DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NATIONAL CENTER FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY INFORMATION
PUBMED CENTRAL NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Function of the PubMed Central National Advisory Committee

PubMed Central was established to support NIH's mission of disseminating the results of biomedical research widely to the public and to the scientific community. PubMed Central employs electronic publishing technology to archive, index and distribute peer-reviewed journal literature in the life sciences. The PubMed Central National Advisory Committee shall advise the Director, NIH, the Director, NLM, and the Director, NCBI, on the content and operation of the PubMed Central repository. Specifically, the Committee is charged to establish criteria to certify groups submitting materials to the system, monitoring its operation, and ensuring that PubMed Central evolves and remains responsive to the needs of researchers, publishers, librarians and the general public.

Summary of Meeting – June 15, 2009

The meeting of the PubMed Central National Advisory Committee was convened on June 15, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Board Room of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting was open to the public. Dr. Gary Ward presided as Chair.

Members Present
Prue Adler, M.S., M.A., Association of Research Libraries
Christopher Bird, B.A., Wellcome Trust
Cynthia Henderson, M.L.S., Morehouse School of Medicine
Maricel Kann, Ph.D., University of Maryland
Sarah Michalak, M.L.S., University of North Carolina
Mark Sobel, M.D., Ph.D., American Society for Investigative Pathology
Michael Tanner, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago
Gary Ward, Ph.D., University of Vermont (PMC Advisory Committee Chair)
Susan Weintraub, Ph.D., University of Texas Health Science Center
John Wilbanks, B.A., Science Commons
David J. Lipman, M.D., Director, National Center for Biotechnology Information, NLM, NIH, and PubMed Central National Advisory Committee Executive Secretary

Special Guests Present
Heather Joseph, M.A., Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition
Geoffrey Hynes, M.Sc., Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Alexa McCray, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School
Stuart Shieber, Ph.D., Office of Scholarly Communication, Harvard University

NIH Staff Present
Abraham Becker, IEB, NCBI
Dennis Benson, Branch Chief, IRB, NCBI
Janet Coleman, NCBI

Betsy Humphreys, Deputy Director, NLM
Christopher Kelly, IEB, NCBI
Sheldon Kotzin, Associate Director, LO, NLM
Sergey Krasnov, IEB, NCBI
Kathy Kwan, IEB, NCBI
Adeline Manohar, IEB, NCBI
John Mullican, IEB, NCBI
Carol Myers, IEB, NCBI
Jim Ostell, Branch Chief, IEB, NCBI
Edwin Sequeira, IEB, NCBI
Jerry Sheehan, NLM
Kent Smith, NCBI
Neil Thakur, OD
Sarah Torre, IEB, NCBI
Bart Trawick, IEB, NCBI

Visitors Present
Mila Becker, American Society of Hematology
Guenther Eichhorn, Springer
Martin Frank, American Physiological Society
Dori Gardner, Elsevier
Mike Hall, Madison Associates
Lynne Herndon, Cell Press
Emilie Marcus, Cell Press
Rob Masson, American Society for Microbiology
David Martinsen, American Chemical Society
Sherry Marts, Genetics Society of America
James Perham-Marchant, McGraw-Hill
Kristin Richardson, Elsevier
Rita Scheman, American Physiological Society
Richard Sever, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press
Eleanore Tapscott, American Society of Hematology
Crispin Taylor, American Society of Plant Biologists
[Additional people attended who did not sign in or did not sign in legibly]

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks – Dr. Gary Ward & Dr. David Lipman

Dr. Ward called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Committee members and attendees introduced themselves. The committee voted to approve the minutes from the last meeting and agreed to select the date for the committee's next meeting via email.

II. Report from the NLM Director's Office – Ms. Betsy Humphreys

Ms. Humphreys described impacts of the Recovery Act on NLM. In addition to $84M in extra funds for extramural research, there is the potential for some funding for information distribution relating to comparative effectiveness research. She also noted that ClinicalTrials.gov successfully met its short deadline for implementing the new clinical trial reporting requirements and that MedLine Plus Magazine has added a Spanish version. Lastly, she reported that Dr. Milton Corn was named Deputy Director for Research and Education.

III. Statistics and Overview of PMC Issues; New Journal Approval Process – Dr. David Lipman

PMC Overview

Dr. Lipman described the two general methods in which articles get into PMC, namely through a PMC agreement with the publisher or through manuscript submission, which may be done by the author or by the publisher on the author's behalf. PMC agreements involve a formal agreement with NLM and require that the publisher deposit the final published version of articles. There are three types of PMC agreements with publishers: "Full Participation," where complete issues are deposited in PMC; "NIH Portfolio," where all NIH-funded articles are deposited; and "Selective Deposit," where individual articles selected by the publisher are deposited (typically these are Open Access articles).

Several funding agencies have policies requiring deposit to PMC. In those cases, an author or publisher may deposit a copy of the accepted manuscript via the NIH Manuscript Submission system. NIH does not have formal agreements with publishers for manuscript deposits. The length of delay in making the article publicly available on PMC is specified by the author, subject to the publisher's copyright policy; the maximum delay depends on the funder's policy (e.g., while NIH's maximum delay is 12 months, other funding groups may have a 6-month delay).

PMC Statistics

More than 1.8 million articles are now available in PMC, 65% of which are from back issue digitization. There are approximately 500 Full Participation PMC journals; about 120 Journals participate through NIH Portfolio agreements, and more than 500 journals participate through Selective Deposit. PMC usage has increased substantially over the last year, with approximately 400,000 unique users each day and 600,000-700,000 articles retrieved per day. Compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy has improved greatly since the policy became mandatory, with a 53% compliance rate between October and December 2008 compared to 19% during the prior two years when the policy was voluntary. Dr. Lipman also showed a graph that demonstrated a steep increase in the number of manuscript submissions over recent months, with about 5,000-7,000 per month during the period between February 2009 and April 2009. Some of the recent increase is likely due to grantees being notified by NIH that their progress reports lacked the required PMC ID.

PMC International

When UK PMC was introduced in July 2006, existing PMC journals were asked to approve having their content appear in UK PMC, and most journals agreed, Lipman said. Subsequent PMC agreements included a provision for UK PMC. PMC Canada is now launching, and existing PMC journals are being asked if they will allow their content to appear there.

Q & A

Dr. Ward commented that he submitted a grant report that included mention of a paper for which the PMC ID was not yet available. He followed the PMC FAQ directions and noted that the citation was in progress. Although it was not problematic, he was informed by his Program Officer that the "citation in progress" notation would trigger an automatic note from NIH about non-compliance. Mr. Sequeira replied that he would check into this.

Mr. Bird asked about the percent of PMC content that is mirrored in UK PMC. Lipman replied that most of the PMC journals are in UK PMC. A limited number of the other publishers have not wanted their content mirrored, and NCBI is interested in hearing their thoughts, he said. Dr. Sobel noted that he had only recently agreed to participate in PMC International because of concerns about some of the potential sites that might be added in the future; however, that concern was eliminated by a change in policy that allows publishers to approve or disapprove their content going to each new site that joins PMCI.

Audience member Martin Frank commented that it is important for publishers to understand traffic to their website and it would be helpful to know whether PubMed users click on links for PMC or the journal website to obtain full text of an article. Frank asked about the possibility of getting information that tracks usage by IP addresses. Ms. Humphreys replied that NLM does not provide any information that might indicate who a user is, including IP addresses.

IV. Public Access Developments – Ms. Heather Joseph

Ms. Joseph updated the committee on Congressional developments related to public access, including HR801, the Fair Copyright in Research Works Act. The bill, which would amend copyright code to prohibit federal agencies from requiring published articles arising from federal funding to be made publically available, was reintroduced Feb. 3. Another bill, the Federal Research Public Access Act, appears to be resurfacing, she said. The bill, which was originally introduced in 2006 by Senators Joseph Lieberman and John Cornyn, would require government agencies with extramural research budgets of over $100M to make publically available over the internet journal articles stemming from research they funded.

In addition to Congressional activity, government agencies and the Executive Branch also have been showing interest in the topic of public access and access to federally funded research, Joseph reported.

V. The University Perspective – Dr. Michael Tanner, Dr. Stuart Shieber, Dr. Alexa McCray

Dr. Tanner

Dr. Tanner described the Shared Digital Repository (SDR) of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), a consortium of 12 universities. The CIC began development of SDR in 2006 with an investment of about $6M. CIC has adopted a copyright addendum for faculty authors to voluntarily use. The addendum is modeled after the Science Commons and provides the author with non-exclusive rights to make copies of his article available over the internet 6 months after the date of publication. The addendum also reserves the right to grant the author's employing institution the non-exclusive right to distribute the work in connection with academic and professional activities.

Dr. Shieber

Dr. Shieber described the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences' policy for free, immediate access of faculty-authored scholarly articles. Under the policy, FAS faculty grant the university a non-exclusive license to make their scholarly articles freely available; however, faculty have the discretion to waive the license for any article. The articles are typically the author's final manuscript, so the university can distribute the manuscript to the extent it has rights to do so. Harvard's Law School, Kennedy School, and Graduate School of Education have passed similar policies, and most of the other Harvard schools are considering policies as well. Many publishers have been supportive of the policy, Shieber said.

Shieber outlined his perception of a "fundamental inequity" in the different funding models for open-access (OA) and subscription-fee journals. OA journals are at a disadvantage because the authors generally must pay a fee to publish, whereas subscription-fee journals are paid for through fees the author does not see: charges to libraries and indirectly by grant overhead. Although grants may allow page fees for publishing in OA journals, those payments generally come from a fungible grant account, which means the OA fees result in reduced funds for other grant expenses such as lab equipment, Shieber said.

Dr. McCray

Dr. McCray described efforts at Harvard Medical School to facilitate compliance with the NIH Public Access Policy, including establishment of a university-wide committee on compliance, creation of an extensive website about the policy, creation of an addendum generator that would notify the publisher and journal that an article fell under the policy, and sample letters for authors to inform publishers that an article fell under the policy. In addition, HMS has continued its collaboration with grants administrators and NIH, and its librarians offer workshops and tutorials. McCray also reported the results of a study she conducted evaluating Harvard's compliance with the Public Access Policy.

VI. Reports from the Field – Committee Members

Dr. Susan Weintraub noted that the Journal of Biomolecular Techniques, the journal of the Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities, has moved to an online-only format at PMC. The move to PMC went very well and the membership is happy to have the journal online-only, she said.

Ms. Sarah Michalak reported that librarians at her institution (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) are no longer receiving many questions about submitting to PMC, as submission has become well integrated into the workflow. One area where librarians are still seeing confusion among authors is "what state of the manuscript they are looking at," she said.

VII. Plans for PMC Canada – Mr. Geoffrey Hynes

Mr. Hynes provided general background on the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Canada's leading health research funding agency, and described its public access policy. Under the policy, recipients of CIHR funding after Jan. 1, 2008 must "make every effort" to ensure that their peer-reviewed articles are freely available online within 6 months of publication. Grant recipients have two options for complying: archive their peer-reviewed manuscripts in an open–access repository, or publish in an open-access journal. Grantees must declare compliance with the policy and provide citation information in their Final Research Reports and Progress Reports; if not in compliance, grantees must

provide justification. As the policy evolves, Hynes said, PMC Canada will likely be the sole, designated repository.

Hynes outlined the rationale for the decision to develop PMC Canada: brand recognition for PMC and NCBI's suite of integrated databases; linkage to PubMed, the default search tool for most health researchers; PMC's existing partnerships with publishers for deposit; and evaluation methods enabled by funder attributions in published articles. Goals for PMC Canada include establishing a mirror site with a bilingual interface and helpdesk support, building a platform for knowledge dissemination and exchange, and developing a resource for capturing and evaluating the output of CIHR-funded research. Launch of PMC Canada may occur as early as the fall, he said.

Q&A

An audience member asked about the rationale for having databases in different countries since it would mean an end user would have to search multiple repositories. Hynes replied that for Canada there was a clear need to invest in a bilingual database. Dr. Ostell added that the PMC databases (currently PMC and UK PMC) exchange most of their content; he also cited countries' national interests in having their own version of research they funded. Dr. Lipman noted the example of the sequence databases; they exchange data on a daily basis, yet it is still useful to have the data available from separate locations, he said.

VIII. UKPMC Update – Mr. Chris Bird

Mr. Bird reported that the compliance rate with Wellcome Trust's mandate to make WT-funded research available in PMC/UKPMC within 6 months of publication is not as high as desired, at about 33%. However, the rate has been improving. Around 95% of journals used by WT-funded authors have a publishing policy that is compliant (i.e., they either allow author self-archiving with a maximum embargo of 6 months or they have an author-pays model that allows the papers to be made available in PMC at time of publication and are licensed in ways that facilitate reuse).

A new interface to UKPMC is planned, with a beta release in October 2009 and a public release in January 2010, Bird said. The default search will cover all content in the CiteExplore database, with links to full text for content that is in UKPMC. Additional content such as patents and practice guidelines also will be available. Biological entities (genes, proteins, diseases, species) that are mentioned in an article will be identified. Another feature will be a list of citations to and from each article. Grant reporting functions in the manuscript submission system also are being improved.

Bird also described plans for a Europe PMC, the intent of which would be to establish a single Europe-wide repository where all European-funded, peer-reviewed, biomedical papers can be accessed, data-mined, and integrated into other related information sources. In the first phase, UKPMC will be opened to other European research funders, giving them the option to use the repository services on a 'pay as you go' basis. Starting in July 2011, when there will be a new contract in place to manage the repository, the plan calls for providing a full European PMC with a range of additional, value-added services (Phase 2).

Bird noted that a small number of journals that participate in PMC do not allow their content to be mirrored in UKPMC, primarily UK society publishers. NIH-funded author manuscripts deposited in PMC also are not being mirrored in UKPMC, while UK author manuscripts are mirrored in PMC.

IX. New PMC Features – Dr. Jim Ostell

Dr. Ostell described how the PMC software is being modularized, and how this will allow PMC international partners to customize certain elements of a page. In the modular scheme, the presentation of the actual article – the publisher's content – is fixed, but each site can choose what related information to display in a separate area alongside the article. The underlying framework supports many of the Discovery Initiative efforts underway at NCBI, enabling related information to be highlighted in specific positions on the display page. For instance, next to the methods section of a paper, NCBI could place "ads" for other papers that cited the methods. Similarly, a PMC international site will be able to place links in appropriate places to other resources it manages.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

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Gary Ward, Chair (Date)	David J. Lipman, M.D., Director (Date)
PubMed Central National Advisory Committee	Director, National Center for Biotechnology Information, NLM