

## The NIH Public Access Mandate

On April 7, 2008, the NIH Public Access Mandate came into force (<http://publicaccess.nih.gov/>), requiring that all NIH Principal Investigators deposit their peer-reviewed research manuscripts that arise from NIH support in PubMed Central. Since that time, the ACS Publications Division has actively worked with all ACS journals, including *Organic Letters*, to facilitate article deposit to PubMed Central, in compliance with the government mandate. Presented here is an overview of the current process. I strongly encourage all *Organic Letters* authors to participate with the ACS in returning the necessary ACS forms to simplify compliance with the NIH Public Access Mandate. Should you elect to not participate or fail to complete the steps to comply, this choice may negatively affect your ability to receive NIH funding in the future, as NIH now requires all current and future proposals, as well as Progress Reports, to include the PubMed Central ID to all articles acknowledging NIH funding published since April 7, 2008.

Authors of course have an obligation to acknowledge the appropriate funding agencies in their manuscripts. When proper acknowledgments to NIH are made, authors will receive, after manuscript acceptance, an email from ACS Publications with a copy of the NIH Policy Addendum ([http://pubs.acs.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1218219419097/nih\\_addendum.pdf](http://pubs.acs.org/userimages/ContentEditor/1218219419097/nih_addendum.pdf)) attached to the ACS Copyright Status Form. On this addendum, authors are asked to indicate which of three ACS options they wish to use to comply with the NIH Public Access Policy (<http://pubs.acs.org/page/policy/nih/index.html>). The three author options are: (A) a fee-based Author Choice Option which has no ACS embargo period; (B) self-deposit by the author with a 12 month embargo period; and (C) deposit by ACS with a 12 month embargo period (at no charge to ACS members or a fee of \$100 for nonmembers).

Many authors will select Option C, which then entails a three-step process for full compliance with the Public Access Mandate: **Step 1:** ACS forwards the final version of the

accepted manuscript to NIH on behalf of the author. **Step 2:** Upon deposit by ACS, the corresponding author will receive an email from nihms-help@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov with instructions and a link to review and approve the manuscript. At this point, an NIHMSID number is assigned to the manuscript; this number can be used when referencing the manuscript while the article is in the process of being deposited into PubMed Central; however, the NIHMSID number *can only* be used for up to three months following publication of the manuscript. *After three months, the PubMed Central ID number must be used.* **Step 3:** Once the author approves the manuscript, a second email from nihms-help@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov will follow requesting the corresponding author to approve the manuscript exactly as it will appear on PubMed Central. Once the PMC-ready version has been approved and the submission is queued for release to PubMed Central, the PubMed Central article ID is assigned and the author informed of the PMCID to be employed in future grant applications and progress reports.

Participation in completing the ACS Publication Division process constitutes a significant advantage of publishing in ACS journals. Equally important, careful attention to the NIH Public Access Mandate process will facilitate your future NIH funding, so you can continue to conduct exciting research and publish your top-line, cutting-edge results in *Organic Letters*, “exactly where you want to be”.

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