



OPEN SCIENCE POLICY
ACCREDITED HEALTH RESEARCH
INSTITUTE - VALL D'HEBRON UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL (IR-HUVH)

Content

1. Introduction.....	2
2. Objectives.....	3
3. Jurisdiction and Effect of the Policy	3
4. Rights, Responsibilities and Duties.....	4
5. Scope	5
OPEN ACCESS TO PUBLICATIONS	5
OPEN ACCESS TO RESEARCH DATA	5
OPEN SCIENCE AND CITIZEN SCIENCE	6
INFRASTRUCTURE.....	6
RESEARCH ASSESSMENT.....	6
TRAINING.....	7
MONITORING POLICY COMPLIANCE AND VALIDITY OF THE POLICY.....	7
6. References.....	7
ANNEX: GLOSSARY	8

1. Introduction

Open science is transparent and accessible knowledge that is shared and developed through collaborative networks. It encompasses practices such as publishing in open access, FAIR (i.e. Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable) data, broader dissemination, and engagement in science and generally making it easier to publish, access and communicate scientific knowledge.

The **Accredited Institute for Health Research - Vall d'Hebron University Hospital (IR-HUVH)** was accredited in 2009 by the Carlos III Health Institute, and in 2014, 2019 and 2024 it successfully passed its re-accreditation. The IR-HUVH is composed by the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital (HUVH), Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR), Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO), the Blood and Tissue Bank (BST), the Institute of Diagnostic Imaging (IDI), and the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) – of which VHIR is an affiliated and accredited research institute which also participates in the official Master in Translational Biomedical Research of VHIR), and the Biosciences Faculty of UAB and VHIO are co-coordinators of both the Master in Health and Science Management and the Specialization Diploma in Management of Biomedical Sciences. It also accommodates, as an invited member, the University Institute for Research in Primary Health Care Jordi Gol i Gurina (IDIAPJGol).

The IR-HUVH, with the conviction that **knowledge is key to solving global challenges** and that **science, research and its results are a public good**, develops this Open Science Policy and commits to open knowledge strategies. The present document is a live text that reflects the joined effort from the institutions composing the IR-HUVH to promote the implementation of open science.

In this way, professionals from IR-HUVH have been involved in different working groups (WG) to develop and implement Open Science initiatives in the Campus. Within the IR-HUVH, the **CADAD** (*Comisión de acceso a datos*) is a commission that coordinates different departments, giving support to all research projects involving clinical data to promote its secondary use. Within the Catalan environment, since 2020, IR-HUVH professionals have been involved in the WG from the **Centres de Recerca de Catalunya (CERCA) Data Management Strategy**, along with a WG from **Consorci de Serveis Universitaris de Catalunya (CSUC) FAIR Data repository**. Both WGs are aligned and coordinated; while CERCA is focused on a strategic plan, CSUC is handling the technical development and management of the data repository (and other Open Science tools, such as the CORA eIna DMP for Data Management Plans), this being part of the strategic plan. At the national level, IR-HUVH professionals have participated in several WG from the **IISA alliance**, including the WG on "Strategies to facilitate the development of Open Access (OA) in the IIS: repository institutional ISCIII" in 2021, and the WG "Data Management Plan" in 2022. Since 2022, IR-HUVH professionals are participating in the Open Science WG from the **Severo**

Ochoa and Maria de Maetzu Alliance (SOMMa). Also, we consolidated our expertise by leading an Open Science WG with all **REGIC (Red de Entidades Gestoras de Investigación Clínica)** institutions of Spain.

This Open Science Policy complements the previous Open Access policy, modernizing it by considering all Open Science dimensions (including publications, research data, citizen engagement and other concepts around the Open Science concept) and aligning it with. This policy is also consistent with the local and international context, and it is aligned with CERCA, ISCIII and EU policies, including OpenAire.

2. Objectives

The objective of this policy is to establish the institutional framework to allow the IR-HUVH to openly share and transfer the scientific knowledge that generates as a result of its research, healthcare activity, teaching, innovation and institutional management in the Accredited Health Research Institute.

The objectives of this policy are:

1. Establishing an institutional framework to allow the IR-HUVH to openly share and transfer the scientific knowledge it generates.
2. Developing and providing mechanisms and services for the storage, management, and sharing of data according to the FAIR principles, to enhance the quality, reproducibility and reliability of research data and results.
3. Embedding Open Science practices in recruitment, research assessment, and evaluation criteria.
4. Monitoring policy compliance and producing transparent reports on its total cost and objective benefits and making them publicly available.
5. Promoting the use of open research data and results to advance scientific knowledge and accelerate the pace of discovery, and make them accessible to a wide range of stakeholders.
6. Encouraging collaboration and knowledge-sharing among researchers and institutions to foster innovation and improve research outcomes.

3. Jurisdiction and Effect of the Policy

The Policy applies to all researchers and professionals active at **IR-HUVH**.

The Policy has been approved by **IR-HUVH Internal Scientific Committee** and **Governing Council** and takes effect from **December 2025**.

4. Rights, Responsibilities and Duties

The **IR-HUVH** will be responsible for:

1. Supporting and empowering the transition to Open Science through education, training and awareness-raising actions targeting researchers, clinicians and other employees, along with the provision of the necessary infrastructure and funding to support this transition. Acquisition of Open Science and related skills should form an integral part of professional training and career development offered to researchers by the **corresponding Units from VHIR and VHIO**.
2. Establishing an Institutional Open Access Repository and/or collaborating with consortia or national repositories according to international standards, including (but not limited to) **Scientia** for publications, **CORA.RDR Repositori de Dades de Recerca of the CSUC** for datasets and **Dipòsit Digital de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona** for thesis (or any other repository depending on the university)
3. Promoting the use of persistent identifiers (like DOIs, ORCID, ROR, among others) and the proper application of the IR-HUVU author affiliation regulations as approved in 2020.
4. Promoting a Data WG with all the responsible professionals that coordinate data related matters, including – but not limited to – issues related to the development of Data Management Plans (DMPs) and compliance with national and European laws, data curation and stewardship.
5. Developing and providing mechanisms and services for the storage, safekeeping, registration, deposition and sharing of data and other records, according to the FAIR principles, as well as their long-term preservation, and providing appropriate guidance to researchers, including DMP templates.
6. Embedding Open Science practices in recruitment, research assessment and evaluation criteria beyond the provision of open access to publications and data, like participation in citizen science projects, experimentation with open peer review or the use of Open Educational Resources (OER).
7. Monitoring policy compliance by comparing the content of the repository with information gathered from indexing services and through data on the use (access and downloads) per publication/department/unit/institute, etc.
8. Ensuring the compliance of the institution's repository and other research infrastructures with certification requirements in relation to FAIR data principles and EOSC technical specifications.
9. Having IPR and data protection policies in place to support Open Science.
10. Having an Open Licensing policy mandating a coherent and comprehensive set of licences for releasing content and data.

Researchers will be responsible for:

1. Managing publications, data and educational resources in adherence with the principles and requirements expressed in this Policy.
2. Registering new research projects at the proposal stage at IR-HUVH appropriate service in order to ensure that they are provided with the appropriate institutional support.
3. Complying with the organizational, regulatory, institutional, and other contractual and legal requirements related to the production, curation, deposit, management, and distribution of publications and data in case there is no other agreement with third parties taking precedence.
4. Ensuring that the principles governing the handling of data (in adherence with the present Policy and funders' mandates) are included in a Data Management Plan (DMP).
5. Compiling a DMP for every research project they are coordinating.
6. Choosing the appropriate type of licensing for their research outputs.

5. Scope

OPEN ACCESS TO PUBLICATIONS

The **IR-HUVH** will:

Invite researchers to deposit in the institutional repository [Scientia](#), **Dipòsit d'Informació Digital del Departament de Salut**, or any other suitable repository that will be made available to our researchers in future, a machine-readable electronic copy of the full text.

Encourage researchers to deposit in the institutional repository publications authored prior to the date of effect of the current policy.

The document deposit process is managed by the **Vall d'Hebron University Hospital Library**. Researchers are invited to notify their publications to the institutional repository using the [notification form](#).

The document version to be deposited will be regulated by the current legislation of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

OPEN ACCESS TO RESEARCH DATA

The **IR-HUVH** will:

1. Recommend researchers to deposit the data needed to validate/reproduce the results presented in scientific publications in a suitable repository such as [CORA.RDR Repositori de Dades de Recerca](#) - <https://dataverse.csuc.cat/dataverse/VHIR>, or any other

- repository that will be made available to our researchers in future. Data should be provided with persistent identifiers and must be linked with publications when possible.
2. Promote that data and services are handled according to open and FAIR principles. Data should also be traceable and whenever possible available for subsequent use.
 3. The **IR-HUVH** follows the principle “as open as possible as closed as necessary”. If data cannot be open due to legal, privacy or other concerns (for example sensitive data or personal data) this should be clearly explained. Metadata ensuring that data are findable should be provided in all instances.
 4. Encourage researchers to submit a DMP to the appropriate service for every research project they are involved in.
 5. Promote that data are stored for a certain period (e.g. as defined by the respective communities and/or policies). The minimum archive duration for research data is 10 years after the assignment of a persistent identifier. In the event that these records need to be deleted or destroyed after the expiration of the required archived duration or for legal and ethical reasons, such actions need to consider all legal and ethical perspectives.

OPEN SCIENCE AND CITIZEN SCIENCE

The **IR-HUVH**, through the **Impact and RRI Office** will actively encourage the uptake of Open Science practices (beyond open access to publications and data) such as:

- Involvement in citizen science projects and patient engagement initiatives.
- Dissemination of research results within the society.
- The use and creation of open educational resources.
- Open peer review.
- The release of data and content under open and standard open licenses.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The **IR-HUVH** will commit to:

1. Ensuring that the chosen repositories meet trusted quality standards (OpenAIRE compatible, meeting FAIR principles, has a transparent repository policy) and are linked with European Open Science Cloud (EOSC).
2. Ensuring that the chosen repositories are registered in appropriate registries and are interoperable through the OpenAIRE Guidelines.

RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

The **IR-HUVH** will commit to:

1. Align to the [Declaration on Research Assessment \(DORA\)](#) and the agreement of the [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment \(CoARA\)](#) principles to improve the evaluation processes of our researchers and their research outcomes.
2. Developing in cooperation with funding agencies, the internal Evaluation Committees, institutional departments and other appropriate units a framework for research assessment and evaluation that incentivizes research quality and Open Science behaviours and practices. Such systems should take into consideration disciplinary differences and their impact on researchers at different career stages.
3. Conceptualize and set up reward mechanisms for researchers using Open Science practices (e.g. sharing provisional results through open platforms, using open software and other tools, participation in open collaborative projects (citizen science), sharing data, etc.); adopt open science metrics and 'responsible metrics', along with ways of rewarding the full diversity of outputs and of recording the broader social impact of research ('next generation metrics').

TRAINING

The **IR-HUVH** will commit to:

1. Develop training courses to facilitate the adoption of open science practices and equip researchers, librarians and support staff with the correspondent necessary skills and expertise. Such training courses should cover aspects such as open access publishing, FAIR and open data and data management, research integrity, reproducibility and open science. Standardised and accredited skills for open science will be provided for researchers and required at all career levels, including PhD students and supervisors.
2. Appropriate funding for these activities should be ensured and to that end synergies with RFOs and other stakeholders should be sought.

MONITORING POLICY COMPLIANCE AND VALIDITY OF THE POLICY

The IR-HUVH will set up institutional workflows and define responsibilities at the institutional level for monitoring policy compliance.

This policy will be reviewed and updated by the director of the IR-HUVH and VHIR/VHIO director every two years, although it might be modified in the meantime if necessary.

6. References

This policy is an adaptation to the Accredited Health Research Institute - Vall d'Hebron University Hospital (IR-HUVH) necessities and singularities of the Model Policy on Open Science of

OpenAire: <https://www.openaire.eu/model-policy-on-open-science-for-research-performing-organisations>

Other references:

- MICIN. *Estrategia Nacional de Ciencia Abierta (ENCA) 2023 – 2027*. [Estrategia Nacional de Ciencia Abierta \(ENCA\) 2023-2027](#)
- *Jornada de Ciencia Abierta en los Institutos de Investigación Sanitaria (2021)*. <https://repisalud.isciii.es/handle/20.500.12105/13333>
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- Open Science: A Practical Guide for Early-Career Researchers: [Open Science: A Practical Guide for Early-Career Researchers | Zenodo](#)
- San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (2012). <https://sfedora.org/read/>
- CoARA. The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (2022). <https://coara.eu/agreement/the-agreement-full-text/>

ANNEX: GLOSSARY

- **CORA.RDR** is an instrument for increasing the efficiency and transparency of research through the rapid dissemination of datasets and facilitating their reuse. It's a federated and multidisciplinary repository for the publication of research datasets in FAIR mode following the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) guidelines.
- **FAIR Data** means Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable data. Not all data can be made openly available (e.g. sensitive data). A key principle is that data should be 'as open as possible and as closed as necessary'. In other words, data should be widely disseminated, but access restrictions may be justified in certain situations.
- **Metadata** are the descriptors used for describing, tracing, use and management of the deposited item (indicatively: title of publication, author(s), institutional affiliation, name of journal where the publication has been accepted).
- **Open Educational Resources (OER)** according to the OECD are “teaching, learning and research materials that make use of tools like open licenses that permit their free reuse, continuous improvement and repurposing by others for educational purposes”.
- **Open Peer Review** may refer to a scholarly review mechanism where both the identities of the reviewer and the author are known to one another during the review and publication process, or to systems where reviewer reports are published alongside the

articles, or systems where not only “experts” can comment, or a variety of combinations of the above or other novel methods.

- **Publication** is defined as the peer-reviewed published (or under publication) work of researchers based in the institution.
- **Research Data** is the data (such as statistics, results of experiments, measurements, observations, interview recordings, images, etc.) used to validate the results presented in scientific publications or other data used during a project and described in the Data Management Plan.
- **Research** is defined as any creative and systematically performed work with the goal of furthering knowledge.
- **Researcher** is defined as any member of the research staff of **Vall d'Hebron University Hospital (VHUH)**, **Vall d'Hebron Research Institute (VHIR)** and/or **Vall d'Hebron Institut of Oncology (VHIO)**, of all levels and irrespective of their employment status including employees and doctoral students.
- **Scientia** an institutional repository, the Digital Information Deposit of the Department of Health, as a digital access platform open to scientific literature produced by professionals, research staff and teachers who provide services in the entities and centres that make up the public health system of Catalonia. (Government agreement of March 25, 2015, by which the Scientia institutional repository is created, Deposit of Digital Information of the Department of Health).
- **Suitable Repository** is one that meets quality standards, for example FAIR Principles, OpenAIRE compatibility, CoreTrust Seal.