Copyright and the New NIH Public Access Policy: What Every Investigator Should Know

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On April 7, 2008, the NIH Public Access Policy will become mandatory, requiring all NIH funded investigators to "...submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication...". Key to complying with this new mandatory Policy is having the skills necessary to effectively manage the copyright of manuscripts written about NIH-funded research.

Smith will provide an overview, specifically targeted toward NIH-funded investigators, on current copyright law and the key strategies to manage copyright of manuscripts written on NIH-funded research. These copyright management skills will facilitate compliance with the NIH Policy and will also optimize the value investigators derive from their published work.

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Kevin Smith is the Scholarly Communications Officer at Duke University, where he works out of the main University library and is available for advice to faculty, staff, administration and students on a wide variety of copyright, publishing and licensing issues. Smith holds degrees in library science and law. He serves on the faculty of the Association of Research Libraries’ Institute on Scholarly Communications and on the American Library Association’s Committee on Legislation Subcommittee on Intellectual Property.