



# Openness and excellence: a funder perspective

**GSF-NESTI workshop on reconciling scientific excellence and open science, OECD**

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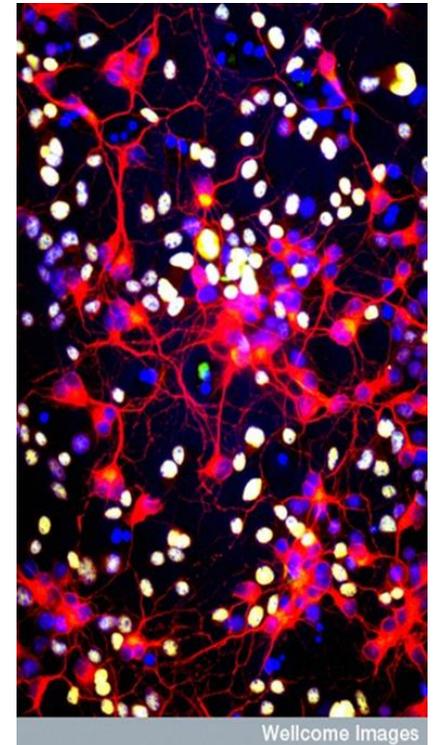
# Wellcome's mission – excellence and openness at the core

- we are a global charitable foundation dedicated to improving health for everyone, by helping great ideas to thrive
- to achieve this mission:
  - we support outstanding researchers to pursue ideas with the greatest potential to spark new discoveries and accelerate health benefits
  - we want the outputs of the research we fund (including publications, data, software and materials) to be accessed and used in ways that maximise benefit to health & society
- sharing research outputs in a timely and responsible manner is a part of good research practice



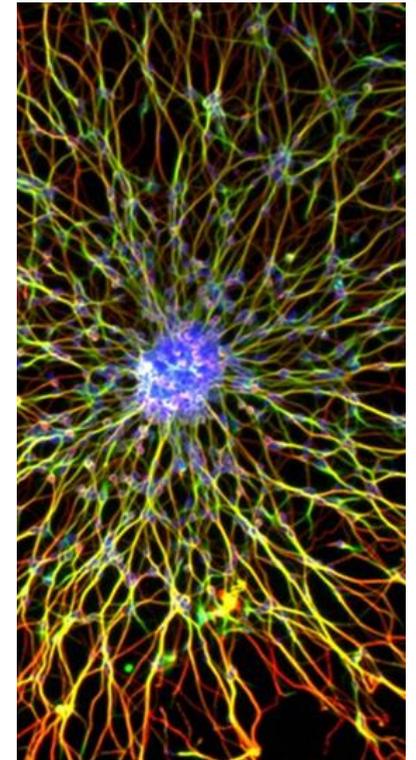
# Maximising access to outputs – what do we hope to achieve?

- enable outputs to be accessed, combined and used in ways that accelerate discovery and its application
- help ensure research findings can be validated and reproduced
- increase efficiency in research - reducing duplication and waste
- Increase participation in and use of research across broader range of stakeholders - including policymakers, healthcare professionals and the wider public



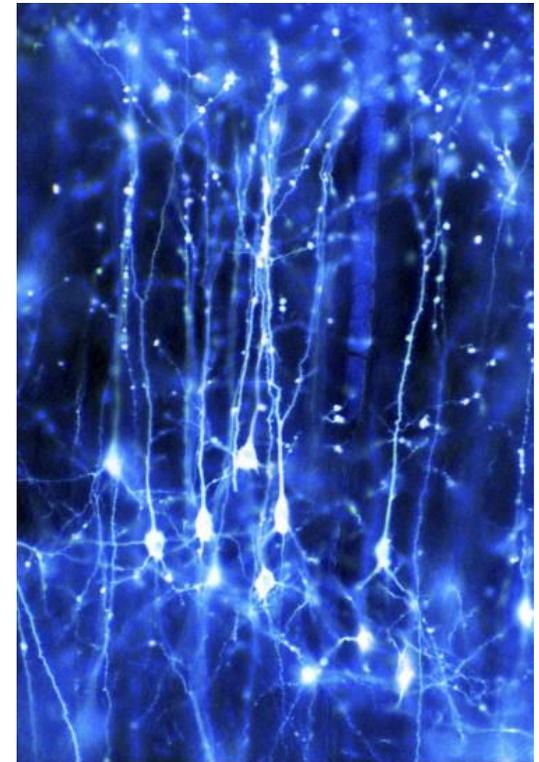
# Sharing research outputs – our policies as a funder

- we have long-standing policies on open access to research publications, and managing and sharing data and other research outputs
- we provide costs required by researchers to fulfil these policies – our core belief is that the cost of dissemination is an integral cost of funding research
- we are clear that:
  - for papers, it is the intrinsic value of the work that matters, not the venue of publication
  - the diverse range of research outputs should be recognised & valued
- implementation of policies in practice is a work in progress



# Addressing wider challenges

- there are significant hurdles to outputs sharing
  - reward and assessment structures
  - developing & sustaining infrastructures required
  - shortage of skills and lack of career paths for data specialists
- different disciplines in very different places in terms of availability of resources and enabling cultures
- evidence base for value of openness is still lacking
- committed to working with other funders, journals researchers and institutions to address these challenges.

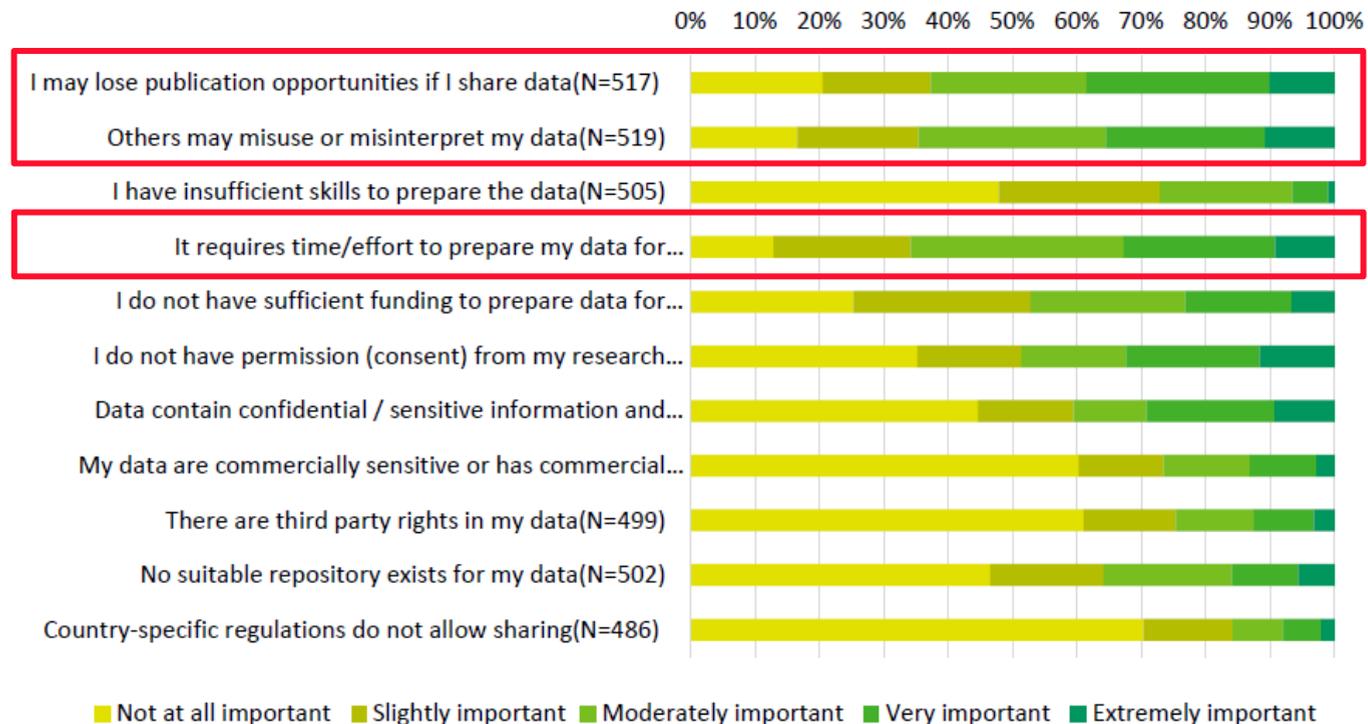


Wellcome Images

Dr Jonathan Clarke, Wellcome Images

# Researcher attitudes & practices

Concerns persist around fear of misuse of data, loss of publication opportunities and resource & time required to share data...



Van den Eynden, Veerle; Knight, Gareth; Vlad, Anca; Radler, Barry; Tenopir, Carol; Leon, David; Manista, Frank; Whitworth, Jimmy; Corti, Louise (2016): Survey of Wellcome researchers and their attitudes to open research. figshare.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.4055448.v1>

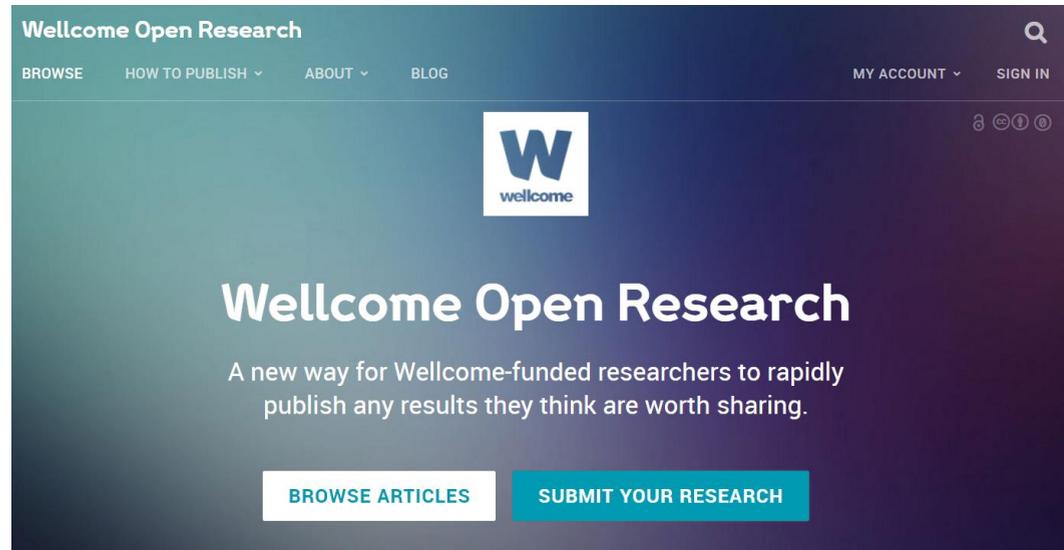
# Developing Open Research

- Dedicated **Open Research team** established at Wellcome in 2017 to lead and coordinate work:
  - **Funder-led activities** – developing major initiatives in areas where funders can take a lead in supporting the community and driving change.
  - **Community-led activities** – supporting researchers and innovators to develop and test cutting-edge approaches to openness; piloting discipline-specific initiatives.
  - **Policy leadership** – taking a lead in developing our policies and practices as a funder to support, incentivise and sustain open research.
- Partnership, engagement and evidence-building at heart of our approach



# Innovative pilots

## Wellcome Open Research



[www.wellcomeopenresearch.org](http://www.wellcomeopenresearch.org)

## The Open Science Prize



# Policy leadership: Enhancing incentives - a funder blueprint

- Step 1 – Policy development and declarations
  - OA policy talks about intrinsic value of research, not venue of publication, sign DORA
- Step 2 – Implementation
  - Remove biases in application forms – such that applicants only discuss journal articles
  - Provide guidance to staff, reviewers, panel members to consider the value and impact of all research outputs
- Step 3 – Engagement
  - Be explicit on how scientific productivity of applicants is assessed and what criteria are used
  - Celebrate grantees who practice open research

# Measuring the value of open research

- engaging actively in key initiatives to develop metrics needed to attribute, track and assess the use of research outputs
- working with McGill University, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, BEIS and others to define success measures and associated indicators for open science
- embedding evaluation across our Open Research funding activities to assess the added value and risks of new approaches to openness

The screenshot shows a web page for an article in MNI Open Research. The article title is "Defining Success in Open Science [version 2; referees: 2 approved]". The authors listed are Sarah E. Ali-Khan, Antoine Jean, Emily MacDonald, and E. Richard Gold. The page includes a peer review status section showing two referees (Gemma Herah and Wen Hwa Lee) with "report" buttons. There is also a "Discuss this article" section with a "Comments (0)" button. The page number "Page 1 of 10" is visible at the bottom right.

<https://mniopenresearch.org/articles/2-2/v2>

# Wellcome's success framework



**Knowledge and discoveries are shared, accessed and used in a manner that maximises health benefit**

- Researchers are equipped, empowered and motivated to make research outputs open.
- Research outputs are findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable (FAIR)

# Summary

- As a funder, we are committed to maximising the value of the outputs generated by the research we support - we have clear policy mandates supported by funding
- While we are clear as a funder that we recognise a full range of outputs and that the quality rather than venue of publications which is important, there is some way to go to change cultures and practices
- We are working in partnership to identify common actions to incentivise openness and to develop the tools to evaluate open research
- We are committed to testing innovative approaches to openness and assessing the benefits and risks