# The University of Calgary's Open Access Authors Fund

McMaster University and Wilfrid Laurier University, January 27, 2009 Ryerson University, January 28, 2009

## What We've Going To Cover

- What is the Open Access Authors Fund?
- Setting up the Open Access Authors Fund
- Criteria for authors and for journals and more
- The Fund in action
- The future of the Fund
- □ Some issues
- Other OA activities at the University of Calgary

## What is the Open Access Authors Fund?

□ The Open Access Authors Fund is designed to pay the fees charged by some publishers for articles to be published in Open Access (OA) journals by University of Calgary authors

## Setting up the Fund

- BMC membership change (\$5,000 to \$50,000)
- Growth of other submission fees OA publishing programs (fully OA publishers, "hybrid" programs)
- Increasing knowledge and discussion of OA
- Unequal access among authors to money to pay submission fees
- June 2008 start, in conjunction with ALA and SPARC meetings
- □ \$100,000 CAN for 2008/2009

### Criteria – For Authors

- Who is eligible?
- Faculty, staff, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers
- No undergraduate students, no adjuncts (for now)

### Criteria – For Journals

- Fully Open Access journals e.g. BMC, PLoS, Hindawi, some others
- "Hybrid" Open Access journals where subscription costs are lowered in response to the take-up of the OA program e.g. OUP, AIP (others?)

### Other Criteria

- No limits to the number of submissions or costs
- Other fees (e.g. illustration, colour, page charges) are not covered
- Articles only (for now)
- Authors have to exhaust other funding before applying to the Fund
- Author options:
  - Put article in institutional repository
  - Use article in promotion of the Fund

#### The Fund in Action

- Operating since September 2008
- ☐ In a "soft launch"
- 28 official submissions
- Most authors from biomedical fields
- Publishers represented: BMC, PLoS, Hindawi, Dove, Bentham, IOP, Wiley-Blackwell
- 3 rejections

## The Fund in Action (cont.)

- □ About \$45,700 CAN in payments so far
- Average payment=\$1828 CAN
- □ Range of payments: \$664-\$3146 CAN
- Some prepayments and memberships e.g. BMC, PLoS, Hindawi
- Reimbursed authors back to April 1, 2008
- $\square$  1<sup>st</sup> in Canada, 6<sup>th</sup> in the world

#### Some Issues

- ☐ Are we being too generous?
- □ Are we being taken advantage of?
- Are we paying more than if we just had individual subscriptions?
- The Fund vs. the economic situation

### The Future of the Fund

- More advertising, promotion
- More presentations to and talks with U of C departments and faculties and elsewhere
- Advisory group
- Evaluation after first year

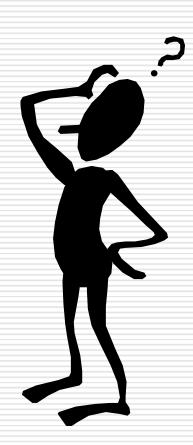
## Other Open Access Activities at the University of Calgary

- □ Institutional Repository (<u>https://dspace.ucalgary.ca/</u>)
  - third largest in Canada
- ☐ University of Calgary Press (<a href="http://www.uofcpress.com/Journals.html">http://www.uofcpress.com/Journals.html</a>)
- □ Synergies Project (<u>http://www.synergiescanada.org/</u>)

### Conclusion

- So far, so good
- We're providing a service of interest to many of our users
- Doing our bit to change the journal publication model
- Getting people to think about Open Access and scholarly communication issues

## Questions? Discussion?



## Your Speaker

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