

March 19, 2008

TO: Deans, Directors & Department Heads
FROM: David Lee, Vice President for Research
SUBJECT: The New NIH Public Access Policy and You

The new NIH Public Access Policy <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/> goes into effect April 7, 2008. This policy requires UGA to assure that its NIH-funded investigators submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/> an electronic version of all their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication. Manuscripts are to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication.

WHO DOES THIS AFFECT?

The policy "applies to all peer-reviewed articles that arise, in whole or in part, from direct costs funded by NIH, or from NIH staff, that are accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008."

That means PIs - whether or not they are an author of these publications - are responsible for the submissions.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

First, we urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to visit the NIH Public Access Policy web site <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/> goes before you submit a final manuscript with copyright sign off. You must then take one of the following two options:

1. No action necessary. NIH has negotiated with many journals regarding automatic submission to PubMed Central, so you may not have to do anything other than to submit your manuscript to the journal. Unfortunately, the list journals that submit automatically http://publicaccess.nih.gov/submit_process_journals.htm is not yet long.

NIH continues to work on that.

OR

2. Notify the journal and submit the manuscript.

* If the journal that has accepted your article for publication is NOT on the NIH list, then you (meaning the lead author and/or PI of the relevant grant even if you are not an author) have to make sure that you comply with the policy. You will have to notify the journal that your article is subject to the Public Access Policy.

* Make sure that the journal's copyright transfer will allow submission to PubMed Central.

CAUTION: Many publishers copyright transfer agreements may not allow you to retain the legal right to submit your work to PMC. Find out more about copyright transfer. <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/FAQ.htm#c2>

* Submit the manuscript to PubMed Central within 12 months of its publication.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T DO THIS?

* If you do not submit your articles to PMC, you may delay or prevent awarding of funds.

* The policy states: "Beginning May 25, 2008, anyone submitting an application, proposal or progress report to the NIH must include the PubMed Central or NIH Manuscript Submission reference number when citing applicable articles that arise from their NIH funded research. This policy includes applications submitted to the NIH for the May 25, 2008 due date and subsequent due dates."

*There could also be financial penalties for UGA.

WHAT IS UGA DOING TO HELP ME?

OVPB is developing tools to facilitate submission, including:

*Detailed guidelines

*Website, copyright agreement templates and form letters for you to send to journal editors to help you comply *The Proposal Transmittal Sheet has been amended to reflect PI acknowledgement of this requirement under "Investigator Certifications" on page 3.

*OVPB will also brief college research deans.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The NIH Public Access Policy website has a long list of questions and answers <http://publicaccess.nih.gov/FAQ.htm> that may address your issue.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Regina Smith, Associate Vice President for Research Director of Sponsored Programs

Email: reginas@uga.edu

706-542-5939