NIH Public Access Policy – Effective Date April 7, 2008
Revised Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-Funded Research
Notice Number: NOT-OD-08-033 - (See Notice NOT-OD-08-057)

The Director of the National Institutes of Health shall require that all investigators funded by the NIH submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication: Provided, That the NIH shall implement the public access policy in a manner consistent with copyright law.

— Public Law 110-161, Division G, Title II, Section 218

The Public Access Policy is now mandatory and states that anyone funded by NIH or who publishes with an NIH funded partner must make their published manuscripts available through the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central within 12 months of publication.

What needs to be submitted:

1. The NIH Public Access Policy applies to all peer-reviewed articles that arise, in whole or in part, from direct costs funded by NIH, or from NIH staff, that are accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008. The Policy does not apply to non-peer-reviewed materials such as correspondence, book chapters, and editorials.

2. The final, peer-reviewed manuscript includes all graphics and supplemental materials that are associated with the article.

Submission Process:
NIH developed the NIH Manuscript Submission System (NIHMS) for submitting a copy of the accepted peer-reviewed manuscript and associated files. (http://www.nihms.nih.gov/)

Some journals will deposit peer-reviewed manuscript files on behalf of their authors through the NIHMS. When this happens, authors still have to provide the associated award information, and review and approve the article. The NIHMS will contact them by email to do so. There is an often updated list of journals that will deposit articles in Pubmed Central on the behalf of authors
NIH suggests that authors let the publisher know when they submit their article that they have received NIH funding.

Authors that are submitting an article to a journal that does not comply with the NIH mandate are encouraged to use the MBLWHOI Library’s Amendment to Publication agreement. This form included specific language geared to NIH funded authors. http://www.mblwhoilibrary.org/services/copyright/pdf/amendment.pdf

Compliance

Compliance with the Policy is a statutory requirement and a term and condition of the grant award and cooperative agreement, in accordance with the NIH Grants Policy Statement For contracts, NIH includes this requirement in all R&D solicitations and awards under Section H, Special Contract Requirements, in accordance with the Uniform Contract Format.

Beginning May 25, 2008, anyone submitting an application, proposal or progress report to the NIH must include the PMC or NIH Manuscript Submission reference number when citing applicable articles that arise from their NIH funded research. This policy includes applications submitted to the NIH for the May 25, 2008 due date and subsequent due dates.

For help concerning this policy, please contact the library library@mbl.edu or 508-289-7002.