



Fostering Open Science at the AHA



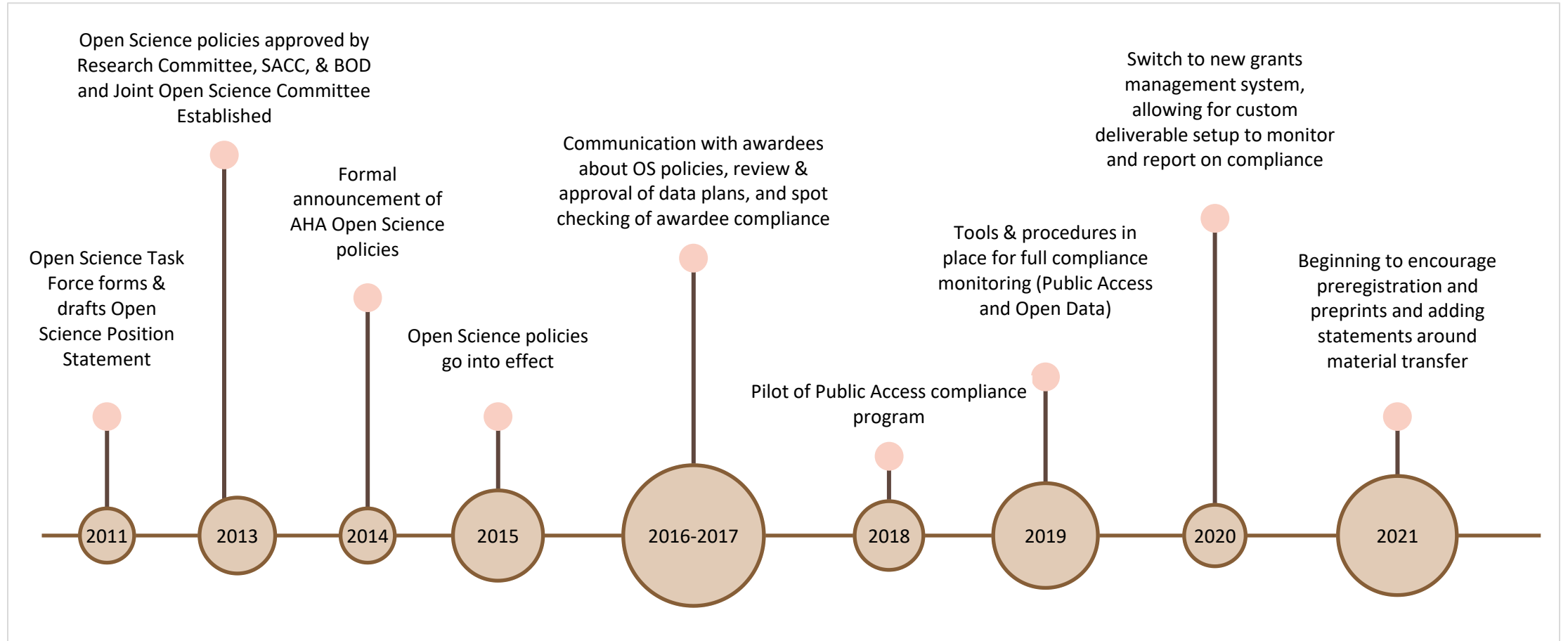
American
Heart
Association.

The AHA has two policies related to open science:

Open Data Policy requires that any research data that is needed for independent verification of research results must be made freely and publicly available in an AHA approved repository within 12 months of the end of the funding period (and any no-cost extension). Specified early-career awards are exempt from this policy.

Public Access Policy requires that all journal articles resulting from AHA funding should be made freely available in PubMed Central and linked to an AHA award within 12 months of publication. It is the responsibility of the author to ensure that the proper rights are retained to ensure this occurs.

Timeline of Open Science Policy Activities



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How it's going...

Out of 4050 awardees whose awards began 1/1/15 or later and who were eligible:

- **5.3%** (N=214) fully in compliance with the AHA's Public Access Policy
- **11.3%** (N=456) have non-embargoed articles in PMC.
- **29.9%** (N=1211) have registered for HRA Open.
- **9.2%** (N=374) have articles in PMC that can be linked to AHA (either through HRA Open or through funder data entered in PMC at time of submission).

- A recent survey of other funders reported a similar rate of compliance for this type of policy^[1].

^[1] (Kipphut-Smith, 2018)

Pain Points

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- No incentive to return to grants management system to report where data was deposited. We have roughly 40 awardees who have returned and confirmed their data deposits.
- Ensuring deposited data is not just data associated with publications but is the full data that would be necessary to replicate results from the project.
- Confusion around data vs. publications and timing of data deposition.
- Multi-step process for linking awards with publications.

Success Stories



Datasets uploaded to Figshare, NCBI Geo DataSets, ClinicalTrials.gov, NCBI Gene and others.



Datasets that have been shared ARE being viewed and downloaded by others.



Other organizations have contacted us about our data sharing policy, and we've shared examples of it in practice.



Since 2017, the number of AHA-funded publications in PMC has doubled every year.



Final thoughts

- Don't get caught up in requirements. There is a lot of value in just educating and encouraging open science practices.
- Get buy-in from leadership, volunteers, and awardees. The AHA had support at all levels of the organization when implementing these policies.
- Everything is a continuum. There's no right or wrong policy. Find what works best for your organization and your stakeholders.

References

Kipphut-Smith, S. e. (2018). Measuring Open Access Policy Compliance: Results of a Survey. *Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication*, eP2247. <https://doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.2247>