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Nature Publishing Group to publish genomes using Creative Commons licence

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) announced today that is introducing a Creative Commons licence for original research articles publishing the primary sequence of an organism's genome for the first time in any of the *Nature* journals.

The Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence will enable researchers to freely share and adapt the work, provided the original is attributed and not used for commercial purposes, and that any resulting work is distributed under a similar licence. No publication fees will be applicable, and the articles will be available free of charge. The policy was announced today in *Nature*, and details are available on NPG's License to publish page: www.nature.com/authors/editorial_policies/license.html and in a policy statement published on the NPG press room (www.nature.com/npg_/press_room).

Nature Publishing Group has been honoured to publish first reports on many significant publicly-funded genome sequencing and analysis projects, most notably the human genome, published in *Nature* in February 2001. *Nature* has also published genome sequences of the [Y chromosome](#), [mouse](#), [opossum](#), [honeybee](#) and [chimpanzee](#) among others.

"Nature journals have regularly published articles reporting novel primary genome-wide sequences without access control. NPG supports genomics community agreements that genome sequences should be placed in the public domain to maximize benefits to society. We now have the opportunity to formalise our position with the introduction of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike licence for primary genome sequence articles published in Nature journals," said David Hoole, Head of Content Licensing at NPG.

Wherever possible, NPG will apply the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike licence retrospectively to original research articles reporting novel primary genome-wide sequences that have previously been published in *Nature* journals. Only original research articles publishing the primary sequence of an organism's genome for the first time will be offered to users under the Creative Commons licence. All other articles published by the *Nature* journals will remain under NPG's existing licensing and copyright agreements. Under these agreements authors of original research articles retain their copyright, giving NPG an exclusive [licence-to-publish](#). This licence encourages self archiving of the accepted version of the authors manuscript, and is compatible with all major funders access policies, including NIH, Wellcome Trust, MRC, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, CRUK and DFG.

NPG is committed to maintaining consistency in licensing arrangements across its NPG portfolio. *Molecular Systems Biology*, an open access journal published jointly by NPG and the [European Molecular Biology Organization](#) (EMBO), announced in

October that it will offer all authors the option of publishing articles under the Creative Commons Attribution -Non-Commercial-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

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Nature Publishing Group is a division of Macmillan Publishers Ltd, dedicated to serving the academic, professional scientific and medical communities. NPG's flagship title, *Nature*, was first published in 1869. Other publications include *Nature* research journals, *Nature Reviews*, *Nature Clinical Practice* and a range of prestigious academic journals including society-owned publications. NPG also provides news content through *Nature News*. Scientific career information and free job postings are offered on *Naturejobs*.

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