals that receive thousands of manuscripts could afford to reduce author page charges putting further pressure on smaller journals such as ICB.
1. It is not clear under Plan S whether publication of other types of articles such as reviews or perspectives would still be allowed in hybrid journals. These are a very popular feature of ICB.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

President, ASI