14 March 2008

To NIH-Funded UAMS Researchers:

As many of you know, NIH has released a revised Public Access Policy for peer-reviewed journal articles that report research supported in whole or in part by NIH funds. Under this federal law that takes effect April 7, 2008, NIH is requiring that the final version of any peer-reviewed journal article that resulted from NIH-funded activities must be submitted to the PubMed Central repository within 12 months after the journal article is published. This new policy has several compliance issues that must be addressed by NIH-supported researchers.

Copyright

- Distilled down to its core, NIH-supported authors must ensure that agreements, commonly known as copyright agreements, permit the submission of the author’s manuscript to the PubMed Central repository.

- It is strongly recommended that you should submit with your manuscript a letter that alerts the publisher that your manuscript is subject to the NIH Public Access Policy and that UAMS expects compliance with the policy on the part of both the publisher and authors. Currently, a suggested cover letter is being drafted and will be made available to NIH-supported authors.

- In the event that the publisher’s copyright agreement is inconsistent with the NIH Public Access Policy, it is strongly suggested that wording is added to the publisher’s agreement to ensure that you can comply with the NIH policy. Currently, a suggested addendum to a standard copyright agreements is being developed and when completed will be made available to NIH-supported authors.

Submission of Your Manuscript

- For peer-reviewed manuscripts accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008 that were supported by an NIH grant or cooperative agreement that was active in Federal Fiscal Year 2008, authors must submit the final version of the manuscript to the NIH Manuscript Submission System.

- The submission can be done by the author or by a third party.

- Some publishers (a list can be found at the NIH website) will submit manuscripts for the authors. If you publish in one of these journals, you will be in compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy. However, be forewarned that some publishers will charge a fee for this
service. In those instances, the authors can avoid fees by submitting the manuscript to PubMed Central themselves.

Citing PubMed Central ID Numbers

- Another important piece of the NIH Public Access Policy is the requirement for anyone submitting an application, proposal or progress report to NIH to include the PubMed Central ID Numbers of NIH-supported peer-reviewed papers.

- This requirement becomes effective May 25, 2008. However, you only need to provide the PubMed Central ID Number for articles accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008.

- Authors should be aware that PubMed and PubMed Central are two different databases. Therefore, a PubMed ID number (or PMID) is not the same as a PubMed Central ID number (or PMCID). To be in compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy, authors must submit the PubMed Central ID number of their NIH-supported peer-reviewed papers to NIH

Other Resources

The UAMS Library will provide assistance to authors who have questions about the policy or need assistance in order to comply with the policy, e.g., finding publisher's policies, finding PubMed Central ID Numbers.

The NIH Public Access Policy can be found at:  http://publicaccess.nih.gov/

The list of journals that will submit articles to PubMed Central can be found at:  http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm

The website for the NIH Manuscript Submission System:  http://www.nihms.nih.gov/


It is extremely important that NIH-supported authors comply with this policy since NIH has made it clear that grant funding may be withheld in the absence of compliance. Currently, UAMS is working on a formal policy for authors who are funded by NIH, and is developing resources and support services to assist authors, departmental business managers and other University staff who are involved in complying with these new requirements. In the interim, if you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact one of us at your convenience.

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