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Robert E Mrak*1 and W Sue T Griffin2

Address: 1Department of Pathology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA and 2Department of Geriatrics, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas, USA

Email: Robert E Mrak* - mrakroberte@uams.edu; W Sue T Griffin - griffinsuet@uams.edu

* Corresponding author

Abstract

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**What do article-processing charges pay for?**

The APC pays for an electronic submission process that facilitates efficient and thorough peer review, for publication costs involved in providing the article freely and universally accessible in various formats online, and for the processes required for the article’s inclusion in PubMed and its archiving in PubMed Central, e-Depot, Potsdam and INIST. There is no remuneration of any kind provided to the Editors-in-Chief, to any members of the editorial board, or to peer reviewers; all of whose work is entirely voluntary. Although some authors may consider US$525 expensive, it must be remembered that *Journal of Neuroinflammation* does not levy any additional page or color charges on top of this fee. Because we are an online-only journal, any number of color figures, photographs, and ‘extra’ pages can be included at no extra cost. Such color and page charges, as assessed by more traditional journals, can easily exceed our flat US$525 per-article APC. Another common expense with traditional journals is the purchase of reprints for distribution, and the cost of these reprints is also frequently greater than our APCs. The *Jour-
nal of Neuroinflammation provides free, publication-quality pdf files for distribution, in lieu of reprints.

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APC-funded Open Access is not unique to BioMed Central or to the *Journal of Neuroinflammation*. The USA-based Public Library of Science (PLoS) is a new, non-profit organization that, like BioMed Central, is dedicated to online, Open Access publishing. PLoS has started two new Open Access journals, with APCs of US$1500 for each accepted article [16]. PLoS has used television advertising to promote their new journals [9], providing a high profile that should raise awareness of Open Access publishing in general. This, in turn, should encourage researchers in all disciplines to understand and accept Open Access, and to accept APCs as an acceptable funding method.

**Conclusion**

Article-processing charges will enable full, immediate, and continued Open Access for all work published in *Journal of Neuroinflammation*. The benefits from such Open Access will accrue to readers, through unrestricted access; to authors, through the widest possible dissemination of their work; and to science and society in general, through facilitation of information availability and scientific advancement. We ask for your support in this important movement by submitting your next article to *Journal of Neuroinflammation* or to another Open Access journal.

**Competing interests**

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**Abbreviations**

APC = article-processing charge.

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