

NEWS



Research bodies vow to share data on Zika

Zosia Kmietowicz

The BMJ

Academic journals, charities, research funders, and institutes have committed themselves to sharing data and results relevant to the current Zika virus outbreak and future public health emergencies as rapidly and openly as possible.

The organisations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Médecins Sans Frontières, the US National Institutes of Health, and the UK health research charity the Wellcome Trust, along with leading academic journals such as *The BMJ*, *Nature*, *Science*, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*, have signed a joint declaration and hope that other bodies will add their names to the statement in the coming weeks.

The statement is intended to ensure that any information that might have value in combating the Zika outbreak is made

available to all, free of charge, as soon as is feasibly possible. Journal signatories have said that doing this would not preclude researchers from subsequently publishing papers in their titles.

Jeremy Farrar, director of the Wellcome Trust and a signatory to the statement, said, "Research is an essential part of the response to any global health emergency. This is particularly true for Zika, where so much is still unknown about the virus, how it is spread, and the possible link with microcephaly.

"It's critical that as results become available they are shared rapidly in a way that is equitable, ethical, and transparent. This will ensure that the knowledge gained is turned quickly into health interventions that can have an impact on the epidemic."

Signatories to the statement

Academy of Medical Sciences, UK
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
 Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
The BMJ
Bulletin of the World Health Organization
 Canadian Institutes of Health Research
 US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 Chinese Academy of Sciences
 Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
 Department of Biotechnology, Government of India
 Department for International Development, UK
 Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
 eLife
 Economic and Social Research Council, UK
 F1000
 Fondation Mérieux
 Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz)
 Institut Pasteur
 Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
 JAMA Network
Lancet
 Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF)
 National Academy of Medicine
 National Institutes of Health, US
 National Science Foundation, US
New England Journal of Medicine
 PLoS
Science journals
 South African Medical Research Council
 Springer Nature
 UK Medical Research Council
 Wellcome Trust
 ZonMw (Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development)