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May 6, 2005

To: DEANS, DIRECTORS, DEPARTMENT CHAIRS & ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Re: **NIH Public Access Policy**

From: Roberto Peccei, Vice Chancellor for Research  
Gary E. Strong, University Librarian

RDT  
DES

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently announced a major policy change intended to enhance public access to NIH research. This policy now known as the NIH Public Access Policy was published in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts on February 3, 2005, and the Federal Register on February 9, 2005, under the title of "Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-Funded Research." It became effective on May 2, 2005.

The NIH Public Access Policy *requests and strongly encourages*, but *does not require*, all NIH-funded investigators to make their peer-reviewed author's final manuscripts available to other researchers and the public by depositing them into the NIH National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central (PMC). Authors are encouraged to deposit manuscripts immediately after the final date of journal publication but have the option of delaying publication for up to one year. Publications resulting from non-NIH-supported research projects should not be submitted to the PMC.

The campus and the UCLA Library strongly encourages faculty to participate in the NIH Public Access Policy to provide a stable, permanent archive of peer-reviewed NIH funded research publications. Creation of such an archive is a significant part of a larger strategy to make research results as widely available as possible through Open Access repositories. We would ask that you pass along this information to your faculty.

- **NIH Public Access Policy** (<http://www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/>)

The NIH has created a Web site that provides links to the policy announcement and additional information, including Questions and Answers regarding copyright and other concerns.

- **Guidance on Manuscript Submission** (<http://www.nihms.nih.gov>)

On April 29, 2005 the NIH published a Notice providing guidance on implementation procedures. A password-protected, Web-based NIH Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) system has been developed to facilitate the manuscript submission process. Manuscript files may currently be submitted only by the NIH-funded extramural Principal Investigators (PIs). After July 6, 2005, the NIH plans to allow manuscript file submission by the extramural PI or a third party on the PI's behalf (e.g., administrative personnel, graduate students, librarians, publishers, etc.).

- **Additional information** (<http://www.arl.org/sparc/author/author.html>)

The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) developed by the Association of Research Libraries has also compiled information for NIH-funded researchers on the policy and the author's role in participating in this electronic archival program. The UCLA Library would be happy to answer questions from faculty and research staff about the significance of the NIH policy. Please contact Judy Consales, Associate University Librarian for the Health and Life Sciences, at 310-825-5781 or [consales@library.ucla.edu](mailto:consales@library.ucla.edu). Please contact Ann Pollack, Assistant Vice Chancellor – Research, at 310-794-0387 or [apollack@resadmin.ucla.edu](mailto:apollack@resadmin.ucla.edu) if you have any general questions about the policy.