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# NIH Public Access Policy

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# Background

- NIH-supported research is essential to improving human health
- Public Access to information resulting from this research is vital
  - Engage public in biomedical research
  - Demonstrate productivity resulting from NIH budget
  - Enable information integration of biomedical literature and databases

# NIH Leading the Way

- Establish digital archive of publicly funded research
  - Create venue for NIH funded authors to make work available independent of particular publication
  - Provide high quality medical information for Internet-savvy public
  - Enable end-to-end electronic management of NIH grant process & better portfolio analysis
  - Establish an archive of NIH funded research

# Public Access Policy Background

- **House Appropriations Language**
  - FY2005 appropriations report for NIH
- **Recommendation to develop a policy about depositing manuscripts reporting on NIH grant supported work into PubMed Central**

# Policy Goals

## ■ ACCESS

- Provide electronic access to NIH-funded research publications for patients, families, health professionals, teachers, and students.

## ■ ARCHIVE

- Keep a central archive of NIH-funded research publications—for now and in the future, preserving vital medical research results and information for years to come.

## ■ ADVANCE SCIENCE

- Advance science by creating an information resource that will make it easier for scientists to mine medical research publications, and for NIH to better manage its entire research investment.

# Policy Development

- **Proposed Policy** (September 2004), to enhance public access to archived publications resulting from NIH-funded research.
- **Public Comments**
  - Public meetings: Publishers and Associations (July 2004), Investigators (August 2004)
  - Disease advocacy groups (August 2004)
  - Notice in *NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts* (September 3, 2004)
  - Notice in *Federal Register* (September 17, 2004)
  - Talks, visits, interviews, letters
- **6,249 comments received**

# Final Policy Revisions

In response to feedback, NIH revised the proposed policy in February 2005 to:

- Emphasize the **voluntary nature of authors' submissions**.
- Clarify “**NIH-funded investigators**” to mean those **supported with “direct costs”** from NIH.
- Provide **authors with flexibility to specify the timing of the posting** of their final manuscript for public accessibility through PMC.
- **Strongly encourage posting** for public accessibility through PMC **as soon as possible** and within 12 months of the publisher's official date of final publication.



# Final Policy

- **Published February 3, 2005 in the *NIH Guide* and *Federal Register***
- **NIH-funded investigators are requested to submit an electronic version of the author's final manuscript upon acceptance for publication, resulting from research supported in whole or in part, with direct costs from NIH.**
- **Beginning May 2, 2005, electronic submission will be made directly to the NLM's PubMed Central (PMC) digital repository of full-text, peer-reviewed, biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research journals.**



# Final Policy

- **At the time of submission, author specifies the timing of the posting for public accessibility.**
- **NIH strongly encourages authors to post for public accessibility as soon as possible (and within twelve months of the publisher's official date of final publication). NIH expects that only in limited cases will authors deem it necessary to select the longest delay period.**

# Final Policy – Coverage & Timing

## ■ *The policy applies to:*

- Peer-reviewed publications resulting from research supported in whole or in part with direct costs from NIH
- All research and career development award mechanisms, cooperative agreements, contracts, NRSA grants, and NIH intramural research studies

## ■ *The policy does not apply to:*

- Book chapters, editorials, reviews, conference proceedings

## ■ *Authors should submit publications resulting from:*

- Currently funded NIH research projects or
- Previously supported NIH research projects that are accepted for publication on or after May 2, 2005

■ **Author's final manuscript** = final version accepted for journal publication and includes all modifications from the peer review process

# NIH Public Access Implementation

- Establish Public Access Advisory Working Group of NLM Board of Regents composed of stakeholders to advise NIH and NLM on implementation and evaluation of policy.
- Develop information and training for NIH program staff and funded investigators.
- Launch PubMed Central Author Manuscript Submission System

# NIH Manuscript Submission

<http://www.nihms.nih.gov/>



NIHMS (NIH Manuscript Submission) is currently accepting submissions through the eRA Commons (for NIH Extramural principal investigators, grantees or applicants) and through NIH Login (for Intramural NIH scientists and staff).

Third party submissions will be accepted starting July 6, 2005.

[NIH](#) | [NLM](#) | [NCBI](#) | [PubMed Central](#)

**Log in** to the NIHMS System if you are ready to submit a manuscript.

What is the NIH Public Access Policy? The NIH maintains a **web page** with information relating to the **Public Access Policy**.

Sign up with the **NIHMS News list** to get email notification of significant updates with the system.

Do you have questions about the submission process? Refer to the **NIHMS FAQ**.

The NIHMS also maintains a help desk to assist users with manuscript submissions, and answer any questions related to the submission process. **Contact** the help desk with your queries.

Email questions and comments regarding the NIH Public Access Policy to **PublicAccess@nih.gov**.

The National Institutes of Health Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) system is a service of NCBI. Please [contact us](#) with any questions.

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# Voluntary Submission Process

- Electronic version of author's final manuscript, include all modifications from peer review
  - Will accept most word processing formats or PDF
  - System generates email confirming submission
  - Author specifies public accessibility
  - Author must approve submission and final XML version
  - Publisher's final version may also be submitted
- Submission system is password protected
- Sending electronic copies is voluntary and will not be a factor in the review of scientific progress or in the review of new grant requests.

# Copyright Issues

- The NIH policy explicitly recognizes and upholds the principles of copyright.
- Authors/journals can continue to assert copyright in NIH-funded scientific publications, in accordance with current practice.
- While individual arrangements can take many forms, NIH encourages authors and institutions to sign agreements that specifically allow the manuscripts to be deposited with NIH for public posting on PMC as soon as possible after journal publication

# NIH Public Access



[www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/index.htm](http://www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/index.htm)