PUBLIC ACCESS STRATEGIC POINTS

- Every year the NIH funds billions of dollars in scientific research. US taxpayers underwrite this research and they have a right to expect that its dissemination and use will be maximized, and also that they will have access to it.
- Faster and wider sharing of knowledge fuels the advance of science. Broad communication of research results is an essential component of the US government’s investment in science. The Internet makes it possible to share the latest scientific advances promptly with every scientist, physician, educator, and citizen.
- NIH strongly supports this goal and has instituted a voluntary system intended to make scientific research more broadly available for use. NIH is now asking Congress to make the program mandatory. The current language requires that results of NIH-funded research be deposited and preserved in an online database at NIH, freely accessible to the public, within one year of publication in a scientific journal.

Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA)
http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy/frpaa/index.html

NIH Public Access Policy
http://publicaccess.nih.gov/

NIH Public Access Policy – Information for NIH funded Researchers
http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy/nih/researcher.html

Why is Public Access Important?
- Dissemination of results an essential component of research and of the US Government’s investment in science
- Often the research is not widely available, working against public interest

Who supports Public Access?
- Researchers, including Nobel Laureates
- Industry analysts
- Higher ed administrators
- US Government agencies

Current NIH Public Access Policy
- Voluntary
- Authors deposit to PubMed Central
- Final peer-reviewed manuscript
- 12 month embargo

Goals of the NIH Policy
- Access
- Archive
• Advance Science
• Accountability

What does Policy cover?
• Peer-reviewed research publications resulting from research supported in whole or in part with direct costs from NIH
• Does not apply to book chapters, editorials, reviews, or conference proceedings, lab notes, etc.

Where your action is needed
• House Appropriations – Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
• Senate Appropriations – Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
• Your institution

Actions you can take
• Visit with District Office of Representative & Senators
• Letters and calls to reps & senators
• Institutional Support: University Government Relations Office, Faculty Senate

Federal Research Public Access Act (FRPAA)
• Bill was introduced May 2006, 109th Congress
• All federal agencies with annual extramural research budget of $100m + implement a public access policy

Action Needed on FRPAA
• Visit, write Senator Cornyn, Senator Lieberman
• Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Senate bill referral committee)
• House Committee on Oversight & Government Reform (House bill referral committee)
• Your institution

*excerpted from SPARC: The NIH Public Access Policy
http://home.learningtimes.net/acrlEvents?go=z1099208

For more information
• SPARC Web site
  http://www.arl.org/sparc/advocacy