A light in the dark
Open access to medical literature and the COVID–19 pandemic

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Despite all this...

**WORLD VIEW**
A personal take on events

Open your minds and share your results
An open approach is the best way to maximize the benefits of research for both scientists and the public, says Geoffrey Boulton.

**OPEN ACCESS: BENEFITS**
- Increased Visibility
- Increased Citation Rates
- Drives Innovation
- Global Impact
- Public Access
- Comply with Funder Policies

**BOAI 10**
Celebrating a decade of open access

**HORIZON 2020**
OPEN ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

**Open Knowledge Foundation**
A fair, free and open future.

**SCOAP³** – Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics
Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics
We stand here....

Open Access rates, 2019 papers

... a good news

Web of Science database
Core collection, acces. July 9th, 2020

13,655 peer-reviewed papers published from January 1 to July 1, 2020 » almost 10X of all papers concerning four recent viral outbreaks

95% of OA papers published in journals with a first quartile Impact Factor

COVID-19
Open Access
89.5%
[88.3% - 93.5%]

* Capocasa et al. submitted
What does this mean?

OK, numerous Journals have made research work on COVID–19 openly accessible

but ...

Achieving much greater open access to health information is possible

Principle: Scientific knowledge on high impact human diseases should be shared freely and promptly

So, the next questions...

How does COVID–19 compare to other diseases?

How to get closer to COVID–19 OA rates?
How does COVID-19 compare to other diseases?

Worldwide death toll of the 10 deadliest diseases (six months period)

- Neoplasms: 8.6X
- Cardiovascular diseases: 16.1X
- Respiratory infections: 3.4X
- Chronic respiratory diseases: 3.5X
- Neurological disorders: 2.8X
- Diabetes and kidney diseases: 2.4X
- Digestive diseases: 2.1X
- Maternal & neonatal disorders: 1.8X
- Enteric infections: 1.6X
- Other NCDs: 1.1X
- COVID-19: 1.0X

Data from https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html (accessed on July 9 and December 21, 00:00 GMT) and GBD 2017 Causes of Death Collaborators (Lancet, 2018)
How to get closer to COVID-19 OA rates?
... the green road is the answer.

Data from Capocasa et al. 2021, submitted
Takeaways

1. By using the green road we could close a substantial portion of the gap in OA between the 10 deadliest diseases and COVID-19.

2. Scientific institutions and associations should more effectively encourage the dissemination of post-print through available online tools.

...and also

3. Don't let transformative agreements overshadow the green road to Open Access
COVID-19 has changed our lives, could it help change our attitude towards Open Access?