SLACK Incorporated Public Access Policy

**NIH Policy.** Effective April 7, 2008, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 directs The National Institutes of Health (NIH) to change its existing Public Access Policy regarding publications resulting from NIH-funded research. The law states that NIH-funded authors are required to submit to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central an electronic version of their accepted manuscript, including modifications made during the peer review process, within 12 months of the official date of publication. This law replaces the voluntary system put into place in 2005. This mandate applies to authors of peer-reviewed research articles only, supported in whole or in part by NIH.

**SLACK Incorporated’s Position.** It has always been the policy of SLACK Incorporated to disallow re-publication of material for which it holds signed copyright (except in special circumstances), including the posting of articles on authors’ institutional web sites. We do not consider an author-pays model to be viable or without inherent conflicts of interest. We strongly support: the established subscription model for disseminating research information, the integrity of the peer review process, and the value sustained through publishing services, in particular the editing process. However, SLACK Incorporated does not wish to put our journal authors in a position whereby they would be violating their publisher’s copyright agreement by complying with a government mandate. The following policy is therefore initiated in cooperation with and in support of our authors.

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