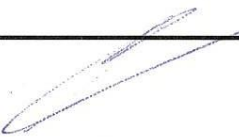


Open Science Policy



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Maimonides Institute for Biomedical Research of Córdoba (IMIBIC) promotes scientific excellence and innovation in the field of biomedical research. In this context, the adoption of Open Science practices constitutes an essential step towards more transparent, accessible, and collaborative research, aligned with the institution's fundamental values, maximizing its impact and increasing innovation and knowledge transfer. For this reason, IMIBIC adheres to the commitment of European research institutions to promote an open and freely accessible environment for all processes and results generated by research activity, ensuring their full availability to the scientific community and other sectors of society. Thus, within the framework of the European Open Science policy, the institution is committed to ensuring that publicly funded science is accessible.

IMIBIC, in line with European and national guidelines, considers Open Science not only an opportunity to strengthen the quality of research, but also a responsibility towards society. Through the implementation of this policy, the institute aims to facilitate access to research results, ensure compliance with the principles of scientific integrity, foster an inclusive and collaborative research environment, promote the democratization and sustainability of R&D&I systems, encourage the diversification of profiles within research groups, and promote the incorporation of non-academic stakeholders throughout the entire research process, from project design to evaluation.

In Spain, Article 37 of the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation (Law 17/2022 of 5 September, which amends the previous Law 14/2011) addresses key aspects related to the open-access dissemination of research results, including scientific publications, data, codes, and methodologies. This legislation establishes that public-sector researchers, or researchers whose research activity is predominantly publicly funded, must deposit a copy of the final version accepted for publication and the associated data in institutional or subject-based open-access repositories simultaneously with the date of publication. It also establishes that free and unrestricted access to results will be promoted through the development of institutional or subject-based open-access repositories, either individual or shared. Likewise, according to the aforementioned article, initiatives aimed at facilitating open access to and management of research-generated data (open data) must be promoted in accordance with the international FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), by developing open infrastructures and platforms. Finally, Article 30 of the same law establishes that the open participation of civil society in scientific processes should also be encouraged.

Likewise, the Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2021–2027 positions high-quality Open Science as one of the pillars of Objective 4, focused on knowledge generation and scientific leadership.

In this regard, the National Open Science Strategy (ENCA) for the period 2023–2027 should also be taken into account. It includes all commitments relating to Open Science adopted by

different public-sector stakeholders, including those contained in the reform of the Law on Science, Technology and Innovation approved in September 2022 (Law 17/2022), the Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2021–2023, and the State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research 2021–2022. It also provides an overview of the international and national context regarding Open Science.

Furthermore, the evaluation guide for health research institutes (IIS), approved in April 2019, establishes the creation of an Open Science policy as one of the requirements for obtaining accreditation. This policy must include mandates and incentives promoting open access to publications, either through open-access channels or through recognized, standardized repositories compatible with European infrastructures such as OpenAIRE. IISs are also required to facilitate the open publication of data in repositories that are standardized and recognized within their field, taking as a reference the European open-data infrastructure known as EOSC (European Open Science Cloud). To support these objectives, advisory and support measures for research staff in these areas are also included.

In addition, the IMIBIC Open Science model will be aligned with the public-access repository being developed by the Carlos III Health Institute ([REPISALUD](#)).

2. WHAT IS OPEN SCIENCE?

Open Science refers to the free dissemination of scientific knowledge, making it accessible online, reusable, and free from restrictions. This approach encompasses open access to research, study reproducibility, open scientific evaluation, and the availability of data to the public.

The practice of Open Science allows others to collaborate and contribute by making research data, laboratory notes, and other processes freely available under licenses that facilitate the reuse, redistribution, and reproduction of scientific methods and results.

Furthermore, Open Science promotes greater rigor, accountability, and reproducibility in research. It is based on principles such as inclusion, equity, and impartiality, and seeks to transform both the way research is conducted and who participates in it and how the knowledge generated is evaluated. Its purpose is to make research more accessible to participation, evaluation, improvement, and reuse, in order to generate global benefits.

In conclusion, Open Science should be:

- Free and accessible.
- Collaborative.
- Society-oriented.

3. IMIBIC OPEN SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

To publish through Open Access, IMIBIC researchers can follow two routes. On the one hand, they can submit their work to open-access journals or publish in "hybrid" journals, which are traditional journals that accept an additional payment to make publications openly accessible. Using either of these options does not remove the obligation to submit publications to institutional repositories. There are three types of repositories:

- **Institutional repositories:** repositories in which institutions manage the archiving and access to their own scientific output.
- **Subject-based repositories:** repositories intended to collect scientific output from a specific field of knowledge (PubMed Central).
- **Centralized repositories:** repositories that collect research activity from different institutions and research areas and coordinate their activities.

In Spain, the [RECOLECTA](#) platform brings together all open-access repositories and guarantees interoperability between them.

At the European level, within the framework of the Horizon Europe programme, the [Open Research Europe](#) platform has been created. It extends open access to books and other types of publications and recommends immediate open access to publications resulting from projects funded by European Commission programmes. These recommendations under the new Horizon Europe programme modify the open-publication policy of the Horizon 2020 programme, which established a maximum period of six months after the online publication of the work. Under the new provisions, the European Union has established a number of areas in which the Open Science Policy should be developed:

1. Open information (FAIR data)
2. European Open Science Cloud (EOSC)
3. Next-generation metrics
4. Mutual learning on Open Science
5. Future of scholarly communication
6. Rewards and recognition
7. Research integrity
8. Training and skills
9. Citizen science

Regarding the types of documents that must be made openly accessible, researchers are required to deposit an electronic and machine-readable copy of contributions accepted for publication in research journals or newspapers resulting from any project funded by the State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research. This may be the final formatted

document, the revised manuscript accepted for publication, the preprint manuscript, etc.

At the European level, projects funded by European Commission programmes (Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, EU4Health, etc.) are required to deposit an electronic and machine-readable copy in its final format or the revised manuscript accepted for publication (post-print). However, intellectual property rights imposed by the publishers in which the documents are to be published must not be overlooked. To determine which types of documents can be published openly in each journal, the [Dulcinea](#) directories for national journals and [Sherpa/Romeo](#) for international journals can be consulted.

4. OBJECTIVES

The IMIBIC Open Science model has the following fundamental objectives:

- Establish working models that facilitate transparency in the experimental methodologies used and in the datasets processed.
- Use tools based on web-based information sharing to facilitate scientific collaboration.
- Provide publicly accessible sources for the data generated and enable their reuse by the scientific community.
- Offer public accessibility and maximum transparency in scientific communication and dissemination to society at large.

5. TOOLS

IMIBIC provides its staff with a series of tools to support the institution's Open Science model:

- IMIBIC website with open-access information for professionals and the scientific community.
- Institutional Repository of the Andalusian Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs (RISalud).
- Institutional Health Repository of the Carlos III Health Institute (REPISALUD).
- UCO repository, Biblos-e Archivo, containing open-access publications by IMIBIC research staff.
- Scientific dissemination publications, newsletters, and events for society at large.
- Technical support for the preparation and management of data throughout the development of projects.
- Open laboratory notebooks and clinical records for professionals.
- Good research practice guidelines covering intellectual property, data sharing, and copyright.





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