Malaria research benefits from open access

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Open access and preprints in global infectious disease research

Open access is particularly valuable in infectious disease research as it ensures that research results are available wherever they are needed. In particular researchers, healthcare practitioners and public health policymakers in developing countries can access relevant research. This is as true for malaria research as for other infectious diseases.

Although OA does not ensure full knowledge transfer from research to practice, limiting public access can negatively impact implementation and outcomes of health policy and reduce public understanding of health issues.


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Health Research Policy and Systems

RESEARCH Open Access

Knowledge sharing in global health research – the impact, uptake and cost of open access to scholarly literature

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Conclusions: Although OA may help in building global research capacity in GHR, the majority of publications remain subscription only. It is logical and cost-efficient for institutions and researchers to promote OA by self-archiving publications of restricted access, as it not only allows research to be cited by a broader audience, it also augments citation rates. Although OA does not ensure full knowledge transfer from research to practice, limiting public access can negatively impact implementation and outcomes of health policy and reduce public understanding of health issues.

Implementing Open Access solutions and policies can assist with eradicating infectious diseases

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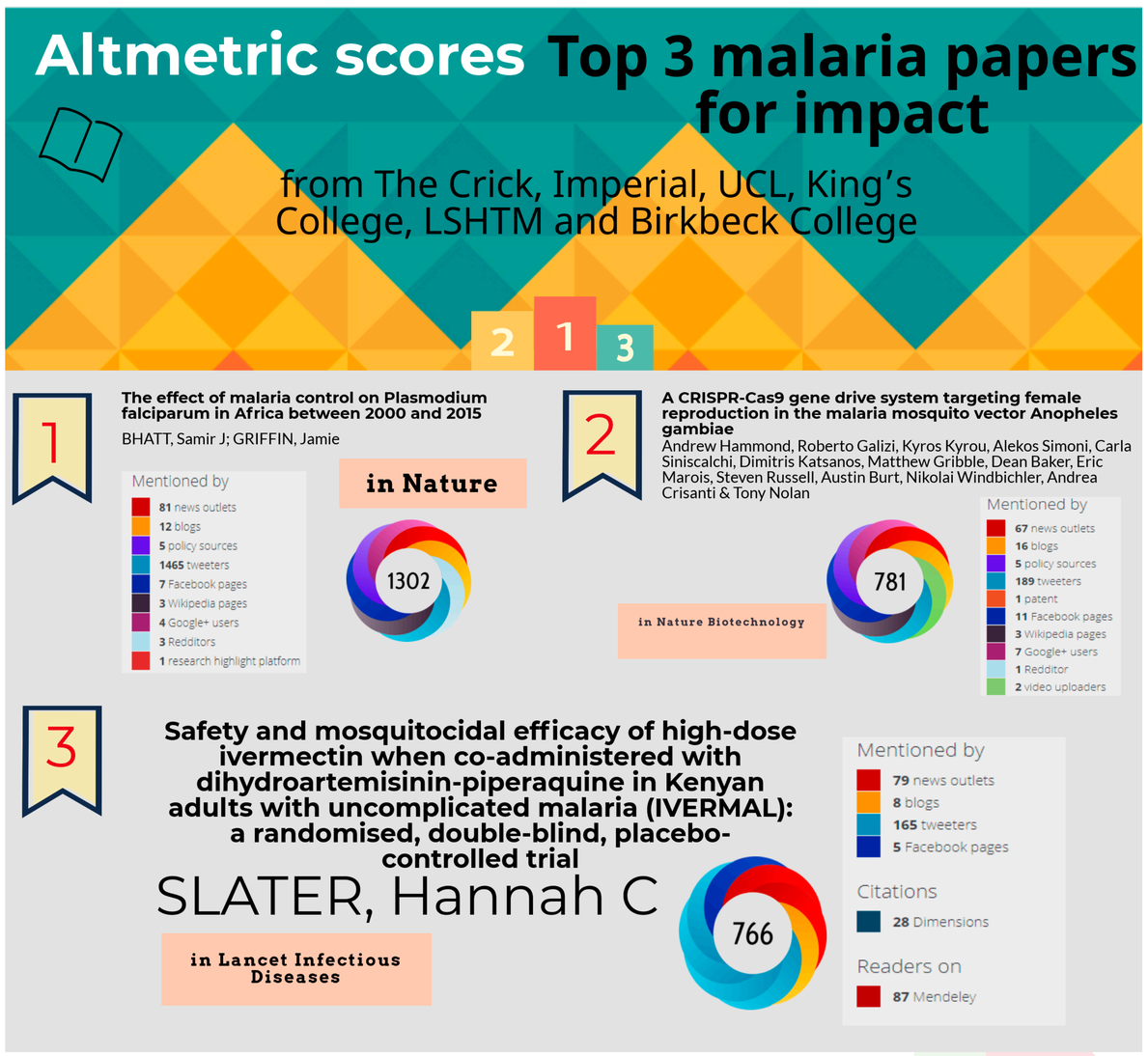
Yaw Bediako is a member of eLife's Early Career Advisory Group, which helps to steer the eLife ambassadors programme. He is also working with the PreReview team to develop their preprint reviewing platform.

"Open research is the way forward in science, and it is important for African science too. It can help to promote more equitable South-North collaboration.

I believe it's important that researchers in low and middle-income countries engage with open science and help to steer its future direction."

Alice Williamson is one of Australia's advocates in favour of Open Access in science. She has forcefully argued that implementing Open Access solutions and policies can assist with eradicating infectious diseases. It can also spur pharmaceutical innovation and drug development and accelerate the rate at which new medical treatments reach the market in both the developed and developing countries. She gave a talk at the Royal Institution talk on this subject: **Open Science: Sharing Data, Saving Lives**

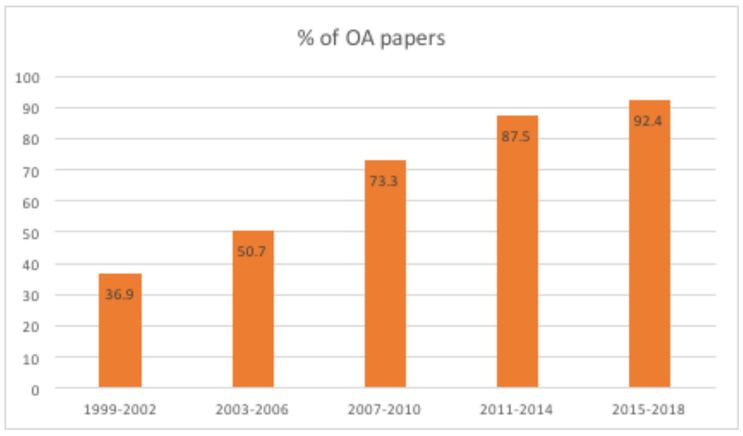


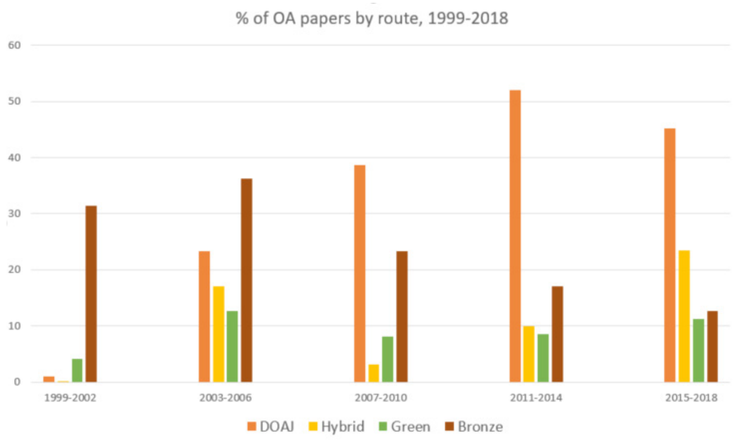
Altmetrics

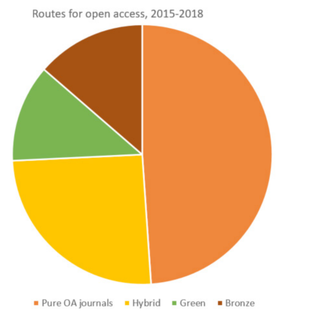
Altmetrics are "alternative metrics" – data that looks at the coverage of articles on blogs, social media, news sites, Wikipedia, and more, going beyond traditional citation-based bibliometrics. Altmetrics can also be a useful way to explore what research papers are being discussed on social media.

Malaria and OA

The percentage of malaria articles being published open access has increased significantly over the last 20 years. It has increased from 37% of articles being made open access (1999-2002) to 92% of articles being made open access (2015-2018).





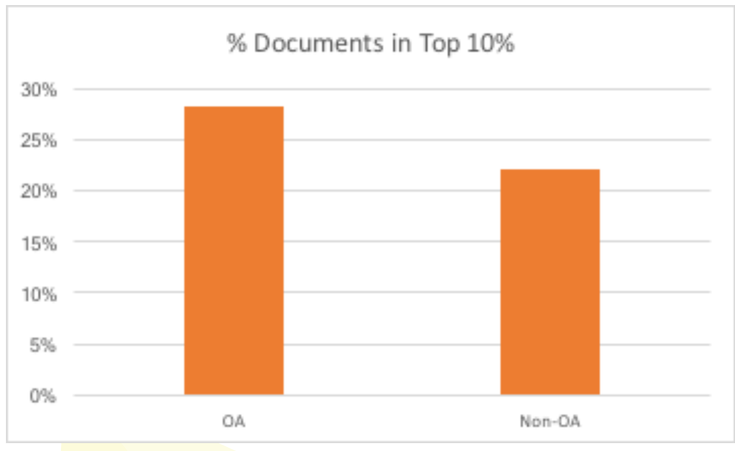


Fully open access journals are now the most popular route for open access 2015-2018.

OA and citation impact

Open access boosts the citation impact of an article. Articles published by researchers from LSHTM, UCL, KCL, Imperial, Birkbeck and the Crick Institute in the area of malaria perform very well against the worldwide mean in similar subject areas.

Open access articles have a slightly higher citation impact score than non-open access articles, when comparing category normalised citation impact scores (the mean number of citations per article). More OA articles than non-OA articles appear in the top ten percent of all malaria articles.



Resources

ORCID provides a persistent digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher and, through integration in key research workflows such as manuscript and grant submission, supports automated linkages between you and your professional activities ensuring that your work is recognized.
https://orcid.org

The DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) is a directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals. It aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access academic journals that use an appropriate quality control system.
https://doaj.org

ASAPbio is a scientist-driven non-profit promoting transparency and innovation in life science communication. It promotes the use of preprints in biology and provides usefule information about preprints. It has also started a project to improve the transparency and portability of peer review.
https://asapbio.org

OA support:

Each institution has dedicated support for open access

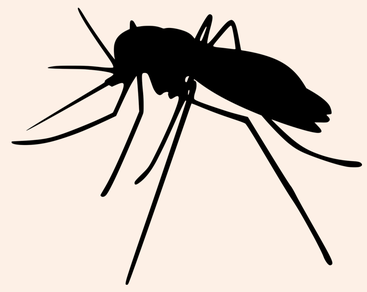
- Open-access@crick.ac.uk
- openaccess@imperial.ac.uk
- open-access@ucl.ac.uk
- researchonline@lshtm.ac.uk
- lib-eprints@bbk.ac.uk
- openaccess@kcl.ac.uk

OPEN SOURCE MALARIA

Looking for New Medicines

Open Source Malaria is an online project taking an open source approach to speed up research development in curing malaria. Started in 2011 by Matthew Todd, (formerly at the University of Sydney, now Professor of Drug Discovery at UCL) the project focuses on developing anti-malaria drugs. There are now over 100 contributors to Open Source Malaria, including scientists, retired researchers, graduate students, and school students.

Anyone is welcome to take part and contribute to the project. Everyone records their project progress, so work can be discussed and built upon, and all data is available to everyone and reusable under a CC BY license- there are no patents and everyone shares their work.



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