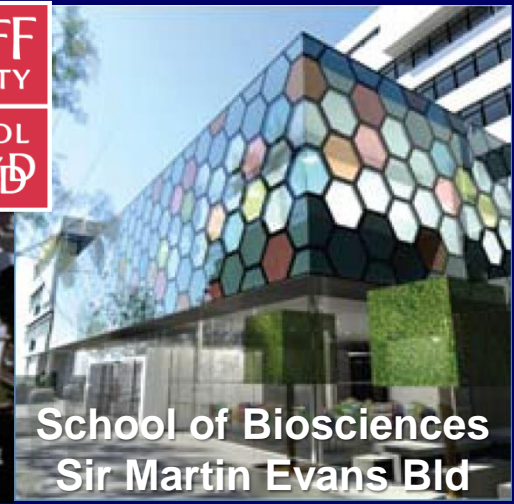




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School of Biosciences
Sir Martin Evans Bld

Threats and Opportunities for Learned Society Publications (Life Science – Biomedical Perspective)

Ole H Petersen CBE MAE ML FRS

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Open Access
Non-Profit Journal



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Learned Society Publications: *Biomedical Perspective*

SWOT Analysis

- Strength:** Run by scientists for scientists
Generally, papers are carefully evaluated and edited
- Weakness:** Not as lavishly produced and aggressively marketed as some commercial (for-profit) journals, who often have higher Impact Factors and therefore are seen, by many, as more 'important'
- Opportunities:** Plan S may change the 'publication landscape', by making the Impact Factor less important and make for-profit subscription journals less acceptable, thereby giving Learned Society journals a competitive 'edge'
- Threats:** Many Learned Societies depend financially almost exclusively on income from their currently subscription-based scientific journals. In order to maintain their journal income after switching to a complete Open Access model, they have to markedly increase the number of published papers and standards may therefore decline

Problems with majority of Complete Open Access journals in the biomedical field

- **Many of these journals are run by for-profit publishers**
- **Business model depends on large volume of articles, as income is derived from APCs**
- **Even truly non-profit journals need substantial APCs and have to publish large numbers of articles**
- **Due to the large volume of articles being processed, both selection of articles to be published and editing standards are generally unsatisfactory**
- **In contrast to a few top commercial subscription journals, Open Access journals generally do not provide context for their original papers**
- **The majority of Open Access journals do not currently have top scientists as editors**

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Why *Function*? Why Now?

Function is a new, forward-thinking APS initiative to launch a **high-profile, open access** journal publishing **major advances** in basic, translational and clinical science that extend the physiological understanding of biological function and the changes associated with disease states.

Function will seek to balance innovation with the practical needs of authors and readers in achieving **robust and fair peer review and by delivering the highest quality research quickly, efficiently and engagingly.**

Function will innovate in 4 key areas:

- Providing a multidisciplinary focus rooted in a physiological basis
- Appointing high calibre working scientists as editors,
- Complying fully with Plan S, and
- Providing authors opportunities for professional society involvement

<https://www.physiology.org/function>

Ole Petersen, CBE, FRS, Cardiff Univ
Founding Editor-in-Chief of *Function*

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**'Lighting up Cell Signaling'
Aula Magna, Palazzo Bo
University of Padua, Italy
12th October 2019**

- **Conferences and journals are equally important elements of a healthy scientific communication system**
- **It is essential that both domains are open and accessible and that oral and written presentations are selected solely on the basis of scientific merit rather than commercial and/or political interests**
- **Academic societies play crucial roles in scientific communication and may eventually need to be supported by funding bodies to preserve their independence and fulfil their vitally important mission**

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EDITORIAL

Reproducibility – again

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***Function* will try to do better!**



“In my experience, the self-correcting nature of science does work, but often rather slowly and **often in a manner that fails to explain fully how wrong results came about, thereby delaying a full understanding of how to proceed on a safer basis. The self-correcting nature of science is, in my opinion, its most important and positive feature. The scientific journals play a crucial role here. **While clearly having an obligation to review carefully and critically manuscripts that deal with corrections of previously published papers, journal editors must be careful not to fall into the trap of trying to protect the reputation of previous authors by demanding excessive quantitative information, thereby unnecessarily delaying or even potentially preventing corrections of the published record.”****