

Editorial

Moving toward open science

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In 2021, at the UNESCO 41st General Conference, 193 member states adopted the first international standards on Open Science in the form of a UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science. In this recommendation, open science was defined as:

An inclusive construct that combines various movements and practices aiming to make multilingual scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone, to increase scientific collaborations and sharing of information for the benefits of science and society, and to open the processes of scientific knowledge creation, evaluation, and communication to societal actors beyond the traditional scientific community UNESCO 2021 (<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949.locale=en>).

Open scientific knowledge allows users free access to scientific publications, research data, educational resources, open-source software, and open hardware. This is vitally important to ensuring the accessibility, inclusivity, and long-term sustainability of education systems and scholarly communities.

The Forum for Open Research in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) was recently held in Cairo, Egypt, on the 26th–27th of October 2022 to promote open science in the region. The goal of this forum was to encourage the exchange of actionable insights and the development of practical policies to support the region's research communities. As supporters of the open science movement, the Saudi Spine Society, represented by the *Journal of Spine Practice (JSP)*, was present in this forum as one of the sponsors. The JSP took this opportunity to engage with the regional community and learn how to promote and implement open science from the experts.

The *JSP* was launched in 2021 as an open-access journal that is freely accessible by readers and authors. The *JSP* is working on expanding its visibility and accessibility by fulfilling the indexing requirements of the trusted lists that support diamond open access, such as DOAJ, among others. As a result, authors can benefit from diamond open-access journals by increasing their research's visibility, sharing, and citation without cost.

Scientific communities, publishers, journals, and authors are responsible for accessible science. Therefore, open science needs to gain high priority in scientific publishing for a better future for the global communities.

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