

# NIH Public Access

*Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-Funded Research*

## NIH Public Access Policy

Updated 2/7/2008, J.L.Rieke

The NIH Public Access Policy ensures that the public has access to the final, peer-reviewed, published results of NIH funded research. It requires that these articles be accessible to the public on PubMed Central to help advance science and improve human health.

On December 26, 2007, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2007 (H.R. 2764) was signed and directs the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to provide public access to its funded research. This new mandate **requires** researchers funded by NIH to submit their manuscripts to PubMed Central®. Scientists who publish in journals that do not submit articles directly to PubMed Central must deposit their manuscripts no later than 12 months after the official date of publication. There was a prior policy (2005) which requested voluntary deposits to PubMed Central. Compliance was minimal and led to this stronger policy.

The Policy applies to you if your peer-reviewed article is based on work in one or more of the following categories:

- Directly<sup>1</sup> funded by an NIH grant or cooperative agreement active in Fiscal Year 2008 (October 1, 2007-September 30, 2008) or beyond;
- Directly<sup>1</sup> funded by a contract signed on or after April 7, 2008;
- Directly funded by the NIH Intramural Program, or
- If NIH pays your salary.

Important Dates:

**April 7, 2008 :** As of April 7, 2008, all articles arising from NIH funds must be submitted to PubMed Central upon acceptance for publication.

**May 25, 2008:** As of May 25, 2008, NIH applications, proposals, and progress reports must include the PubMed Central reference number when citing an article that falls under the policy and is authored or co-authored by the investigator, or arose from the investigator's NIH award. This policy includes applications submitted to the NIH for the May 25, 2008 due date and subsequent due dates.

NIH Public Access Website: <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>

Submission process explained at: [http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit\\_process.htm](http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process.htm)

NIH Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) system at: <http://www.nihms.nih.gov/>

PubMed Central is NIH's digital archive and is located at: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/>

List of journals that deposit articles in PMC with an embargo of 12 months or less:

[http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit\\_process\\_journals.htm](http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm)

Open Access frequently asked questions: <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/FAQ.htm>

If you have further questions about the NIHMS, please e-mail [PublicAccess@nih.gov](mailto:PublicAccess@nih.gov) or click on the "Contact Us" link from the left sidebar of NIH Public Access pages.