

ALERT!

NIH PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY

This memo alerts you to an important new federal requirement contained in the Public Access Policy from NIH that will affect current and future NIH grants and contracts.

This Policy implements a provision in the 2008 federal appropriations act which requires that all NIH investigators “*submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central (PMC), an electronic version of their peer reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication...in a manner consistent with copyright law.*” This policy becomes effective **April 7, 2008, but applies to articles arising from grants and cooperative agreements active from October 1, 2007.**

It is the responsibility of the **principal investigator** and institution to ensure compliance with this policy. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development and the campus libraries are developing policies and procedures to help investigators with this process. This memo is to make you aware of this mandatory requirement and tell you what has been done so far.

Compliance involves three main areas: 1) copyright, 2) manuscript submission to PMC, and 3) citing PMC ID numbers in subsequent grant reports and proposals.

(1) Copyright:

UNC authors/investigators must ensure that all agreements with publishers permit submission to PubMed Central after April 7, 2008.

- We will provide a standard letter for publishers that you should include, *with your manuscript*, indicating your intent to comply with this policy.
- We will provide for your use the standard language provided by NIH that should be inserted into a publisher’s copyright agreement at the time your article is *accepted for publication*, ensuring your right to deposit your article and supporting data into PMC. (Some agreements may already contain this language but we recommend adding it as a safeguard.)
- Fletcher Fairey, in the Office of University Counsel, will be available to answer any questions that may arise about language in your publisher’s contract.
- Campus libraries will maintain up to date web sites with additional information about the NIH public access implementation (<http://www.hsl.unc.edu/Collections/ScholCom/>) and copyright and author’s rights (<http://www.lib.unc.edu/scholcom/>).

(2) Submission of your manuscript:

UNC principal investigators must ensure that final peer reviewed manuscripts and accompanying data required by the publisher resulting from their funded research

are deposited into PMC, upon acceptance for publication on or after April 7, 2008 using the NIH Manuscript Submission System (NIHMS) available at <http://www.nihms.nih.gov/>

- The Office of Sponsored Research will incorporate alerts into RAMSeS to remind you of this requirement.
- Some journals will deposit manuscripts on behalf of authors. The NIH maintains a list of these at: http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm. In addition, some may charge a fee for this service; but you can avoid the fee by submitting your manuscript yourself. You are not required to pay the publisher to do this for you.
- You can submit your manuscript yourself or have your designee submit it for you. The NIH site provides tutorials (<http://www.nihms.nih.gov/web-help/index.html>) that explain each step of the process.
- You, as the author of an article submitted to PMC, always have the final sign-off before it is added, so you can be sure that it is complete and accurate. During the submission process, you also have the right to set an embargo period for your article of up to twelve months before it becomes publicly available, if you so choose.
- PubMed Central has been operational since May, 2005 – their staff is available on-line or by telephone at the “help desk” to assist in the implementation of this policy.

(3) Citing PMC or NIHMS reference numbers:

Effective May 25, 2008, UNC investigators must include the NIHMS Submission # or the PMC ID # when citing articles accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008 in progress reports, new applications, and renewals.

- These numbers are available by searching PubMed or PubMed Central.
- Campus libraries are available to assist with locating the appropriate reference numbers.

Library Assistance:

The campus libraries are committed to seeing this new public access policy succeed and will support you in these and other ways:

- Campus libraries plan to schedule educational sessions, in the library or by request in departments, to explain the new policy and its procedures. These will be open to anyone who will play a role in implementing this requirement. Consult library web sites for details or contact the library to request a session at your location.
- Campus libraries will accept specific questions via email, phone, or in person. Staff will respond or refer them to the appropriate authority.
- Campus libraries will maintain up to date information on their web sites about local services and news from NIH, to facilitate smooth implementation.

Other Resources:

- NIH Public Access Policy FAQ: <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/FAQ.htm>
- Journals that systematically submit manuscripts to PMC:
http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm
- Online tutorial on submitting manuscripts to PMC:
[/http://www.nihms.nih.gov/web-help/index.html](http://www.nihms.nih.gov/web-help/index.html)
- FAQ on PubMed Central: <http://pubmedcentral.nih.gov/about/faq.html>

If you have questions about this memo or the NIH Policy, you may contact the User Services Desk at the Health Sciences Library, 962-0800, or by e-mail at hsl-asklib@listserv.unc.edu.