The NIH Open Access Policy

NIH Compliance – A Guide for Authors Publishing in Springer Journals

If you receive research funding from the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), as of April 2008 you will be required to deposit the final manuscript of your journal articles in PubMed Central and ensure free availability (open access) within 12 months of publication.

Springer journals are perfectly ready to meet this requirement. All you have to do is opt for open access publication of your article through Springer Open Choice™ – you will be given that option as soon as your article has been accepted for publication after peer review - and we will handle the administrative process.

The cost of Springer Open Choice™ is – as stated on the NIH web site – a permissible cost in your grant so please take care to budget for it. Since costs are involved in every step of the publication process, from peer-review to printing and hosting the final paper on dedicated servers, we ask that the author, or their institution or funding agency, pay a fee of $3,000 USD (which can also be invoiced in Euros).

If you have opted for publishing your article through Springer Open Choice™, Springer will take care of the immediate deposit in PubMed Central and what’s more, not of the manuscript, but of the final, published article. And it will also be available with open access right away, and not just after 12 months. For those authors opting to publish their article the traditional, subscription-based way, the self-archiving rules of depositing the author’s version of the article on your own website and in your institutional repository (as described below) still apply. If your research is funded by the NIH you are also allowed to deposit your final author’s version in PubMed Central upon publication, but it will only be made publicly available after 12 months.

Publishing with open access in Springer journals completely takes away any worries you might have about complying with the new NIH rules for grantees when it comes to publishing your research results. We look forward to the submission of your next paper.

Springer Policy on Self-Archiving

An author may self-archive an author-created version of his/her article on his/her own website and/or on his/her institutional repository. He/she may also deposit this version on his/her funder’s or funder’s designated repository at the funder’s request or as a result of a legal obligation, provided it is not made publicly available until 12 months after official publication. He/she may not use the publisher’s PDF version which is posted on www.springerlink.com for the purpose of self-archiving or deposit. Furthermore, the author may only post his/her version provided acknowledgement is given to the original source of publication and a link is inserted to the published article on Springer’s website. The link must be accompanied by the following text: “The original publication is available at springerlink.com.”