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**Open letter by the SNSF to publishers Elsevier, Springer Nature and Wiley:  
allow open access to publications after six months at the latest**

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) is the foremost public research funder in Switzerland. On behalf of the Swiss government, it awards research grants worth approximately one billion francs to scientists every year. More than 16,000 researchers are currently working in SNSF-funded projects. Around 30 per cent of all scientific publications emanating from Switzerland benefit from SNSF funding.

A significant share of this work is published in journals issued by your publishing houses. This represents an important contribution to the spread of knowledge, and we highly value your commitment and professionalism in this regard.

**Researchers are obliged to provide open access**

Research findings resulting from SNSF-funded projects belong to the public as they are paid for with public money. And they should therefore be accessible to everyone. All SNSF grant holders have been obliged to provide open access to their research results since 2008 (open access requirement of the SNSF).

The SNSF facilitates this by awarding grants covering the costs of publishing in scientific journals that are fully open access (gold road). We also accept the green road, i.e. the researchers publish their article in a subscription-based journal and archive the manuscript in a freely accessible disciplinary or institutional repository after six months at the latest. Articles in hybrid journals also meet the SNSF requirements, but we do not cover the costs incurred with this model, in which access is paid for twice.

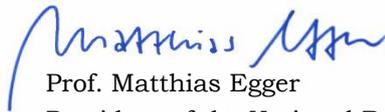
**Limit embargo periods to a maximum of six months**

Many of our grant holders are already publishing in your open access journals with the aid of SNSF funding. They would also be interested in publishing in your other journals but are often prevented from doing so by the embargo periods for some journals, which exceed the six-month limit. This puts the researchers in a difficult position. In order to meet the open access requirement of the SNSF, they are compelled to move on to other journals.

We are therefore asking you to limit the embargo periods for all your journals to six months. In our view, this solution would create a win-win situation: the research findings would continue to be published in your journals, and they would become available in open access mode within a reasonable period of time.

Our goal is crystal clear: all research results from publicly funded projects must be available in an open access format. We are pursuing this goal in concert with numerous international research organisations. By limiting embargo periods to six months for all your journals, you would in turn be demonstrating your commitment to publishing practices that are in step with the times.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Matthias Egger

President of the National Research Council



Angelika Kalt

Director