

KEY RESULTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

“FUTURE OF OPEN SCIENCE: ENHANCING RESEARCH ACCESS AND IMPACT”

Panellists: Julieta Arancio (Open Research Community Accelerator (ORCA), DE), Joseph Broz (IBM, US), Gerard Meijer (Fritz Haber Institute of the Max Planck Society, DE), Magdalena Skipper (Nature, GB), Alina Schadwinkel (Moderation) (DER SPIEGEL, DE)

The open science movement aims to make scientific research more transparent, accessible, and collaborative. Open access, which focuses on making publications freely available, is one key element of this movement. Open science goes further by encouraging openness throughout the entire research process. Open access to various research outputs, such as data and software, enables scientists to build on each other's work effectively. This approach has already yielded significant benefits in the medical field, especially in rare disease research. Technology companies have demonstrated that open-source initiatives can support business goals by driving broader adoption of emerging technologies.

Despite its advantages, open science faces financial, structural, and cultural challenges. Funding for open science infrastructure, such as shared databases, is often unsustainable, as short-term grants hinder long-term access. Additionally, the commercial interests of private companies complicate open science due to intellectual property rights and proprietary data. Career evaluation criteria for researchers also present a challenge, as traditional metrics still focus heavily on prestigious publications. Addressing these issues involves recognising a wider range of research outputs and restructuring funding allocation to support a sustainable open science infrastructure.

THE EXPERT PANEL ARTICULATES THE FOLLOWING CALLS TO ACTION:

Incentivise open science in career advancement.

1 — Redefine career evaluation criteria to value a wider range of research outputs, including open access data, databases, and other shared resources.

Promote funding models for sustainable open science infrastructure.

2 — Develop stable funding models to support open research infrastructure, ensuring that shared resources like databases remain accessible over the long term.

Support research transparency and co-creation.

3 — Encourage the sharing of research at every stage of the process, allowing for co-creation with stakeholders, including patients in the medical field.

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