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**Professional & Scholarly
Publishing (PSP) Division
Executive Council 2006-2007**

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July 31, 2006

Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D.
Director,
National Institutes of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892

Re: *NIH Policy on Enhancing Public Access to Archived Publications Resulting from NIH-Funded Research* ("NIH Public Access Policy")

Dear Dr. Zerhouni:

We are writing on behalf of the Executive Council of the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers (AAP/PSP) to express our commitment to working with our member publishers and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) towards the successful implementation of the current voluntary NIH Public Access Policy. We request a meeting with you and senior officials within the National Library of Medicine to help further this goal.

The attached Publisher Principles convey our proposal for facilitating implementation of the current policy and for helping to increase significantly the number of manuscripts deposited within PubMed Central for access by the public. We believe that working together with NIH, as outlined in the Publisher Principles and consistent with the NIH Public Access Policy, we can achieve the stated goals of the Policy while preserving the stability, integrity and innovation of peer review publishing.

One of us (Brian Nairn) also serves as a publisher representative to the NIH's Public Access Working Group, assembled by the NIH to aid implementation of the current Public Access Policy. As a result of deliberations within that forum, as well as experiences shared with our Council by our member publishers who have sought to facilitate manuscript deposits in connection with the current NIH policy, we believe that participation can be significantly increased if the NIH were to increase its engagement with publishers in addressing perceived obstacles to author participation.

PSP/AAP member publishers, including those involved in developing the attached Principles, constitute a significant segment of the biomedical publishing industry. We believe that working together with NIH we can significantly increase the number of manuscripts deposited with NIH. We estimate that publishers supporting the attached Principles hold the rights to more than 20,000 articles a year that are based on NIH-funded research. We predict that the addition of just these articles to PubMed Central—in addition to those articles based on NIH-funded research published by non-profit society publishers within the DC Principles Coalition with whom you are exploring streamlined implementation procedures—will immediately increase the level of deposits from the reported low rate of 4%, to exceed 50% or better by the end of this year. Moreover, we will work to expand publisher support and encourage other publishers to take a similar approach, such that the rate of participation will grow further. These will be giant steps towards achieving the higher rates of manuscript deposits that the NIH needs in order to satisfy Congress' goal that the public have increased access to the results of taxpayer-supported research.

We believe that a series of meetings between NIH and publishers to discuss and work out the three key components of the proposed Publisher Principles will significantly enhance efforts to achieve our mutual objectives. The three critical components are:

1. Publisher deposits of manuscripts on behalf of authors (unless an author objects)
2. Publisher communications to facilitate author awareness and participation
3. Refinement of implementation procedures essential to streamlining deposits, ensuring the integrity of peer-reviewed scientific and medical publishing and developing terms for the use of copyrighted content that meet the needs of publishers, authors and the NIH

We hope that you will agree that working together in this fashion, with a spirit of public/private partnership, is the most efficient and cost-effective way of achieving the success of the NIH's Public Access Policy. We look forward to your response and to working with you in the future.

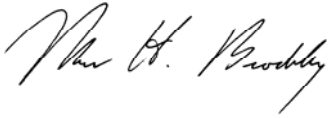
Sincerely,



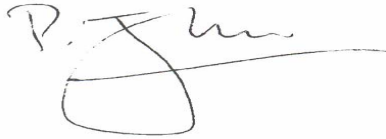
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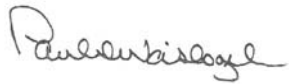
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Cc: Dr. Donald Lindberg, MD, Director, the National Library of Medicine