

NEWS



Research bodies vow to share data on Zika

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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)