Open Science Practice Badges at Ear and Hearing:

Starting in 2020, authors of accepted manuscripts in Ear and Hearing are eligible to earn up to three badges in recognition of open scientific practices. These include an Open Data badge, an Open Materials badge and a Pre-registered badge.

To apply for one or more of these badges acknowledging open practices, authors must provide the information requested in the Open Practices Disclosure form. At initial manuscript submission authors will be asked if they are interested in applying for one of more of these badges. Interested authors will be required to submit the form prior to final acceptance.

Badge icons will be displayed at the beginning of the article along with the URL, doi or other permanent path for accessing the appropriate documentation for access. Badges are awarded following the disclosure method as described at OSF Disclosure Method in which authors provide public statements affirming achievement of badge criteria. Ear and Hearing evaluates the disclosure before issuing the badge, but does not do more than a cursory evaluation of the data, materials, or registration. Such a review might include: confirming that the provided link leads to the data, materials, or registration on a public, open access repository, and that the linked materials are related to the report. Authors follow criteria for each badge and complete disclosure items that will be made publicly available. Authors are accountable to the community for disclosure accuracy.

Disclosure items

Authors must be able to provide the following in order to qualify for each badge:

- A URL, doi, or other permanent path for accessing the data in a public, open-access repository
- Sufficient information for an independent researcher to reproduce the reported results
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Preregistered Badge*

- URL, doi, or other permanent path to the registration in a public, open-access repository
- An analysis plan registered prior to examination of the data or observing the outcomes
- Any additional registrations for the study other than the one reported
- Any changes to the preregistered analysis plan for the primary confirmatory analysis
- All of the analyses described in the registered plan reported in the article

*Authors who have additional unreported registrations or unreported analyses without strong justification (as determined by the editor in chief) will not qualify for a badge.

If the analysis plan was registered prior to observation of outcomes, the Open Practices note will include the notation DE (Data Exist).

If there were strongly justified changes to an analysis plan, the Open Practices note will include the notation TC (Transparent Changes)

Data, materials, and analysis plans must be permanent, time-stamped, and uneditable. Qualifying public, open-access repositories are committed to preserving data, materials, and/or registered analysis plans and keeping them publicly accessible via the web into perpetuity. Examples include the Open Science Framework and the various Dataverse networks. Hundreds of other qualifying data/materials repositories are listed at the Registry of Research Data Repositories. Preregistration of an analysis plan must take place via a publicly accessible registry system (e.g., OSF, Clinical Trials.gov, AsPredicted.org or other trial registries in the WHO Registry Network). Personal websites and most departmental websites do not qualify as repositories.

There are, of course, circumstances in which it is not possible or advisable to share data, materials, or a research plan publicly. For example, there are cases in which sharing participant data could violate confidentiality. In these cases, the authors may provide an explanation of
such circumstances in the Alternative Note section of the disclosure form. The information the authors provide will be included in the article’s Open Practices note.

More information about these badges can be found in Mario Svirsky’s editorial in the January/February 2020 issue Ear and Hearing and at the Open Science Framework.