NIH Public Access Policy Summary

The National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy ensures the public has access to published results arising from NIH-funded research by requiring authors to submit journal articles to the National Library of Medicine’s digital archive PubMed Central. See http://www.research.uci.edu/ora/sp/NIHopenaccess.htm.

The Public Access Policy requires posting of peer-reviewed articles based on research:
- Funded by an NIH grant or cooperative agreement active in Fiscal Year 2008 (October 1, 2007-September 30, 2008) and beyond;
- Funded by an NIH contract signed on or after April 7, 2008;
- Funded by the NIH intramural program; or
- As an NIH employee.

Peer-reviewed articles, including all graphics and supplemental materials that are associated with the article, must be posted to PubMed Central within 12 months after publication.

Investigators must ensure that the copyright transfer or other agreement signed with a publisher allows articles to be posted to PubMed Central. Insert language suggested by NIH or UC to revise a publishing agreement. See the UC letter to publishers at http://www.research.uci.edu/ora/forms/sp/NIHPubMedPublisherLtr-3-6-08.pdf.

Articles may be submitted by investigators or their staff, or by the publisher. See http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm for a list of journals that will automatically post to PubMed Central if NIH funds are involved. To submit articles directly to the NIH Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) system, go to http://www.nihms.nih.gov. Either way, investigators must review and approve the manuscript to complete the transfer to PubMed Central.

Beginning May 25, 2008, articles cited in NIH applications, proposals and progress reports that fall under the Policy and were authored or co-authored by the investigator must include the PubMed Central reference number (PMCID). Include the NIHMS reference number (NIHMS ID) if a PubMed Central number is pending.

NIH References:

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5/15/2008