

FAQs

What happened between Elsevier and the University of California system?

Elsevier and the California Digital Library (CDL) have been unable to reach an agreement to provide access to subscription content. Negotiations have been ongoing and for several months UC-based researchers had access to Science Direct on a complimentary basis. Unfortunately, CDL requested that Elsevier cancel subscription journal content. As a result, as of 10 July, researchers at UC institutions no longer have access to Elsevier's latest scientific, technical and medical subscription content on ScienceDirect dated from 1 January 2019 onwards. Legacy content remains available.

The issues are complex and we encourage our members to learn more by checking out these and other resources:

<https://staticcontents.investis.com/html/r/elsevier/california/index.html>

<https://osc.universityofcalifornia.edu/open-access-at-uc/publisher-negotiations/uc-and-elsevier/>

I can't get Biophysical Journal through ScienceDirect, is there another way?

All members of the Biophysical Society have access to the journal via an individual subscription. If you have not activated your subscription, follow these easy steps to do so. There is also a lot of good information on the journal homepage.

- Navigate to the journal homepage <https://www.cell.com/biophysj/home>
- Login with your cell.com account
- If you do not have a cell.com account, click the Register button in the upper right corner of your screen, then create a username and password
- Click the "Claim" button on the top navigation bar
- Click the box "I receive my subscription through a Society membership"
- Enter your BPS member ID in the box labeled "Account Number." Your member ID is [MEMBER ID].
- Enter your Last name where requested
- Click "Activate Subscription"
- While you're there, check out all of the information and features available on the *Biophysical Journal* website!

If you do not know your BPS member ID number, it will appear on your renewal receipt as the customer number. Or feel free to contact the Society at 240-290-5600. If you have any difficulty activating your member account, please contact ussocieties@elsevier.com or Biophysical Society at Society@biophysics.org

What if I'm not a member of the Biophysical Society?

You may try to find an open access copy of an article by searching the journal archive <https://www.cell.com/biophysj/archive> or by searching Google Scholar, repositories, and preprint servers such as PubMed Central, arXiv, bioXiv; request an article from the author; use interlibrary loan; or contact your librarian. Note the Society DOES NOT endorse the use of SciHub for article access.

Are there other areas with restricted access?

Both Sweden and Germany have restricted access, although some institutions in Germany do carry the Cell Press titles.

Who owns the Biophysical Journal?

The *Biophysical Journal* is owned by the Biophysical Society, which controls the editorial content and peer review. The journal is published in partnership with Cell Press, an imprint of Elsevier, which supports the production, distribution, marketing, and indexing of the journal. If you support non-profit publishing in Society journals, submit your work to BJ!

Why does the Biophysical Society publish with Elsevier?

The Biophysical Society does not have the resources to self-publish in today's world of scholarly publishing, which demands sophisticated subscription sales and licensing agreements with worldwide consortia, governments, and institutions. In addition, today's authors demand complicated search functionality, linking, and numerous bells and whistles that require expensive publishing platforms and software development. Cell Press offers the Society the opportunity to reach more people with a quality product while preserving the quality, integrity, and editorial direction of the journal. They support marketing, subscription and distribution, production, and online hosting at a level the Society could not afford. The Society has a business arrangement that allows us to maintain the journal and support other programs of the Society.

Why should I publish in Biophysical Journal?

The *Biophysical Journal* has a strong reputation for publishing a broad spectrum of work in biophysics. Its reputation for comprehensive, rigorous peer review is unequalled. As a Society journal, it is served by a board of editors and by reviewers who are working scientists and some of the best and the brightest minds in the field. The journal has extensive reach—meaning it is being read by your peers—publication costs are low and even lower if you are a member. There is an open access publishing option and an author friendly preprint policy. These are just a few of the reasons to submit your work to BJ.

Who profits from the Biophysical Journal?

You do! Approximately one-third of the Society's revenue comes from *Biophysical Journal*. The Society receives a guaranteed royalty annually from Cell Press and may realize revenue above and beyond that royalty depending on circumstances (subscription sales, income from webinar sponsorships, etc). This arrangement allows BPS to reinvest in the journal by holding onto the editorial control (peer review) of the journal and to keep publishing costs reasonable. In addition, the journal revenue supports other programs of the Society such as travel grants, awards, networking opportunities, advocacy, etc.

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Does the Society support open access?

The *Biophysical Journal* supports open access as a hybrid journal, with an option to publish open access. In light of Plans S and other recent developments, the Society is looking at ways it might expand its open access offerings while maintaining a viable business model that keeps costs reasonable yet allows us to continue offering other Society programs such as travel grants, awards, networking opportunities, advocacy, etc.