

Open Access: a personal journey at UP

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My personal journey

- MBChB (1982), started PhD at UCT (1984)
- Left SA for Geneva, Switzerland in 1986
 - PhD in 1990
 - MD in 1992
 - Habilitation/Privat Docent in 1996
 - Appointed to Professeur Associe in 2003
- Returned to SA in 2004
- Joined UP part-time in 2005; full time in 2011 as Research Professor in the Dept. Immunology, Faculty of Health Sciences
- Started the ICMM at UP in 2008 – formally launched in 2015

ICMM today

- Approximately 50 researchers
 - Three internal research groups
 - Local and international collaborations
 - Post-grad students and full-time researchers
- Average of 20-30 publications pa since 2013
 - Aim to publish all manuscripts open access

ICMM drivers

- Address South Africa's quadruple burden of disease
 - Communicable diseases
 - Non-communicable diseases
 - Maternal and child health
 - Violence and trauma
- Transdisciplinarity
 - Medical, scientific research
 - ELSI of key areas: cell & gene therapy, genomics
 - Entrepreneurial activities
- Translational research
 - Start-up companies

Why open access?

- Publications made accessible for free and immediately to global community
 - Alternative is to wait for a period of time (1 year) until open access kicks in
 - Very important for researchers in LMICs
- More readers, more citations, greater recognition for researchers and their institutions
- Impacts funding, promotion
- More potential collaborators
- Unexpected benefits
 - Collaborations/breakthroughs from unexpected places
 - Open science/data – rapid and global access to information for development of products and services

<https://sparceurope.org/>

Publication a key requirement

- Recognition of individuals and the group
 - Locally and internationally
 - Personal metrics
- ICMM funding
 - > R 100m raised to date
 - Local and international
 - SAMRC Extramural Unit for Stem Cell Research and Therapy
 - Currently in our second 5-year cycle of funding
 - NESHIE project – funding from SAMRC and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Promotion
 - Citations and H-Index

Is there a cost to publishing open access?

- Yes, it is mainly financial!
- UP policy
 - Cover half the article processing costs (APCs) if criteria are met
 - 2 manuscripts per applicant par annum

Journal	Article Title	Co-authors	Unit Price	Unit Price ZAR	Refund
Genes	Spectrum of MYO7A mutations in an indigenous South African population confirm the nonsyndromic autosomal recessive phenotype of DFNB2 to include both homozygous and compound heterozygous mutations	Rosemary Ida Kabahuma, Wolf-Dieter Schubert, Christiaan Labuschagne, Denise Yan, Suzan Blanton, Michael Sean Pepper and Xue Zhong Liu	CFH 1800	15 469,90	9 278,00
Vaccines	A COVID-19 vaccine: Big strides come with big challenges"	Juanita Mellet and Michael S Pepper	CFH 1800	31 923,49	15 961,00
Frontiers in Medicine	The COVID-19 treatment landscape: A South African perspective on a race against time	Candice Laverne Hendricks, Michael Sean Pepper*, Candice Herd, Marcel Nel and Gregory Tintinger,	USD 1867.50	28 279,16	14 139,00
Journal of Immunological Research	Similarities between tumour immune response and chronic wound microenvironment: influence of mesenchymal stromal/stem cells	Peta, KT; Ambele, MA: Pepper, MS	USD 2 100.00	31 836,84	16 157,00
Stem Cells International	Single-cell transcriptome analysis of human adiposederived stromal cells identifies a contractile cell subpopulation	Wolmarans, E; Mellet, J; Durandt, C; Joubert, F and Pepper, MS	USD 2 150.00	32 607,98	15 901,00
Biology	Sexual dimorphism in changes that occur in tissues, organs and plasma during the early stages of obesity development	Priyanka Dhanraj, Marlene B. van Heerden, Michael S. Pepper and Melvin A. Ambele	CHF 1 800.00	29 278,44	14 639,00
Stem Cells International	An In Vitro and In Vivo Comparison of Osteogenic Differentiation of Human Mesenchymal Stromal/Stem Cells	Jamie Mollentze, Chrisna Durandt, Michael Pepper	USD 2 150.00	31 200,37	In progress / Indication is 50% R15 600

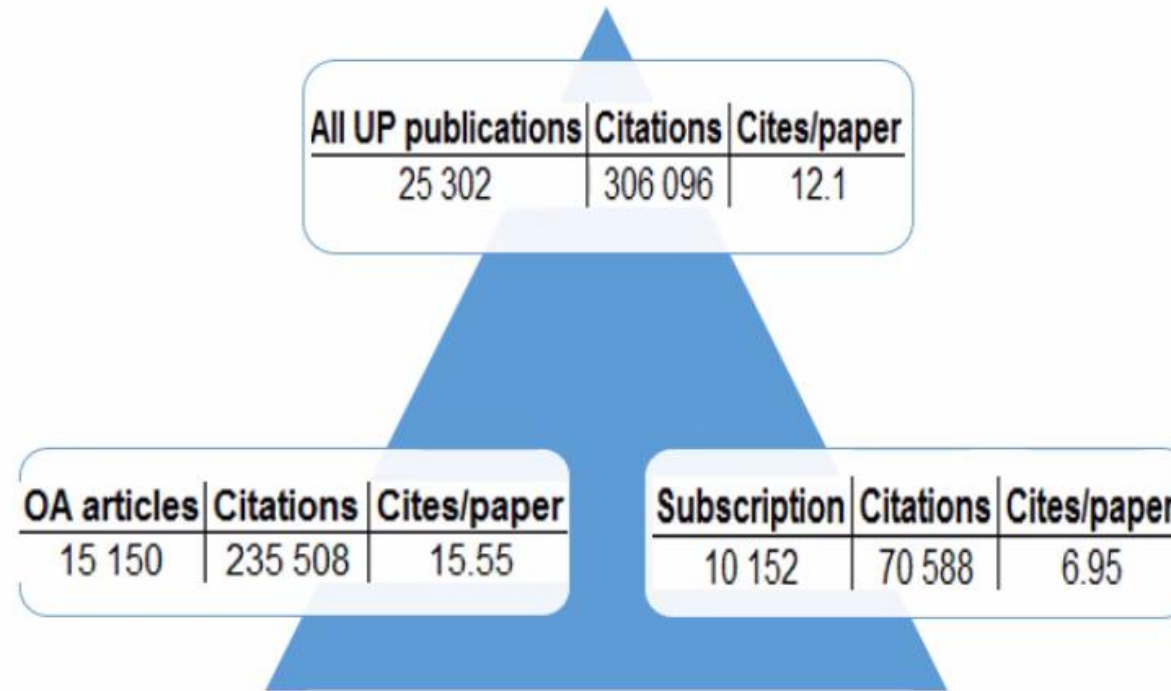
What more can be done?

- Increase subsidy for APCs
 - University
 - Government
- Agreements between Universities and publishing houses
 - e.g. Taylor & Francis Group and the Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries
- Return more of the subsidy for publications received from the Department of Higher Education to researchers
 - Currently divided amongst Faculty, Schools, Departments with variable amounts going to researchers
- Funders to acknowledge importance of publication costs

Thank you

Happy to take questions?

UP Open Access vs Subscription Access Publications and # Citations, 2011-2020



Data Source: Scopus, 21/10/2021

Sunette Steynberg, Research Commons