



OCT 03 2006

Ms. Heather Joseph
Executive Director
The Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition
21 Dupont Circle NW
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Ms. Joseph:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Public Access Policy. The NIH remains firmly committed to the goals of the Policy, and I appreciate your efforts towards making it successful.

We recognize that the current voluntary policy is unlikely to provide the necessary incentive to meet the goals of the Policy, and therefore, are open to ideas to strengthen it. However, as your letter points out, full deposition is critical to the success of the Policy, and the Association of American Publishers' proposal does not appear likely to lead to full deposition.

We have heard feedback from many who believe that we should have a mandatory policy and that the time frame for article submission should be shortened. We are considering our options and want you to know that comments from you and your colleagues continue to be valuable in this process.

Thank you for sharing your views with us as we consider ways to improve results and for the opportunity to communicate with you about the Public Access Policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elias A. Zerhouni", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.
Director