

## NIH Research is Available for Public Access

The National Institutes of Health's Public Access Policy ensures that the public has access to the published results of NIH funded research. NIH funds more than \$28 billion on research each year. Currently there are 2.6 million archived articles available for public use, creating an excellent resource of health, science and technical information.

NIH Public Access Policy

The NIH Public Access Policy requires scientists to submit final peer-reviewed journal manuscripts that arise from NIH funded projects to its digital archive, PubMed Central. To help advance science and improve human health, the policy requires that these papers are accessible to the public on PubMed Central no later than 12 months after publication.

The Public Access Policy is part of NIH's Open Access policy. Through the PubMed repository created under the Public Access Policy, these manuscripts and materials are made available to the public.

The original policy was voluntary and went into effect in May 2005, achieving a 4 percent deposit rate of research articles into the archives. The policy became mandatory in April 2008. Through legislation, the NIH Public Access Policy became permanent in March 2009 and now achieves a 70 percent deposit rate.

The access policies at NIH take into consideration some legal challenges with respect to compliance with U.S. copyright law, and underscores the need for NIH grantees and researchers to properly manage copyrights. Awardees must make sure that the final manuscript is submitted with the necessary authority to grant NIH permission to make it publicly available.

The White House, particularly through the Office of Science and Technology Policy, is considering expanding public access policies to publications arising from other federally funded programs. The Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA) would require that 11 U.S. government agencies with annual extramural research expenditures greater than \$100 million make manuscripts of journal articles stemming from research funded by that agency publicly available online.

### New Requirement for 2013

NIH published Notice NOT-OD-12-160 in November announcing actions it will take relating to continuation awards starting in the spring of 2013. Since 2008, compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy has been a statutory requirement and a term and condition of all grant awards and cooperative agreements. While NIH and its awardees have developed increasingly effective ways to track and report compliance with the public access policies, NIH now seeks to improve grantee compliance. With this notice, **NIH informs grantees that in Spring 2013, it will delay processing of noncompeting continuation grant awards if publications under the award are not in compliance with the Public Access Policy. The policy requires that these final peer-reviewed manuscripts be accessible to the public on PubMed Central to help advance science and improve human health. Continuation awards will not be processed until recipients have demonstrated compliance.**

### What is PubMed Central?

PubMed Central is an archive of full-text biomedical journal papers available online without a fee. Papers on PubMed Central contain links to other scientific databases such as GenBank (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Genbank/>) and PubChem (<http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). Papers collected under the Public Access Policy are archived on PubMed Central.

## **For More Information**

More information about PubMed Central is available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/about/faq.html>.

To read more about the NIH Public Access Policy, go to: <http://publicaccess.nih.gov>.

To access the digital archive of journals at PubMed Central within the National Library of Medicine, go to: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc>.

To access PubMed Central directly, go to: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov>.