



JUN 16 2005

Mr. Richard K. Johnson
Executive Director
Scholarly Publishing Academic
Resources Coalition
Alliance for Taxpayer Access
21 Dupont Circle, N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036-1543

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-funded Research (Policy).

The NIH Public Access Working Group, a subgroup of the National Library of Medicine's Board of Regents, will meet on July 11, 2005, and there will be a presentation of the first summary of Policy-related data to the group. Soon after the meeting, we will post submission information relating to the Policy on the NIH manuscript submission system Web site (<http://nihms.nih.gov>). For example, we plan to provide to the public the monthly totals of manuscript submissions, the number of manuscripts publicly available and embargoed, and the embargo periods set by the authors.

I am committed to increasing transparency at the NIH, and continuing to inform the public about this Policy is important to its success. Thank you for your letter on this vital matter and for your support of the NIH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elias A. Zerhouni", written over a large, sweeping horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature area.

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.
Director