



We are the Committee for Collective Action in Science and our purpose is to lead, aid and promote initiatives that address exorbitant profiteering in the scientific publishing business and encourage joint effort towards fair and open science.

You have likely already heard of the growing sentiment against exploitative practices in science publishing. In the current system, universities pay unjustly high fees to journals for publishing and subscriptions, while researchers are providing free and largely undocumented labor in the form of peer review and editorial work. Many desire to change this, but at an individual level, the most effective course of action is unclear or could potentially impact one's career.

Changing the status quo can only be achieved with collective action, from researchers, universities, and grant funders. Earlier this year, [editors at Neuroimage](#) already resigned in protest against exorbitant Open Access publishing fees. Collective action at this scale is certainly the most impactful, but we also believe that we can achieve change by building consensus between individual researchers as well. As an example, we are working on inviting scientists to sign a pledge to publish at least one paper in a Diamond Open Access journal in the coming five years, which can serve as a stepping stone to inviting them to make bigger commitments, allowing us to reach a critical mass of support that cannot be ignored.

However, for the highest chance at success in this endeavor, we ask for your help. The committee currently consists of three members. But we are now searching for anyone with a passion for fair and open science willing to contribute to the free our knowledge initiative. For this, we are asking you to join our committee, in any of the roles (General member, Social media and communications, Web developer, Secretary, Honorary member). We ask for a commitment of one year, and we have an agreement drafted to establish our mutual expectations for time commitment and responsibilities. Note, anyone who is in one way or another involved in the academic publishing system is invited to apply, e.g., researcher, librarian, or editor.

If you are interested in joining the committee for a year, please contact us and provide a short statement of interest and CV. We are currently looking for members **ideally working in cognitive (neuro)science broadly conceived¹** who can take up the responsibility of social media & outreach, general secretary, grant acquisition, and planning initiatives for collective action. We expect that committee members will be able to invest at least 1 to 3 hours per week on this project. You will be listed as a committee member on the Free Our Knowledge website and you will have provided a valuable service to the scientific community that can be beneficial to your CV.

Any applications and inquiries can be sent to L.Kemp@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Best regards,
Laurens Kemp, Dan Hudson, Wim Pouw

¹sociology, anthropology, AI, psychology, philosophy, linguistics, neuroscience, human movement science