

Frequently asked questions for the IJTLD and IJTLD Open

1. Why launch an open access (OA) Journal at this time?

The IJTLD Open allows us to be compliant with the approach of cOAlition S partners (including WHO, Wellcome Trust and Gates Foundation), which mandates authors to publish in fully OA journals. The new Journal will ensure we can continue to publish the work of those authors with OA funding who write for us on these important topics.

2. Will articles in IJTLD Open be peer-reviewed?

There is a perception that some OA journals are not of high quality. We will therefore use exactly the same peer review process for IJTLD Open as for the IJTLD – with the same Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Board and selection criteria – to ensure consistency across both Journals.

3. Why not consider transitioning the IJTLD to a fully OA model?

Many of our authors do not have OA funding and we would have to reject their manuscripts. By maintaining a subscription-based journal, we can provide a publishing platform for research by scientists who work on topics that are currently not supported by cOAlition S. This is in keeping with the Union's mission to improve the dissemination of knowledge.

4. Many OA journals appear to have little or no editorial input. Will IJTLD Open offer anything different?

We are aware that many OA journals publish the accepted version of an article. However, we will continue to use our in-house team for developmental editing and copyediting to ensure accuracy, consistency and ease of reading for both IJTLD and IJTLD Open.

5. Does the introduction of IJTLD Open present an opportunity to expand the availability of supplements and article series?

By establishing an OA-compliant journal, we once again provide a suitable platform for sponsored content.

6. Are there any other changes planned?

Until now, the Union has subsidised the cost of typesetting and printing the IJTLD. However, we have relatively few print subscribers and those who do subscribe to print

also have access to all online content. We have therefore decided to focus exclusively on online publishing. By discontinuing typesetting and print production, we are able to save costs, expedite the publication process and allow more use of colour figures free of charge. The resulting cost savings are also being used to reduce the OA fee for IJTLD Open to attract more authors.

7. The launch of any new journal means that it will not initially have an impact factor (IF). How will you address this?

This is a period of significant transformation for scientific publishers, with many introducing OA-compliant journals. The ability to make articles available to all readers without subscription barriers, or any other barriers to access, means these journals have quickly gained an audience and subsequent citations. We will adopt the same approach and immediately apply for an IF, while also boosting the visibility of articles beyond our traditional subscription base (including via PubMed Central).

It is worth noting that all of our recent most highly cited articles are OA. We therefore believe that there is a significant opportunity to enhance visibility and impact beyond what is achievable with a subscription journal.

8. How do I submit my manuscript to IJTLD Open?

Please use the same portal as for the IJTLD. The only change will occur after a paper has been accepted: authors with funding for OA will be published in IJTLD Open; those without will be published in the IJTLD.