

Subject: Public Access RFI response

Date: December 22, 2011 1:22:12 PM EST

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To Whom it May Concern:

Comment 4: As President of Autism Speaks, the world's largest autism science and advocacy organization, I am writing to voice my support for the Public Access of full-text scientific journal articles that report research findings without cost or institutional affiliation. We are fully committed to removing obstacles to first-hand access for the broad population including clinicians, families, educators, researchers and businesses. Among other dissemination requirements, Autism Speaks has stipulated that any research findings resulting from our support must be freely accessible in a public database within a year of publication. Autism Speaks is the first non-profit health research and advocacy organization to require public access, even if the article might be co-funded by a federal agency such as the NIH. In this public/private effort, we greatly appreciate the assistance provided by the National Library of Medicine in establishing an Autism Speaks submission identifier that tracks research publications partially or fully supported by our research funding programs. To indicate the strength of this public/private endeavor, Autism Speaks has become a model for the Health Research Alliance and its 45+ other health non-profit organizations in establishing and disseminating Public Access policies and procedures for their grantees.

Comment 6: Autism Speaks applauds the efforts of the NIH in establishing Public Access requirements and enlisting the cooperation of publishers, researchers and research institutions. It is important that parallel policies be established by other federal funders as well. Expanding the policy across agencies would maximize the benefit to a broad base of stakeholders including clinicians, families, educators, researchers and businesses.

Sincerely,

Mark Roithmayr
President
Autism Speaks