NIMBioS Publication, Page Charge and Open Access Fee Policy

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This is to clarify the obligations of NIMBioS with regard to fees associated with products arising from NIMBioS activities.

1. Publications by postdocs:

As per the welcome discussion held with each new postdoc, our standard policy is that we pay charges that are necessary for the paper to be published (within reason) if the work was carried out in whole or in part at NIMBioS and the postdoc is still in residence. These are typically called “page charges” and may include charges for color or other special document fees, but we encourage the authors to ensure that these fees are essential to the clear presentation of material in the paper. Color charges can be exorbitant, and we encourage authors to keep costs within reasonable bounds. If the postdoc is no longer in residence, the work was carried out here, NIMBioS is identified as the affiliation, and the work was submitted for publication while still here, we will cover reasonable page charges. In all cases, we encourage the postdoc to seek appropriate sources to cover these from the journal, professional society, UT Research Office, current employer, etc. If the paper was submitted after leaving NIMBioS, but is based in part upon work carried out while here, we encourage former postdocs to seek funds from their current employer to pay publication charges, but are open to some split of the charges if a substantial part of the effort was done at NIMBioS and NIMBioS is formally acknowledged.

Open access fees: For certain on-line-only publications, these fees are essentially the same as page charges, and NIMBioS will cover them as per the above just as if they are page charges assuming they are required for publication. For other publication outlets, open access fees are an additional cost, not required for publication. In general NIMBioS will not cover additional fees charged in order to allow complete open public access except under specific circumstances. These circumstances could include an argument that the paper under consideration is expected to generate significant broad public interest (e.g. due to expected press coverage) and having the paper appear as open access will enhance broad dissemination that will further both the postdoc’s career and provide publicity for NIMBioS. In this situation, before coverage of open access fees will be considered, the postdoc is expected to have collaborated with the NIMBioS Communications Manager about press coverage. Decision about payment of additional fees will then be made by the Director in consultation with the Associate Director for Scientific Activities, the Communications Manager, and Deputy Director.

In all the above situations, postdocs are expected to have been in contact with the Deputy Director well in advance of any necessary payment. Once agreement has been reached about payments to be covered by NIMBioS, the postdoc is expected to provide all necessary charge information in a timely manner to the NIMBioS Business Manager.

2. Publications by NIMBioS faculty and staff:

In general, if a publication arises from a faculty member’s research program, it is expected that publication charges will be covered by their home unit(s). If a publication arises due to the faculty or staff members participation in a NIMBioS activity and the publication is directly related to that activity, NIMBioS will cover publication charges although the faculty member is expected to negotiate to obtain some cost coverage from their home unit or other sources (e.g. external support on awards to them) if
available. In general, NIMBioS will cover costs for any publication by a full-time NIMBioS staff member as long as the publication is related to their NIMBioS responsibilities. The above comments regarding open access fees under postdoc publications also apply to publications by faculty and staff.

3. Publications by non-UT Participants in NIMBioS activities:

In general, NIMBioS will not cover publication charges of any kind arising from Working Groups, Workshops, Short-term Visits, etc., unless authorship involves a NIMBioS postdoc and/or faculty or staff member under a situations covered under 1 or 2 above.

4. Publications by NIMBioS Sabbatical Fellows or Visiting Graduate Student Fellows:

In general, NIMBioS expects that publications arising from these activities will have costs covered by the Fellow’s home institution. If the publication is a direct outcome of the Fellow’s activities at NIMBioS and is submitted for publication while the Fellow is in residence at NIMBioS, then NIMBioS will consider sharing the costs of the publication with the Fellow’s home institution. As with any publications arising from NIMBioS support, it is expected that the Fellow will acknowledge NIMBioS in publications whether NIMBioS provides publication support or not.

5. Publications by NIMBioS Graduate Research Assistants:

In general, if a publication arises from a GRA’s research program, it is expected that publication charges will be covered by their home unit(s) or by funds available through their major professor. If a publication arises due to the GRA’s participation in a NIMBioS scientific activity and the publication is directly related to that activity, NIMBioS will cover publication charges although the GRA is expected to negotiate to obtain some cost coverage from their home unit or other sources (e.g. the Graduate School) if available.