Supporting open research – a funder perspective

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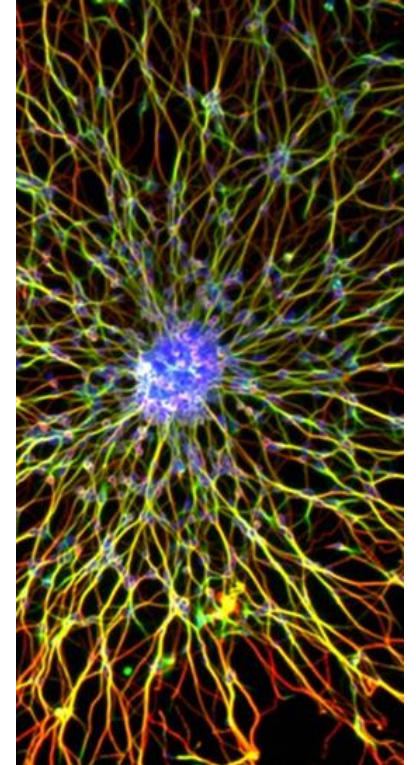(d.carr@wellcome.ac.uk)
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Wellcome's commitment to Open Research

- committed to ensuring research outputs (papers, data, code & materials) can be accessed and used in ways that maximise health & societal benefit

- making these outputs more widely available holds the potential to:
  - accelerate discovery and its application
  - help ensure findings can be validated and reproduced
  - increase efficiency – reduce duplication and waste

- we have been a passionate long-term advocate of open access & data sharing
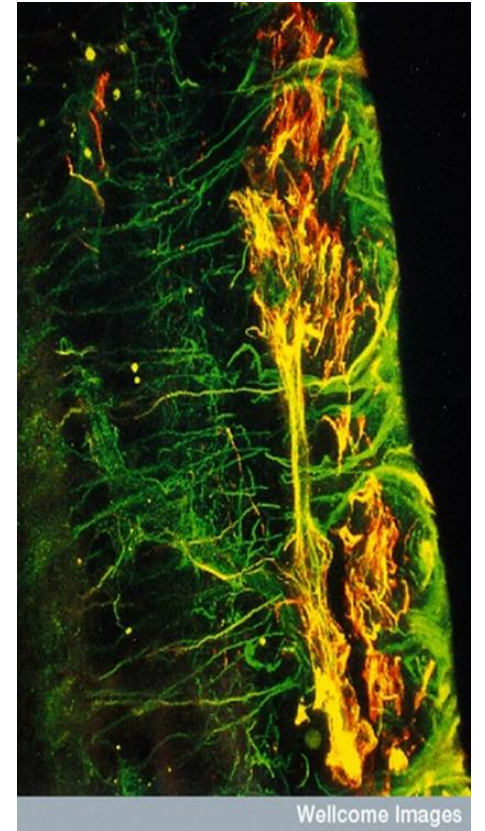
Our policy on research data

- Wellcome's policy on Data Management and Sharing published 2007 (updated in 2010):

  - expects all researchers we fund to maximise access to research data with as few restrictions as possible

  - requires data management & sharing plan, where the research is likely to generate data of value as a resource for the community

  - commits to review and support costs of plans as integral part of grant

- challenges remain around clarifying expectations, allowable costs and post-award tracking

- currently finalising a broader outputs management policy to incorporate data, software and materials
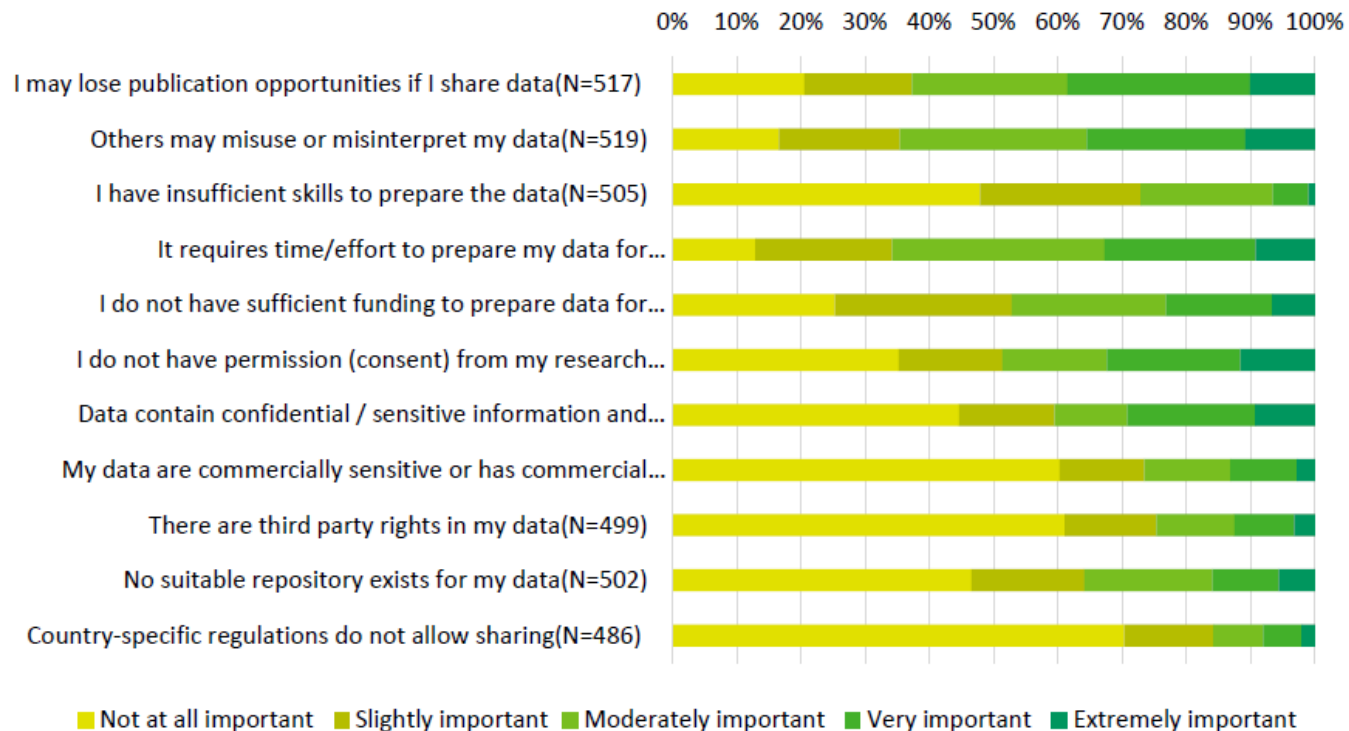
Overcoming the challenges

- there are significant hurdles to outputs sharing

  - reward and assessment structures

  - patchy repository infrastructure

  - shortage of skills and lack of career paths for data specialists

  - need for platforms and tools to enable discoverability and re-use

- different disciplines at very different places in developing resources and practices to support data sharing

- committed to working with other funders, journals researchers and institutions to address these challenges.

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)
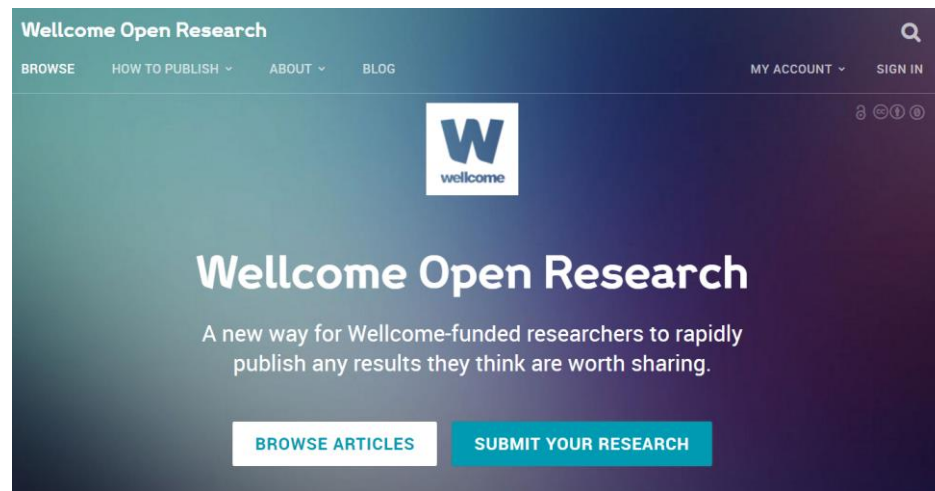
Developing Open Research

- Dedicated **Open Research team** established at Wellcome in 2017 to lead and coordinate activity

- Our work will encompass:

  - **Funder-led activities** – driving forward major initiatives (e.g. pre-prints and clinical trial data sharing); building the evidence base & leading in our policies and practices

  - **Community-led activities** – supporting researchers and innovators to develop and test cutting-edge approaches to openness; piloting discipline-specific initiatives

- Partnership & ongoing engagement with the research community at heart of our approach

Running innovative pilots

Wellcome Open Research

Pre-prints

The Open Science Prize

Enhancing incentives: ideas for cross-funder activities

1. Sign up to and implement the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)

2. Change funder grant application processes

   – ask applicants to focus on a small number of publications or discoveries and list research outputs other than journal articles

   – introduce an 'Open Research' question

3. Implement community-wide solutions

   – change citation practices

   – develop international badging system

"Our department embraces the values of open science and strives for replicable and reproducible research. For this goal we support transparent research with open data, open material, and pre-registrations. Candidates are asked to describe in what way they already pursued and plan to pursue these goals."
http://www.nicebread.de/open-science-hiring-practices/

VIEW THE **BADGES:**

OPEN DATA   OPEN MATERIALS   PREREGISTERED

https://osf.io/tvyxz/wiki/home/

Closing thoughts

- funders are committed to maximising the value of research outputs, including data, code & materials

- many challenges remain - funders and journals have key roles in addressing these

- welcome leadership and innovation from many journals and keen to work together

- would call on journals to:

  – establish clear policies on data and code sharing

  – require data availability statements

  – develop consistent approaches for data citation

Concordat on Open Research Data

The Concordat on Open Research Data has been developed by a UK multi-stakeholder group. This concordat will help to ensure that the research data gathered and generated by members of the UK research community is made openly available for use by others wherever possible in a manner consistent with relevant legal, ethical, disciplinary and regulatory frameworks and norms, and with due regard to the costs involved.

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"Production of open research data should be acknowledged formally as a legitimate output of the research process and should be recognised as such by employers, research funders and others in contributing to an individual's professional profile in relation to promotion, research assessment and research funding decisions."

Any Questions?