Dear UZH Community

I would like to draw your attention to the current LERU (League of European Research Universities) campaign supporting Open Access to scientific publications. In its news release "Moving Forwards on Open Access," LERU calls upon the European Commission and the forthcoming Dutch EU Presidency to substantially improve both the framework conditions and the business models for Open Access to publications in Europe. In particular LERU warns against "double dipping" (payment of subscription and Open Access Article Processing Charges within the context of Gold Open Access) and demands standardized and shorter embargo periods for secondary publications (Green Open Access).

As a member of LERU and as an institution strongly committed to Open Access, UZH fully embraces the arguments brought forward in the LERU statement. UZH has therefore decided to sign the online petition launched by LERU to gather support for their Open Access initiative. I am convinced that broad support from the UZH community is important for two reasons: as a strong signal of solidarity with our European partners, and because Open Access is naturally of great relevance to our own institution. If you would like to support the LERU campaign, I encourage you to consider signing the petition. You can access it, along with the news release, via the following link:

LERU will submit the petition to the Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Carlos Moedas, and the Dutch EU Presidency in the first half of 2016.

You can find further information about Open Access on the website of the Main Library of UZH (http://www.oai.uzh.ch/), including examples of new approaches abroad that are applied in the spirit of the LERU petition.

Sincerely
Michael O. Hengartner
President