

Request for Information: Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting from Federally Funded Research

The Protein Society is pleased to respond to OSTP's November 3, 2011 Federal Register notice requesting comments on "Public Access to Peer-Reviewed Scholarly Publications Resulting from Federally Funded Research."

The Protein Society is the leading international society devoted to furthering research and development in protein science. The Protein Society members represent academic, industry, government and non-profit institutions from around the world. Their research interests include protein folding, protein engineering, chemical biology, proteomics, bioinformatics, structural biology and computational biology. The purpose of the Society is to provide international forums to facilitate communication, cooperation and collaboration with respect to all aspects of the study of proteins and to foster the education of the next generation of protein scientists.

In support of the Society's goals, the Society publishes, *Protein Science*, the premier journal in the field in cooperation with Wiley-Blackwell. Revenues from the journal are the main source of support for the Society's work. Indeed, without the journal revenues, the Protein Society would be forced to cease operations. Consequently, the Society is extremely concerned about further extension of open access requirements. Indeed, we believe the damage to the operation of scientific societies will have the unintended consequence of actually diminishing the dissemination of federally funded research because scientific societies like ours would no longer be able to support meetings and publications. Communication of this kind plays a critical role in the spread of new information and ideas among scientists as well as the public.

The Society urges the administration to carefully consider the potential harm done to ours and many other academic societies and, by extension, the scientific enterprise itself when contemplating changes to public access policies.

Most of our members are funded by NIH, which requires deposition of published articles in a public repository one year after publication. We believe this system works well as it provides public access to government funded research, while preserving the ability of publishers to receive compensation for the important work they perform in the publication process. We strongly oppose any further incursion, beyond current NIH mandates, into publisher's rights to control their content.

On behalf of the Protein Society,

Professor Lynne Regan, Yale University: President

Professor James Bowie, UCLA: Chair of the Publications Committee

Professor Brian Matthews, University of Oregon: Editor-in-Chief of *Protein Science*