Most research carried out at universities or research institutions is funded by public money, and the results generated from this research should be published in journals and widely returned to the public. Traditionally, scientific papers have been published in academic journals specific to their field where they can be viewed by researchers who subscribe to the journals through university libraries. However, due to the recent rise in subscription fees, staff at universities in low-income countries are often unable to read high-impact papers.

As we are living in a digital age, many journals are moving toward making more of their content open access (OA), and therefore free for anyone to access online. However, when a scientific paper is provided OA, the publishing cost is no longer covered by subscription fees from universities and research institutions, so it is instead covered by an article processing charge (APC) paid by the authors. In other words, the financial burden of distributing academic information shifts from the readers to the researchers. Many academic societies are currently undergoing this transition, and in the process, some major international publishers are double dipping, charging high subscription fees as well as expensive APCs. We strongly support open science initiatives and have long sought to move JPR to be a fully open journal. However, if we had continued to publish under Elsevier, moving to a fully open journal would have resulted in significant costs for both the authors and Japan Prosthodontic Society (JPS).

After much discussion, we have finally made a decision regarding this crucial issue.

In 2021, JPS changed publishers, moving from Elsevier to J-STAGE, which now publishes JPR as a full-OA journal. As a result of our transition from Elsevier to J-STAGE, authors can publish their paper as fully OA for the relatively low APC of $300 (USD), even if the first or corresponding author is not a JPS member. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused to authors due to confusion regarding the peer review process and the transfer of manuscripts during our transition from Elsevier to J-STAGE.

So far, I have described the most significant changes in JPR this year; for overseas readers, J-STAGE may be an unfamiliar publishing platform. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to briefly introduce J-STAGE. J-STAGE is an electronic journal platform for science and technology in Japan, developed and managed by the Japan Science and Technology Agency. J-STAGE aims to accelerate communication and ensure the internationalization of science and technology information published in Japan. By providing an online publication platform, J-STAGE supports Japanese societies and research organizations and has published more than 3,000 journals, conference proceedings, and other academic publications at high speed and low cost. J-STAGE offers support to publishers by managing the entire publication process, from the submission and peer review processes, to the final publishing step. J-STAGE users can also access and create their own libraries of information anytime and anywhere.

JPR has embarked on a new voyage as an international academic journal that strongly supports open science initiatives. JPR regards prosthodontics as a field of life science, as it covers nutrition [1], aging problems [2,3], new biomaterials [4], and clinical investigations, and is currently aiming to attain high-impact status in the field of clinical dental medicine [5].

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