



PRESS STATEMENT

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UK organisation provides free publication of PNG's medical research

Research publications done by the PNG Institute of Medical Research (IMR) will be published for free by BioMed Central (BMC), a UK-based Science, Technology and Medicine publisher.

This also means that these publications will be freely accessed – online and in print, to any interested persons who want to know more about the medical research work done by IMR in the country.

An agreement – The Berlin Declaration, was signed between the Institute and BMC early this month, which paves way for free exchange and dissemination of research information.

The agreement also signifies the Foundation Membership status of the IMR in BMC.

According to BMC, this status enables its members, mostly universities from developing countries to achieve the most widespread dissemination of research published by their scientists through unlimited submission of research papers.

Jeffrey Kapata, Head Librarian of the Institute's Michael Alpers Library, says it is a grand opportunity for IMR.

“For us, this arrangement will not only further promote and publicise our publications and work but also allow millions around the world including PNG to freely access these information,” he said.

“This is a great communication tool for information dissemination, education and awareness about the different health diseases, problems, challenges affecting Papua New Guineans that are being researched by IMR,” he said.

Director of IMR, Professor Peter Siba, who continues to advocate for more publications by national researchers at the Institute, salutes this arrangement but also challenged researchers to publish.

“Publishing papers after the completion of a project is an exhausting task, but with such an avenue being created to freely publish our research, the onus is on us as researchers to write papers and ensure that the outcomes of our research are shared.”

With this arrangement, all research papers once completed, peer-reviewed and approved by the Institute's Director will be submitted to the Head Librarian, who will submit them to BMC for publication.

BMC is a Science, Technology and Medicine publisher of 265 peer-reviewed open access journals. These journals cover all areas of biology, biomedicine and medicine.