

EARA News Digest, Week 37 - EARA report on transparency in Spain; Marmosets and Parkinson's; Open Access demand



European Animal
Research Association

EARA News Digest – Week 37

Welcome to your Monday morning update, [from EARA](#), on the latest developments in science, policy and openness in animal research in Europe and around the world.

Policy

Great progress made by biomedical sector in Spain towards openness in animal research

The first report on the Spanish biomedical sector's commitment to transparency about research using animals, [published today](#), highlights the great progress being made on improving openness.



Launched in 2016, the [Transparency Agreement](#) on Animal Research in Spain now has more than 120 public and private research centres, universities and scientific societies as signatories.

It contains four commitments for the biomedical sector to provide more information about animal research at their institutions.

[This first report \(and in Spanish\)](#) fulfills the obligation to report annually on the progress made towards transparency and to share the experiences with other signatories and includes a case study example from the Center for Applied Biomedical Experimental Research ([CREBA](#)) in Lleida (pictured), which has arranged tours of its facilities.

EARA Board member, Javier Guillén, said: “The appearance of these institutional declarations has been one of the clearest and most visible examples of the decision of the signatory organisations for transparency.”

Research



New model for fighting Parkinson's disease using marmosets

Scientists at [Texas Biomedical Research Institute](#) aim to develop an effective animal model that emulates both the motor and non-motor symptoms of Parkinson's disease using marmosets.

[The new study](#) has found that marmosets can mimic the sleep disturbances, changes in circadian rhythm, and cognitive impairment associated with Parkinson's disease.

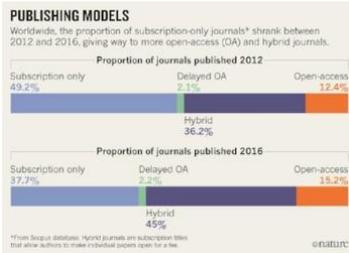
Parkinson's disease affects a million people in the United States and 10 million people worldwide.

In order to better understand the molecular mechanisms of the neuro-circuitry responsible for changes in the brain during the course of the disease, marmosets were tracked using devices around their necks similar to Fitbits used by humans.

Investigators wanted to see if the tiny monkeys with induced tremors and other Parkinson's motor symptoms could also serve as an effective model for non-motor symptoms.

Study leader [Marcel Daadi](#), said: "Most of the early studies in Parkinson's have been conducted with rodents, but there are some complex aspects of this disease you simply cannot investigate using rodents in a way that is relevant to human patients. Nonhuman primates are critical in his aspect."

Media



National funders demand open access to research from 2020

Eleven national funding organisations in Europe, which jointly spend about €7.6 billion on research each year, will require every paper they fund to be freely available from the moment of publication from 2020.

The group both opposes the 6- or 12-month delays that many subscription journals now require before a paper is made Open Access (OA), and publication in so-called hybrid journals, which charge subscriptions but also make individual papers OA for an extra fee.

[The 11 bodies](#), listed in *Nature*, include the national funding agencies in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France, as well as Italy's National Institute for Nuclear Physics.

Frustrated with the slow transition toward OA in scientific publishing, [group members will refuse](#) to fund grantees who fall outside these new stipulations. This could seriously reduce the role of paywalled journals in the sector, while increasing institutional openness.

"This will put increased pressure on publishers and on the consciousness of individual researchers that an ecosystem change is possible," Ralf Schimmer, head of Scientific Information Provision at the [Max Planck Digital Library](#) in Munich, Germany, told *Science*.

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