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To: Academic Deans and NIH Grant Recipients
From: Martin Wybourne
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NIH Public Access Policy

Recently enacted legislation will make the NIH's Public Access Policy mandatory and will require grant recipients to assume more compliance responsibility for publications. From 7 April 2008 final versions of all peer-reviewed articles arising in whole or in part from NIH funding must be submitted to the archive PubMed Central where the articles will become publically available within 12 months of publication.

Adherence to this requirement will be a term and condition of NIH awards that will need the following actions:

1. Authors must ensure that any copyright transfer or publication agreements they sign comply with the NIH Public Access Policy.
2. Authors are responsible for ensuring that final copies of articles are submitted electronically to PubMed Central.
3. Principal Investigators must cite the PubMed Central reference number for each article they author or co-author in all reports, renewals and new proposals to the NIH.

The Public Access Policy is an institutional as well as a Principal Investigator requirement. To help the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) monitor institutional compliance an additional question has been added to the assurance section of the proposal routing form.

OSP has established a website (www.dartmouth.edu/~osp/news/bulletins/NIH-PublicAccess.html) to help authors become familiar with the requirements and submission process. The site contains helpful information including links to the NIH Public Access Policy and to PubMed Central, as well as templates of submission letters and amendments to copyright agreements that can be downloaded for use by Dartmouth researchers. Elizabeth Kirk, Associate Librarian for Information Resources, has considerable experience in dealing with copyright issues and is available to provide advice. Christine Bothe, Assistant Director OSP, is also available to answer questions about the new policy.