

## NIH Public Access Policy Mandate

### [Revised Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-Funded Research](#)

**Effective April 7, 2008**, the [NIH Public Access Policy](#) requires that all peer-reviewed articles arising from NIH funds be submitted to [PubMed Central](#), the NIH digital archive of free, full-text biomedical and life sciences journal articles. Articles are to be submitted to PubMed Central upon acceptance for publication and made publicly available within 12 months of journal publication.

**Effective May 25, 2008**, anyone submitting an application, proposal or progress report must include the PubMed Central reference number when citing articles arising from their NIH funded research.

### Complying with the New Requirement

There are a number of ways to comply with the NIH Public Access Policy:

- **Publish with a journal that participates in PubMed Central.** The easiest way to comply with this NIH policy is to publish in a journal that automatically transfers copies of published articles to PubMed Central. No further action is required. [List of PubMed Central journals](#)
- **Publish with a journal that will deposit article for you.** Several publishers will deposit NIH-funded research articles in PubMed Central. **Caution:** Some publishers charge a hefty fee for a service you may be able to do yourself; check the agreement carefully. [SHERPA RoMEO](#) has information on the deposit policies of a number of journals and publishers. Library staff can also help you determine policies of individual journals.
- **Submit the manuscript yourself.** If the journal does not submit to PubMed Central, you will need to submit your final manuscript, including all graphics and supplemental materials, using the [NIH Manuscript Submission System](#).

### Retaining Your Rights

**THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP.** Before you sign a publication agreement or similar copyright transfer agreement, make sure that the agreement allows the article to be submitted to NIH in accordance with the [Public Access Policy](#). In order to comply with this requirement, UC authors should enclose [this letter](#) signed by William Tucker, Executive Director, Office of Technology Transfer and Research Administration, University of California, Office of the President, when an article is submitted to a publisher for possible publication. This letter gives notice to the publishers that if accepted for publication the article will be required by law to be posted on PubMed Central. If this letter is not submitted to the publisher at the time the article is sent in for review, it must be submitted along with any publication agreement signed by a UC author.

### For More Information and Assistance

- If you have questions about the NIH mandate, please email [nihgroup@uci.edu](mailto:nihgroup@uci.edu)

- [UC Publisher Letter](#)
- UCI Libraries' [NIH Guide](#)
- [NIH Public Access Policy FAQ](#)
- [NLM Technical Bulletin: NIH Manuscript Submission System](#)
- [Tools and tutorials](#) to assist users who are navigating the submission system.