

Improving Patient Lives Using Open Repositories to Disseminate Non-traditional Research Outputs

Rushi Dave, Pfizer

Dan Valen, Figshare

Background

The objective was to evaluate the use of an open repository to publish manuscript Plain Language Summaries (mPLSs).

When Pfizer began developing mPLS, we discovered not all journals publish these types of publications. In order for healthcare providers and patients to have access to the mPLS, Pfizer needed to find a solution. After researching various options, Pfizer determined Figshare was a possible solution to explore based on the requirements and promptly started a pilot project in 2021.

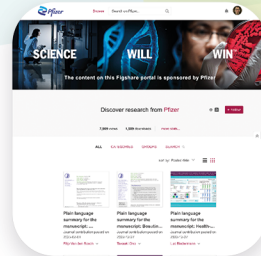
Additionally, there were other requirements considered when choosing a solution, which included: increasing visibility around our research and linking the mPLSs to clinical trials, peer-reviewed manuscripts, supporting data, as well as other enhanced publication content.

Different use cases Pfizer has utilized are included in addition to exploring the publication of mPLSs on Pfizer's Figshare portal (<https://pfizer.figshare.com>). We will demonstrate how recent Pfizer publications have reached the broader medical community.

Methods

Pfizer conducted an 8-month pilot study to understand the capabilities of Figshare's enterprise offering. The pilot study started in August 2021 and went on until March 2022. The pilot included an option to publish mPLS and supplementary journal materials. Other uses cases expanded to include: enhanced publication content.

Various Scientific Publication Committees within Pfizer would identify non-traditional research scientific outputs to host on the portal. Then the Publications Agency, Publication Owner, or Publications Specialist would send a request to post on the Pfizer Figshare site.


pfizer.figshare.com

Pfizer's Expanded Use Cases

Use Case 1: Manuscript Plain Language Summaries (mPLS)

A PLS is summary of a publication written in everyday language that can be easily understood by a lay audience.

For journals not offering this service, Pfizer will leverage Figshare to post PLS, with mutual linkage between the PLS and manuscript; PLS will be assigned DOI.

PLS will be publicly available to all once the manuscript has been published.


<https://doi.org/10.25454/pfizer.figshare.22130456.v1>

Use Case 2: Green Open Access Manuscripts

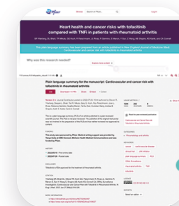
Definition of Green OA from the UC Libraries' Pathways report:
"Green open access is repository-based open access. Green OA models are agnostic about publisher open access behaviors, relying instead on institutions and authors to take steps to make otherwise toll-access works freely available in online repositories that may be (and often are) managed by institutions. In essence, successful green open access requires: the right to share a given scholarly output, a copy of it, the motivation to share it, and a location for sharing it (i.e., a repository)."

- If journal does not have an open access option, journals may allow posting of (non Version of record) MS Word version of the submitted manuscript
- Check Sherpa Romeo: Sherpa Romeo is an online resource that provides details of publishers' and journals' open access policies
- May need to confirm with the journal if there is an embargo period or when this version can be posted (i.e., post-publication)

Use Case 3: Enhanced Publication Content

Enhanced Publication Content (EPC) is additional content that is part of the publication, or linked directly to the publication, and used to enrich the reader's experience. This may include podcasts, videos (video abstract/summary), animated content, infographics, and graphical abstracts

- For journals not offering this service, EPC may be posted on Figshare
- EPC will be publicly available to all once the manuscript has been published


<https://doi.org/10.25454/pfizer.figshare.19719757.v2>

Use Case 4: Supplemental Materials

The Taylor and Francis Group defines Supplemental Materials as, 'relevant material that is additional to the main article. It can be anything from tables to presentations, to video and audio files.'

- Some journals require data supporting publications are posted in a public repository e.g. Genbank, GEO, dbGAP
- Any individual patient-level data will need to be non-identifiable
- Data may be made available to journal editors and peer-reviewers at submission and to the public upon publication
- Link to data may be included in manuscript


<https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMoa2109927>

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02092467>

Results

As of April 2023, 30 documents have been published on the Figshare portal. Portal usage indicates that the platform has been effective in reaching a wider audience. A breakdown of usage by specific use case revealed that mPLS were the most viewed and downloaded among users (5,337 views and 823 downloads). It is also the most published use case to date. There were 18 mPLS, 6 supplemental material submissions, 5 EPC submissions, and 1 Green OA manuscript.

Discussion

The pilot study yielded encouraging results, prompting the incorporation of the Figshare site into Pfizer's established procedures. Considering the rapidly evolving landscape of scientific communication, the platform was expanded to include enhanced publication content. Initial metrics suggest the project's objectives, particularly in terms of increasing visibility and engagement with the medical community, are being met. Monitoring altmetric and usage data is ongoing to assess the progress towards the ultimate goal of positively impacting patients' lives through increased accessibility to scientific information.

In the last year Plain Language Summaries had:

5,337 views
969 downloads

