

April 28, 2008

Dear Members of the NIH Research Community:

I am writing to remind you that the mandatory NIH Public Access Policy (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-08-033.html>) applies to final peer-reviewed manuscripts accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008. Making published research funded by NIH accessible to everyone, including health care providers, patients, educators and scientists, helps advance science and improve human health. We all have a role to play in achieving this goal, and I appreciate your efforts to make the NIH Public Access Policy successful.

The NIH Public Access Policy implements Division G, Title II, Section 218 of PL 110-161 (see <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/policy.htm>), which was signed into law late last year. Compliance with this Policy is a legal requirement and a [term and condition](#) for all active grants and contracts awarded as of April 7, 2008. Failure to comply may trigger one or more enforcement actions, depending on the severity and duration of the non-compliance.

Please see the [Public Access Web site](#) for the tools you need to comply with the Policy. The Web site houses Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#)), training information, and other resources.

To ensure compliance with the Policy, please remember to:

**Address Copyright** - Make sure that any copyright transfer or other publication agreements allow your paper to be submitted to NIH in accordance with the Policy.

#### **Submit Papers upon Acceptance for Publication**

1. Some journals will submit the final published article on your behalf, without your involvement. See [http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit\\_process\\_journals.htm](http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm) for a list of these journals.
2. For any journal other than those on this list, please:
  - a. When submitting a paper for publication, inform the journal that the final peer-reviewed manuscript is subject to the NIH Public Access Policy.
  - b. Make sure that any copyright transfer or other publication agreement allows the final peer-reviewed manuscript to be submitted to NIH in accordance with the Policy. For more information, see the FAQ [Whose approval do I need to submit my article to PubMed Central?](#) and consult with your Institution.
  - c. Submit the final peer-reviewed manuscript to NIH upon acceptance for publication at <http://www.nihms.nih.gov/>. See the [Submission Process](#) for more information.

#### **Cite Papers**

- When citing your NIH-funded papers in NIH applications, proposals or progress reports, please include the PubMed Central reference number (PMCID) for each paper.
- NIH will monitor compliance through citations. Effective May 25, 2008, when your NIH Program Officer reviews your progress report or application, he or she will be expecting a PMCID in the citation of every applicable paper that arose out of your NIH funding, or a manuscript submission system reference number (NIHMSID) if the PMCID has not been issued. See Section C of our [FAQ](#) for examples.
- If you publish through a journal listed under [http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit\\_process\\_journals.htm](http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm), there might be a slight delay in

assignment of a PMCID. That is okay. We have signed agreements with these journals that allow NIH to resolve submission with them without your involvement. To facilitate your Program Officer's job, we ask that you indicate 'PMC Journal- In Process' until the PMCID is available.

The NIH Public Access Policy is a legal requirement and represents an important opportunity for science and medicine. We are very interested in your feedback on the Policy and are soliciting input through a request for information from March 31, 2008 to May 31, 2008. Please send any comments or suggestions to <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/comments.htm>.

Sincerely,

Norka Ruiz Bravo, PhD  
NIH Deputy Director for Extramural Research

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