

# Open Access

## A grad student perspective!

Colúm Connolly

October 25<sup>th</sup> 2013

# Who am I?



5<sup>th</sup> PhD in Medical Genetics

Completed BSc (Hons) in Dublin City University,  
Ireland in Genetics and Cell Biology

Vice President Academic and External Affairs at  
the Graduate Student Society (UBC-V)

# Green Open Access

Can be discipline-specific

Can be institution-based

Author preserves certain rights when they submit their journal to a publisher.

As of February 2012, there are 2170 repositories worldwide, with a growth rate of just under one new repository a day. Canada houses 56 repositories.

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As journals typically gain their revenues from selling access, there are a number of modified business models that open access journals use:

- hybrid open/closed access,
- submission fees and
- embargoes on open content.

# “Serials crisis”

## Extreme price increase of scholarly journals

Between 1986 and 2003

Price per prescription rose by 68%

Library subscription expenses rose 260%

Library subscription expanded to 14% more journals

All in despite of technological advances

# What is Access like now?

Scholars at large institutions like UBC have access to around 98,000 serial subscriptions

University of Manitoba have access to around 18,000

In developing countries access is severely limited!

# Students main problem with current system

Through our taxes and tuition we underwrite a vast portion of research, yet we are denied access to the results unless we also pay often very expensive subscription fees.

Universities role and Open Access?

# Publishing in OA journals

Some OA journals require authors who wish to be published to pay author fees. Prices can vary from \$100 to \$5000, with most around \$3000.

These include pure OA journals, where each article is released OA, and hybrid journals that contain a mix of classically released and OA content.

When choosing to publish, researchers may favor the less author-costly option of a non-OA journal. **Author funds, which researchers can receive to cover author fees, are crucial in incentivizing OA publication.**

Some institutions have established author funds to pay for author fees.



# Universities role within Open Access

To foster research for the betterment of society, University Persons are encouraged to discuss and Publicly Disclose the results of their research, including University Research Products, as soon and as fully as may be reasonable and possible, provided that doing so will not violate any agreements that supported or are related to their research.

University Persons are reminded that Publicly Disclosing the details of an invention or discovery may make it impossible to seek patent protection for such invention or discovery

# Where does intellectual property lie?

To promote the dissemination of knowledge and maximize the University's impact on society

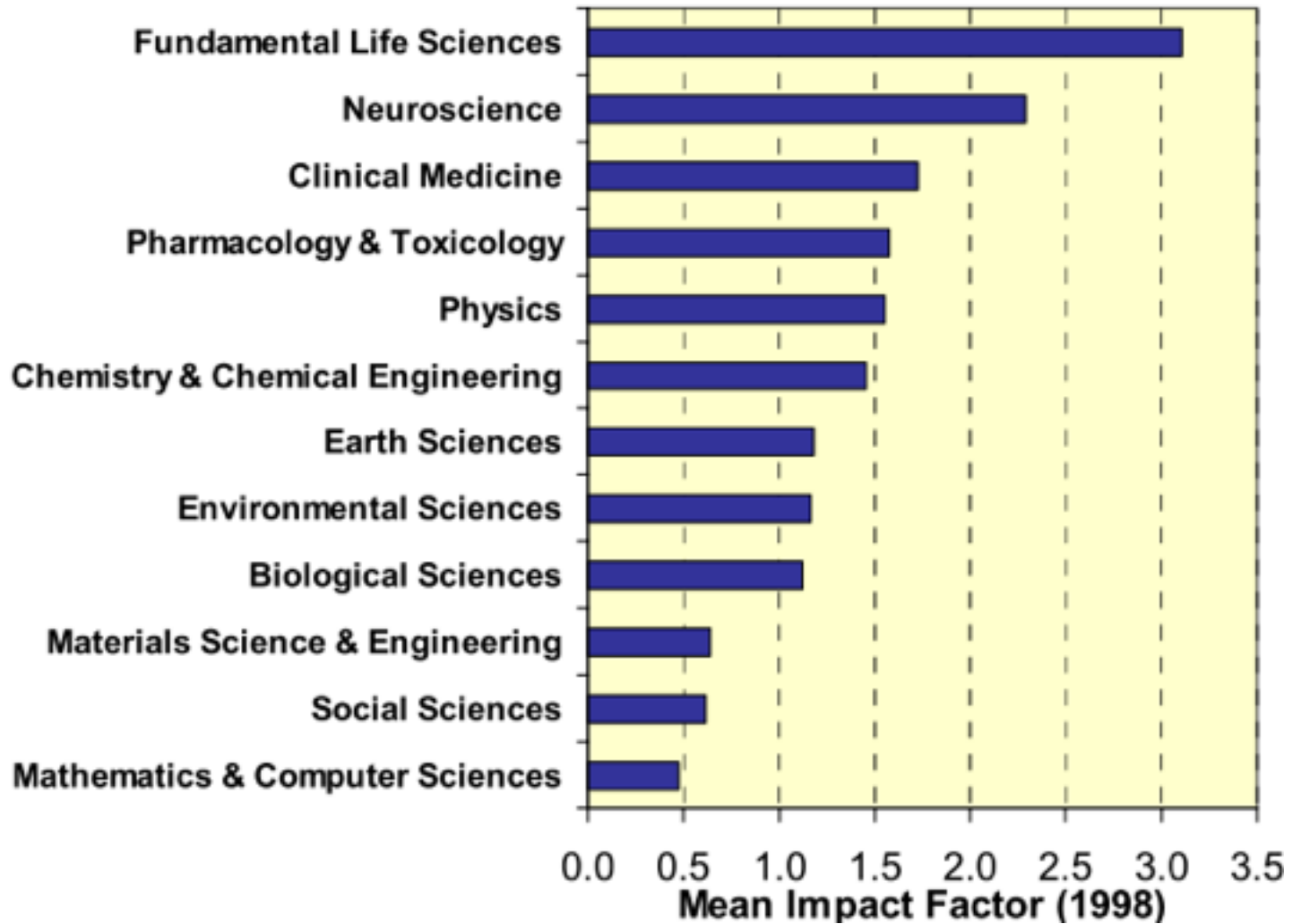
To facilitate the non commercial use of inventions arising from University Research

To establish the University as a hub of knowledge transfer and networking between researchers, industry and customers;

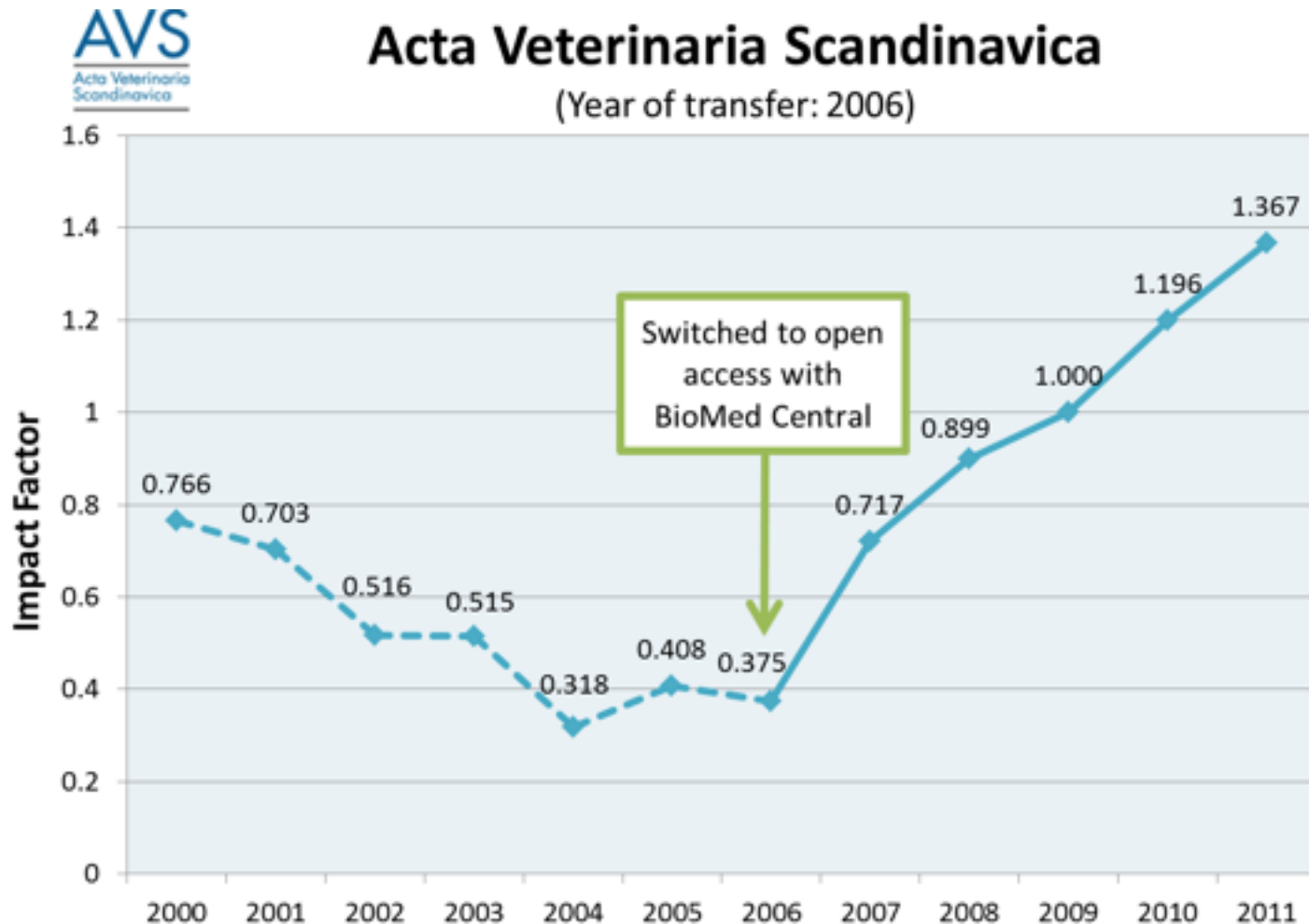
To maximize the University's impact on economic development and GDP growth

To build constructive relationships with industry and entrepreneurs and cement the University's role as a leader in the Mobilization of research.

# Everyone wants a cell paper



# How will Open Access effect impact factor driven culture



# Tri-council

## **NSERC, SSHRC want feedback on open access**

**Comments invited on draft policy Oct. 15 to Dec. 13**

By Evelyn Boychuk, CBC News | Posted: Oct 15, 2013 4:26 PM ET | Last Updated: Oct 15, 2013 4:26 PM ET



The Tri-agency Open Access Policy is modelled after the open access policy in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, which went into effect in 2008. It requires researchers to make their published research available for free to the public within 12 months of publication.

# What students can and are doing

Be actively involved in a culture change

Discuss Open Access publication with your professor early in your career

With ongoing technological advancements we as academics and future leaders of society need to drive change

# The Right to Research coalition

- The Right to Research Coalition
  - “Access to research is a student right”
  - “Open Access seeks to return scholarly publishing to its original purpose: to spread knowledge and allow that knowledge to be built upon.”

# Open Access Button

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- tracks how often readers are denied access to academic research, where in the world they were or their profession and why they were looking for that research.





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# Summary

Open access will require a culture change at all levels

Open access is inevitable – will we ever see a vuzer to illegally download journal articles?

This is an opportunity for us all to get involved and make a change for the better

# References

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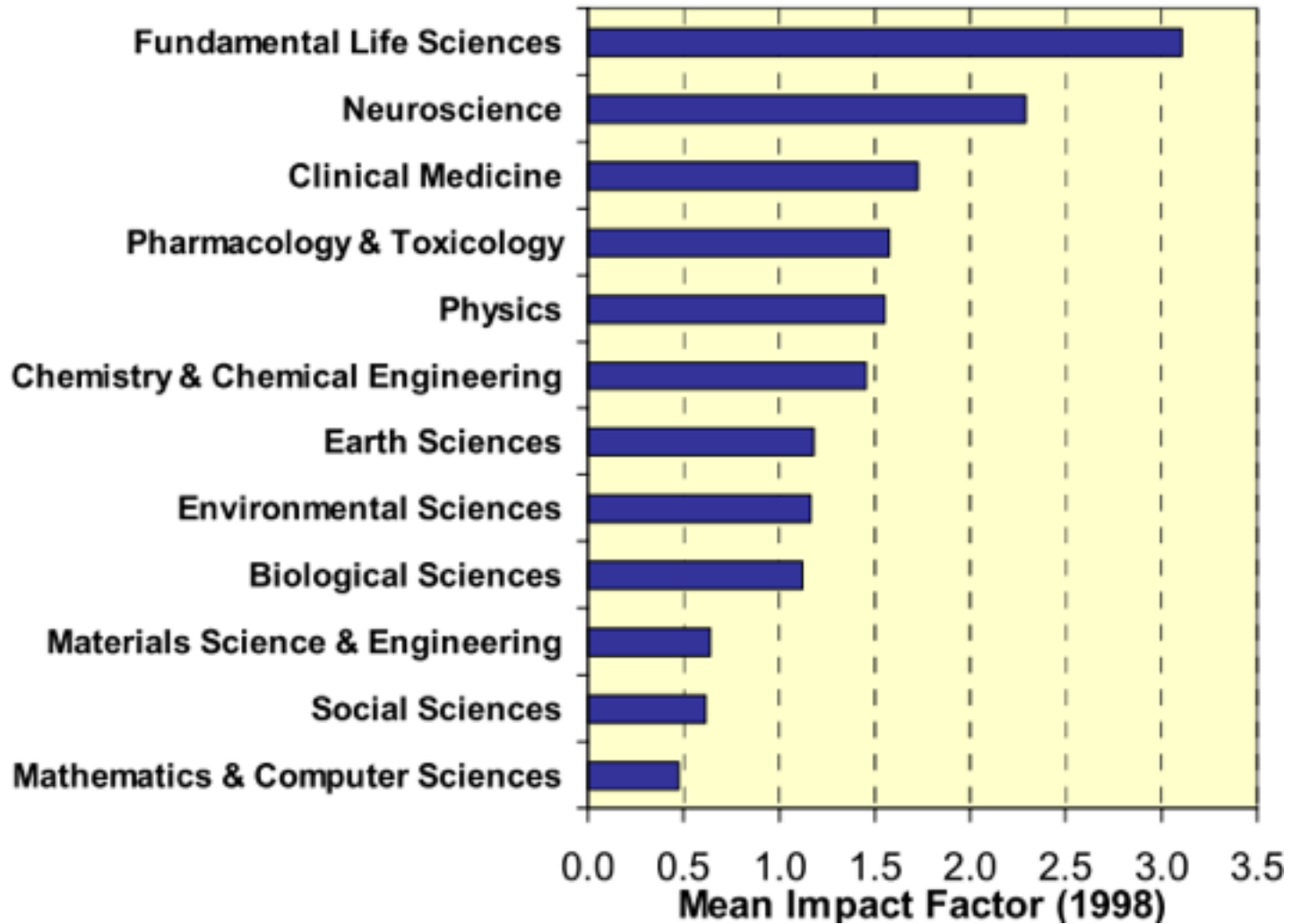
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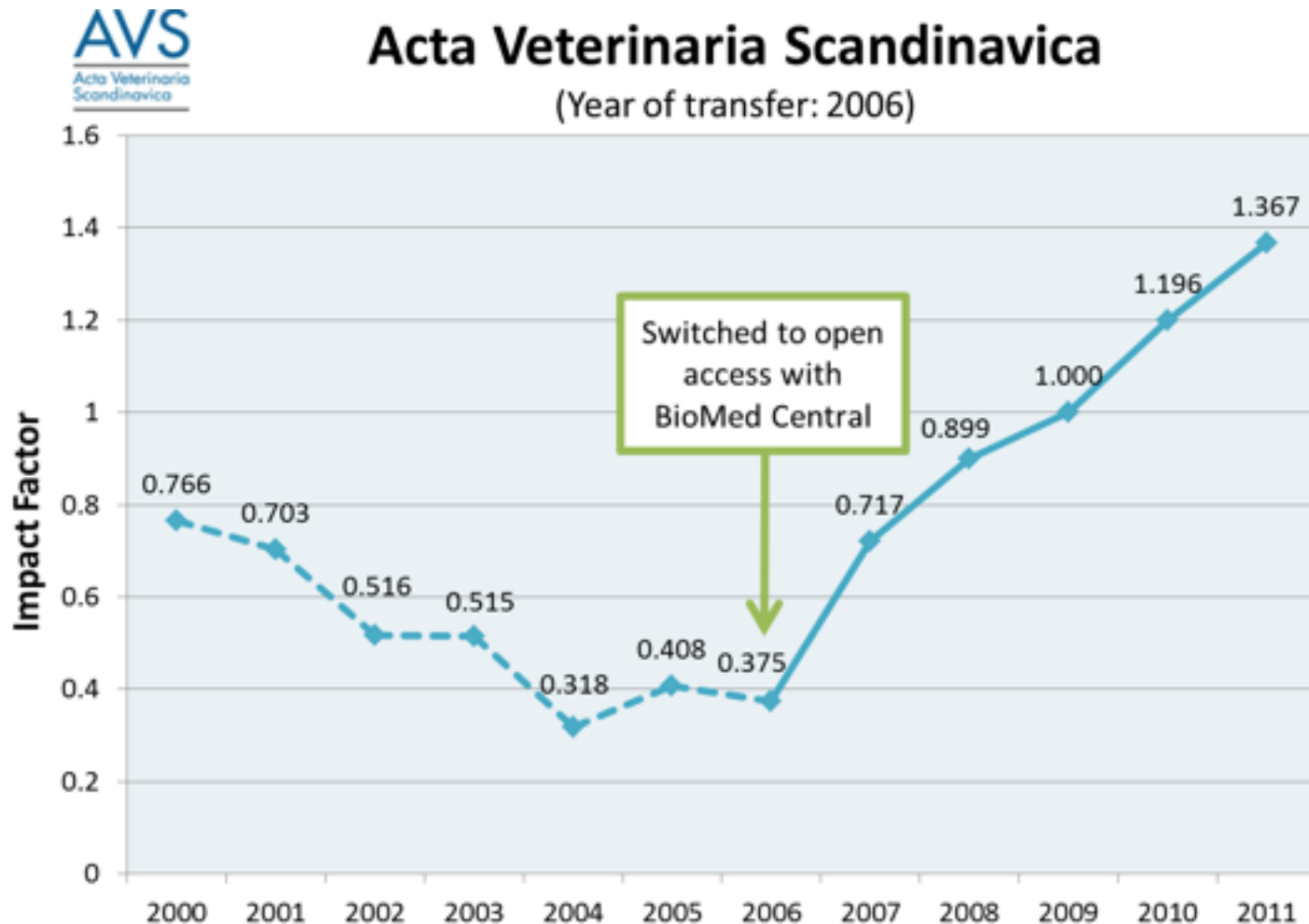
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