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Facilitating a close interaction between basic, translational and clinical science: *BMJ Open Ophthalmology*

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Received 25 May 2016 Accepted 25 May 2016 We are delighted to introduce *BMJ Open Ophthalmology*, a new open access journal published by *BMJ*.

The journal will publish a broad range of articles of particular clinical, scientific, educational or surgical value. Many of the current ophthalmology journals, particularly traditional journals in the field, are limited by being predominantly either clinical or basic science, with less translational and vision science. We envisage diverse content reflecting current and innovative research linked within an online digital interactive framework that is freely available, unrestricted and immediately accessible.

By encouraging clinical and basic science articles from all aspects of ophthalmology and vision science, the needs of clinicians and the applications of the work of scientists will be met and integrated, fostering a close interaction between basic, translational and clinical sciences. In an era of continual and rapid advances in ophthalmology, there is an overwhelming need for a journal such as *BMJ Open Ophthalmology* which will provide an integrated digital platform for the publication of quality basic and clinical science research.



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BMJ has set a high standard as one of the leading authorities among medical journals, and has been distinguished for its record of ongoing innovation in medical publishing. BMJ has pioneered open access and as editors we are fully committed to the principles of open access. A central aim of *BMJ Open Ophthalmology* is therefore to combine the benefits of open access with a commitment to maintaining scientific rigour through the process of stringent peer-review.

The emphasis of peer review will be the scientific and ethical validity of the research. All articles published in *BMJ Open Ophthalmology* will have been approved following external

peer review by at least two expert reviewers selected by our international editorial board. We aim for rapid peer review and the publication of accepted articles will be continual and fully citeable.

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We plan an interactive evolving journal which provokes scientific debate and clinical commentary in which the readership, authors and public can engage and contribute.

- We will utilise social media to encourage debate and comment on the journal content and exceptional articles will be press-released.
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- Digital and multimedia submissions will be hosted to reflect clinical imaging, surgical videos, scientific and clinical teaching and diagnostics.
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- As the journal becomes established we aim to gain listing in the PubMed database and ISI Current Contents (Web of Science) and indexed by Scopus and Google Scholar.



It is any exciting time in ophthalmology with many rapidly changing advances in cell and gene-based therapies for ocular disease, novel pharmacological and therapeutic advances, rapid developments in imaging and surgical techniques, with strong inter-disciplinary links bridging the laboratory and our patients. *BMI*

Open Ophthalmology will have a distinct footprint in the ophthalmology and vision science community by addressing the needs of clinicians and scientists. We look forward to receiving your research submissions and welcome your feedback on all aspects of BMJ Open Ophthalmology.