

Magnetic Resonance

An interactive open-access journal of the Groupement AMPERE

Home

A new publication - for the community, not for profit

Quality, Affordability, Impact

The **Groupement AMPERE** has launched a quality not-for-profit open-access publication called *Magnetic Resonance*.

Publisher: Copernicus Publications (Göttingen, Germany)

Executive Editors: Geoffrey Bodenhausen (Paris, France), Matthias Ernst (Zürich, Switzerland), Daniella Goldfarb (Weizmann Institute, Israel), Mehdi Mobli (Brisbane, Australia), Gottfried Otting (Canberra, Australia), Peter C. M. van Zijl (Baltimore, USA)

Fostering quality through transparency via a two-stage review system: Authors submit an article.

A subset of editors is invited based on matches between keywords selected from a menu by the authors and expertise keywords stored for the editors. The first editor to accept handling the article serves as the editor throughout the whole process.

If none of the topical editors accepts to handle the article within a few days, one of the executive editors is called upon.

The editor decides whether to send articles for review or reject them if they are out of scope or suffer from poor English. Rejection rate at this stage should be below 20%.

Following acceptance for review, the editor invites 3-5 reviewers to provide referee reports. The manuscript, as submitted by the authors, obtains a DOI and is put up online as a 'discussion paper' for everyone to see and comment. Comments must be signed, i.e., may not be anonymous. (Commentators must log in.) The reports of invited reviewers, comments and responses by the authors are public. The invited reviewers have the choice to remain anonymous (in practice, most reviewers are likely to choose anonymity). The great majority of papers are not expected to attract any comments beyond the reviewers' remarks, whereas contentious or misleading claims do.

After four weeks, the discussion is closed. It remains open only as long as less than two reviewer reports have been obtained.

The discussion trail remains publicly accessible. It can be cited. It serves as proof of priority (like a submission to arXiv, chemRxiv, or bioRxiv). It is not part of the final publication.

Following closure of the discussion period, the authors submit a new version revised in the light of the online discussion.

The editor may reject, request further revisions or decide to engage new reviewers. At this stage the process is as in conventional peer review, i.e., no longer public.

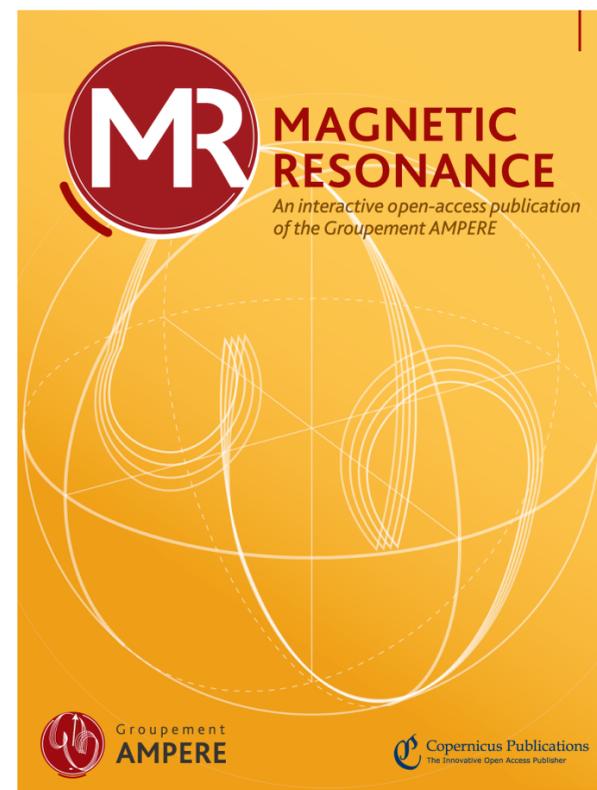
If authors appeal the editor's decision, the case is reviewed by one of the executive editors.

Following acceptance, the manuscript is copy-edited for English and typeset.

FAQ

Why do we need a new publication, when traditional journals have operated successfully over many years?

Funding agencies increasingly expect Open Access (OA) publishing, but current 'hybrid' options are expensive. The visibility of a magnetic resonance article published in mega-journals like Sci. Rep., ACS Omega and RSC Advances appears doubtful. There are no respectable OA publications in



magnetic resonance with affordable costs.

What are the advantages of the interactive two-stage review system?

Better quality of initially submitted drafts.

Establishment of priority upon submission - difficult to steal ideas.

More feedback can be taken into account. For example, if earlier work has been overlooked, this can be pointed out by anyone before the final article is published, leading to fewer errata.

Higher citation rates, because more people view OA articles.

Public discussion promotes ethical behaviour. Calling out on overhyping is possible.

The decision on whether an article is out of scope is made before the discussion stage, not in response to some scoring by reviewers (e.g., reviewers are not expected to make comments like 'not of interest to the broad readership of the journal').

Fewer revised versions.

The visibility of submitted articles promotes self-regulation, i.e., the editors do not need provide as much guidance to maintain a common level of expectations. This allows a much larger editorial board. For example, in the case of the journal [Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics](#) (ACP; impact factor > 5), where the editorial board has grown to about 150 editors to handle ca. 1,000 articles per annum, only about 15% of submitted articles get rejected, mostly at the submission stage.

In essence, the process combines the traditional single-blind peer review combined with prior publication of the unreviewed submitted article as in arXiv, ChemRxiv and bioRxiv.

How much will *Magnetic Resonance* charge?

80 € per final printed page if submitted in Word (reduced to 75 € per page if submitted in LaTeX.) This covers the cost of checking for plagiarism, language editing, production of HTML, XML and PDF formats, web hosting, archiving, and indexation by a wide range of databases.

What are the advantages of Open Access?

OA means easier access (no need for library logins) and therefore greater impact. The authors retain their copyright and the content is distributed under the liberal Creative Commons Attribution License. It is legal to re-use OA material freely, as long as the authors are acknowledged. Old articles cannot sink into oblivion because they are buried behind a paywall or because the publisher has closed down their business.

Why should one pay OA charges if one can publish in traditional journals for free?

Publishing in traditional journals is not free. The subscription costs are paid by public libraries rather than by the authors. Increasingly, libraries of research institutions pay OA charges on behalf of their authors.

What about authors who cannot afford OA charges?

Copernicus Publications allows OA charges to be fully or partly waived for 10% of the annual pages, at the discretion of the Executive Editors.

Will the new publication affect traditional journals?

Magnetic Resonance expects to attract papers that are currently disseminated over a very broad range of non-specialized journals, such as (in alphabetical order): Anal. Chem., Angew. Chem., App. Magn. Reson., ChemBioChem, Biochemistry, Chem. Commun., Chem. Eur. J., ChemMedChem, ChemPhysChem, Chem. Phys. Lett., Commun. in Chemistry*, Concepts Magn. Reson. A, Concepts Magn. Reson. B, Dalton Transactions, eMagRes, Faraday Transactions, Frontiers in Chemistry*, Inorg. Chem., J. Am. Chem. Soc., J. Biomol. NMR, J. Biomol. NMR Assign., J. Chem. Phys., J. Magn. Reson., J. Magn. Reson. Imag., J. Phys. Chem. Lett., J. Phys. Chem., Magn. Reson. Chem., Magn. Reson. Imag., Magn. Reson. Med., Magneto-chemistry*, Nat. Commun.*, Nat. Materials, Nat. Methods, Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol., Nucleic Acids Res., Org. Chem., Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys., Phys. Rev., Phys. Rev. Lett., Solid State Nucl. Magn. Reson., Prog. NMR Spectrosc., Scientific Reports* and Science Adv.* (* indicates 'Gold Open Access').

Couldn't the Groupement AMPERE simply have purchased an existing journal and made it low-cost OA?

Existing journals are not for sale or too expensive.

What is wrong with the traditional publishers?

The copyright on articles allows monopolistic abuse. The profit margins are

staggering (on the order of 35%).

Shouldn't one negotiate with societies like the American Chemical Society (ACS) or the Royal Chemical Society (RSC) about hosting any new publication? Scientific societies provide lots of laudable services.

Why can't the good work of societies be supported through voluntary membership fees? Do conferences really depend on sponsorships by societies? The profits of publishers (well over \$1b/annum) would be better spent on research.

What is the experience of other publications with the interactive two-stage review system?

MR will benefit from the experience of [Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics \(ACP\)](#), which has successfully practiced this system for over 15 years, attracting 1000 articles per annum, publishing at minimal cost and without overloading their editors. Over 20 other journals apply this review system.

Can bots hijack the discussion forum?

Copernicus has not so far encountered any problems with bots. Logins cannot easily be generated automatically without human input.

Why have I not heard of Copernicus Publications before?

Copernicus hosts quality publications on behalf of scientific societies, at present mostly for the European Geosciences Union. Copernicus is not focusing on maximising profit.

Can Copernicus Publications be bought by any large publishers?

Attempts have been made, but Copernicus Publications has no private owners and there are no shareholders. Copernicus Publications is owned by a society founded by researchers of the Max-Planck Institute for Aeronomy as a not-for-profit entity. Copernicus does not own any of the publications it produces. Owner societies can take their publications elsewhere.

Why are the page charges with Copernicus Publications so much lower than with traditional publishers?

The role of Copernicus is to serve scientific associations and institutions. Copernicus makes an annual profit of only 7%, which allows them to cover costs of new publications such as *MR*.

Who guarantees that the page charges of *MR* will stay low?

The contract signed with Copernicus by the Groupement AMPERE for the launch of *MR* specifies that the page charges will remain unchanged for the first 3 years. After review, a possible increase will be by at most 2%.

Who will look after the data-base of publications in the event that Copernicus Publications would cease to exist?

As all articles are OA, anyone can host a website where they can be kept for safeguarding. Long-term archiving agreements exist with Portico and CLOCKSS, and content is also preserved at the German National Library, the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Library and the Library of Congress.

Who will look after the body of publications in the event that *MR* ceases to exist?

Compare this to commercial publishers, who trade journals like commodities, and sell copyright on back copies. Remember the fate of Academic Press and Varian.

***MR* will not have an impact factor for at least two years. Who can afford to publish in a publication that is not listed by ISI Web of Science?**

Copernicus registers and reports the numbers of views and downloads of individual articles, which is a more meaningful metric than impact factor. Impact factors of journals do not provide a reliable measure of the quality of papers they publish and the creativity of their authors. Over 90% of PhD students do NOT end up in academia. For them, the experience of publishing in a scientific publication with proper and transparent peer review is infinitely more important than the impact factor. Articles by little known young group leaders are much more visible in specialty publications than in open access mega-journals.

With such a large editorial board, won't there be a conflict of interest if editors submit articles to *Magnetic Resonance*?

The same conflict of interest may exist for traditional journals. The name of the handling editor will be published with the final article. It would be unethical if

editors handled articles submitted by their own institutes or universities.

Why is the scope of *MR* not much broader?

The publication division of the Groupement AMPERE may consider the launch of further sister publications in the future.

Could OA charges be lowered by using a different platform than Copernicus Publications?

MR applies the Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0 (CC BY 4.0), which means that it is entirely possible to transfer *MR* to a new publisher in the future, should this be deemed worthwhile.