



**Alliance for Taxpayer Access**  
www.taxpayeraccess.org

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**KEY ADVISORY GROUP REAFFIRMS THAT  
NIH PUBLIC ACCESS POLICY SHOULD BE  
6 MONTHS AND MANDATORY**

WASHINGTON, DC – A key advisory panel to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has reaffirmed its continued support for reforms to the NIH Public Access Policy.

At its meeting on April 10, the Public Access Working Group (PAWG) – a balanced panel of stakeholders appointed by NIH Director Elias Zerhouni to provide guidance on implementing a successful public access policy – reaffirmed its November 2005 recommendation that the policy be made mandatory and that all NIH-funded works must be made publicly available in PubMed Central within six months of publication.

The PAWG's original recommendation was ratified in January by the National Library of Medicine's Board of Regents, which said in a letter to Dr. Zerhouni, "the NIH policy cannot achieve its stated goals unless deposit of manuscripts becomes mandatory."

"It's becoming quite clear that unless these much-needed changes are made, the board of regents' warning will hold true," said Heather Joseph of the Alliance for Taxpayer Access (ATA). "We are very pleased that the PAWG has reaffirmed its original recommendations for a mandatory policy and a maximum six-month embargo period."

At the most recent PAWG meeting, representatives of the American Cancer Society, the New England Journal of Medicine, the American Society for Microbiology, and numerous other organizations voiced their continued support for a mandatory policy for NIH-funded investigators, with a six-month cap on withholding articles from public availability in NIH's PubMed Central online archive.

The issue of public access was emphasized at a recent House Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee hearing at which Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) asked Dr. Zerhouni what needed to be done to "stimulate" the NIH policy. In his answer, Dr. Zerhouni conceded that the poor participation rate of less than 4 percent (to date) indicates that "voluntary is just not enough of an incentive."

"ATA looks forward to continuing to work with Dr. Zerhouni, Congress, and all stakeholders to ensure the public has timely access to the published results of research funded by our tax dollars," Joseph said.

The Alliance for Taxpayer Access is a coalition of stakeholders who support reforms that will make publicly funded research accessible to the public. Formed in 2004, the Alliance has played a leading role in the drive for free, timely access on the Internet to peer-reviewed articles funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health. It is administered on behalf of Alliance members by SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition). Information on the Alliance may be found at [www.taxpayeraccess.org](http://www.taxpayeraccess.org). Alliance members are listed below and at [www.taxpayeraccess.org/members.html](http://www.taxpayeraccess.org/members.html).

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AIDS Action Baltimore	Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FORCE)
AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition	Genetic Alliance
American Association of Law Libraries	Global Neuroscience Initiative Foundation
American Library Association	Greater Western Library Alliance
American Medical Student Association	International Mosaic Down Syndrome Association (IMDSA)
Amherst College Library	International Journal of Medical Sciences
Arthritis Foundation	IsoDicentric 15 Exchange, Advocacy and Support (IDEAS)
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum	Kent State University Libraries
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries	Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology
Association of College & Research Libraries	Loyola University Chicago Libraries
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs	Medical Education Online
Association of Research Libraries	Mycosis Fungoides Foundation
Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease and Congenital Hepatic Fibrosis Alliance (ARPKD/CHF Alliance)	National Alliance for Autism Research
Barth Syndrome Foundation	National Coalition for PKU & Allied Disorders
Boston College Libraries	National Fragile X Foundation
Boston Library Consortium	National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association
Bowdoin College Library	New England Biolabs
Carnegie Mellon University Libraries	Oberlin College
Chemists Without Borders	Ohio Library and Information Network
Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation	Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy
Colorectal Cancer Coalition	Prader-Willi Syndrome Association
CUNY – City College Libraries	Public Knowledge
Coalition for Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue	Public Library of Science
Colorado State University	Pseudoxanthoma Elasticum (PXE) International
Conquer Fragile X Syndrome	Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
Denison University – William H. Doane Library	South Dakota State University, Hilton M. Briggs Library
Down Syndrome Treatment and Research Foundation	Special Libraries Association
Eastern Kentucky University Libraries	Spina Bifida Association of America
Emory University Libraries	

Swarthmore College  
Tourette Syndrome Association  
Trinity University Coates Library  
Tufts University Libraries  
University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries  
University of Connecticut Libraries  
University of Kansas

University of New Hampshire  
University of Wisconsin – Madison Libraries  
University of Wisconsin Oshkosh – Forrest  
R. Polk Library  
Utah Academic Library Consortium  
Wayne State University College of Nursing  
Williams College Libraries