The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Announces Enforcement of Public Access Policy: Continuations will be delayed for non-compliance

Since 2008, recipients of NIH grant awards and cooperative agreements have been required to make available to the general public publications arising from research related to those awards and agreements. According to a recent NIH announcement, beginning as early as Spring 2013, "NIH will delay processing of non-competing continuation grant awards if publications arising from that award are not in compliance with the NIH public access policy. The award will not be processed until recipients have demonstrated compliance." The full announcement, NOT-OD-12-160, can be found at http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-12-160.html. Please read the full announcement, as it contains details with how the enhanced enforcement of the policy will coincide with the required use of the Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs).

In order to adhere to the Public Access Policy, scientists must submit final peer-reviewed manuscripts that result from direct costs funded by NIH, and that are accepted for publication on or after April 7, 2008, to PubMed Central. Scientists must include the PubMed Central reference number (PMCID), or valid temporary NIH Manuscript Submission System reference number (NIHMSID), when citing publications that arise from their NIH-funded research in their progress reports. This demonstrates compliance with the policy. For an overview of acceptable citations, go to http://publicaccess.nih.gov/citation_methods.htm.

Faculty from the Morningside and CUMC campuses can reach out to the Health Sciences Library for assistance with submitting manuscripts to PubMed Central, tracking down copyright permissions from publishers, and identifying the PMCID or NIHMSID numbers to include in citations. For more information on the NIH Public Access Policy, you can refer to http://scholcomm.columbia.edu/open-access/nih-public-access-policy/. You may also contact the Health Sciences Library at hs-library@columbia.edu, or 305-1411.

For specific information on NIH's RPPR implementation plan, including instructions, a webinar, and training materials, go to http://grants.nih.gov/grants/RPPR/.

Additional communications and guidance will be provided in the coming months on adhering to the Public Access Policy and RPPRs. It is a good time to review current publications resulting from NIH awards to ensure they are compliant with the policy.

Sincerely,

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