To: All NIH-Funded Faculty in the School of Medicine and on Campus

From: James N. Siedow Ph.D., Vice Provost for Research and Sally Kornbluth, Ph.D., Vice Dean for Basic Science, Duke University School of Medicine

Subject: IMPORTANT, PLEASE READ – Need to Maintain Compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy –

The NIH Public Access Policy ensures that the public has access to the published results of NIH funded research. It requires scientists to submit final peer-reviewed journal manuscripts that arise from NIH funds to the digital archive PubMed Central upon acceptance for publication. Note that many journals do this for you, but you still must enter the PubMed Central system and approve the submissions to obtain a PMCID number. To help advance science and improve human health, the Policy requires that these papers are accessible to the public on PubMed Central no later than 12 months after publication. To document compliance with this policy, Duke PIs must include the PMCID numbers on all reports of publication to the NIH.

Apparently, the NIH feels that the degree of compliance associated with this policy has slipped below acceptable levels. In response, the NIH has alerted the Duke Preaward offices (ORS, ORA) to the names of several PIs who have been found to be out of compliance with the policy and has admonished Duke to ensure these individuals move quickly to achieve a compliant status.

While the forms of non-compliance are myriad (eg. failure to enter papers into the system, failure to include PMCID numbers on biosketches, failure to include PMCIDs in non-competing renewals, etc.), the NIH is taking this very seriously. As detailed on the NIH website: Failure to provide evidence of compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy in an application, proposal or report is a violation of the terms and conditions of the NIH award. NIH may suspend awards found to be out of compliance, pending corrective action, or may terminate the award for cause.

We hope that it will not come to this, but we do want to make you aware of the fact that the NIH is taking this issue very seriously and we should respond accordingly. In addition to the information available on the NIH website, you can get further details regarding compliance with the Public Access Policy from the Duke library http://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/nihpublicaccess.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.