

**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

Since the mission of NIH is to conduct and support medical research and to disseminate the results of that research widely to the public and the scientific community, it will make use of electronic publishing technology to fulfill this role by establishing and maintaining PubMed Central. This new service is a Web-based repository, housed at the NCBI that will archive, organize, and distribute peer-reviewed reports from journals in the life sciences, as well as reports that have been screened but not formally peer reviewed. The Committee shall advise the Director, NIH, the Director, NLM, and the Director, NCBI, concerning the content and operation of the PubMed Central repository. Specifically, it is charged to establish criteria to certify groups submitting materials to the system, monitoring the operation of the system, and ensuring that PubMed Central evolves and remains responsive to the needs of researchers, publishers, librarians and the general public.

Summary Minutes of Meeting – May 10, 2004

The meeting of the PubMed Central National Advisory Committee was convened on December 2, 2003 in the Board Room of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting was open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 2:25 p.m. Mr. James Williams presided as Chair.

Members Present

Anthony Delamothe, M.D., BMJ Publishing Group
Michael Eisen, Ph.D., University of California at Berkeley
Richard Johnson, The Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC)
Heather Joseph, M.A., BioOne
Marc Kirschner, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School
Debra Lappin, J.D., Princeton Partners Ltd.
Bob Roehr, Writer
Ajit Varki, M.D., University of California, San Diego
Linda A. Watson, M.L.S., University of Virginia
James Williams, M.S., University of Colorado at Boulder
David J. Lipman, M.D., Director, National Center for Biotechnology Information, NLM,
NIH, and PubMed Central National Advisory Committee Executive Secretary

NLM Staff Present

Dennis Benson, Ph.D., Branch Chief, NCBI
Betsy Humphreys, Associate Director for Library Operations, NLM

Donald King, M.D., Deputy Director for Research and Education, NLM
Donald A.B. Lindberg, M.D., NLM Director
James Ostell, Ph.D., Branch Chief, NCBI
Ed Sequeira, PubMed Project, NCBI
Kent Smith, Deputy Director, NLM

I. Call to Order and Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Williams, the new chair of the Committee, welcomed members of the PubMed Central National Advisory Committee. Committee members were then introduced. The Committee officially adopted the minutes from the December meeting. The date of November 22, 2004 was confirmed for the next meeting.

Dr. Lindberg, NLM Director, thanked the group for their participation on the Committee. He noted the importance of establishing guidelines for journal participation and for access to materials deposited into the archive.

II. Review of PMC Deposit and Access Policies for Journals

Dr. Lipman noted that Committee advice has been very helpful in defining policy and procedures. Issues to be presented to the Board include policy flexibility, content, and embargo period. Mr. Williams mentioned that a discussion is also needed on the consequences that a policy change could have on participation by publishers.

Dr. Lipman reported that the guidelines for participating journals vary at this time and that a flexible policy was originally put into place in order to encourage participation. Currently, there are no absolute limits on the period for which a journal may embargo access to its articles in PMC. PMC is approached by journals with varying requests for type of content and embargo period. Currently, the longest embargo period for research papers is two years but most journals have a one year embargo period.

Content in PMC ranges from only primary research articles to the complete contents of an issue including news and opinion pieces, depending on the journal. The Committee was asked to decide if the minimum requirements for the types of content deposited should include reviews, commentaries, and other community contributed content.

The Committee began the discussion by reviewing the advantages of PMC participation. It was suggested that outreach efforts to societies could be helpful pointing out advantages such as back issue scanning and archival availability of journals as incentives to join PMC. It was noted that the digital archive aspect is critical and an important aspect to the community. It was also expressed that although archiving is a valuable service, its importance is undervalued by many so other advantages to PMC need to be promoted to societies including better applications, functionality, and integration with other types of information. It was suggested that scientific editors are the most appropriate contacts. A meeting among scientific editors sponsored by PMC was also suggested. A Committee member mentioned that PMC articles could be identified better.

If the content were branded more clearly, more users would recognize how often they utilize PMC articles.

Dr. Lipman agreed that focusing on scientific editors is important and noted that three points can be made for participation: the archive, technological advantages, and the philosophy that information should be open to all. He also agreed that functionality can be a good “selling point”. It was suggested that benefits from current participants such as case studies and evidence of higher usage can be used to highlight the advantages of PMC participation. Other positive aspects of PMC include the advancement of science and promotion of health among the general public.

The Committee concluded that a consistent, standardized policy is needed but there could be flexibility within limits, such as one to two years for the embargo period. The Committee agreed to maintain the current practical limit of a maximum of two years for research articles. More discussion on this subject may be needed at a later date due to journal requests. Dr. Lipman will draw up a plan to identify and target scientific editors from journals for participation and provide examples that demonstrate success and advantages to participation.

III. Raising Public Awareness of PubMed Central

Dr. Eisen addressed the issue of public awareness of PubMed Central. He commented that a large sector of the public is unaware of PMC and the important role it plays in open access, and raising PMC’s profile would have a positive impact on efforts in the publishing world in general. To achieve greater awareness, PMC could brand articles more visibly, encourage outside links to PMC, give it more publicity, and advertise advantages of participation.

Break 11:00-11:10

Mr. Williams responded to a request to discuss the PMC public audience. Debra Lappin commented that the public is an important audience for PMC and deserves greater attention. She informed the group that NIH is involved in a public trust initiative, which addresses the public’s return on its investment in science. She noted that the outreach plan that will be drawn up for PMC could involve the same principles for the public.

A member asked if usability studies have been done since the needs, interests, and ability to understand the information in PMC by the public could be helpful. Dr. Lipman responded that web logs are mined to give developers an idea of what users are finding helpful. He added that the upcoming PubMed user profile feature will improve searching ability and in turn improve results.

IV. PubMed Central Update

Dr. Lipman provided the committee with an update on PMC starting with April 2004 usage and retrieval statistics. There are 15 new journals participating and the ASM is moving 11 journals from PubLink to full-text view in PMC, which Dr. Lipman considers to be a significant development. There has been a substantial increase in the number of

digitized back issues scanned with a total of 150,000 articles publicly available. Problems such as missing issue covers and TOC pages are being resolved.

Nucleic Acids Research and *PNAS* are accepting individual open access article submissions by author choice. The authors have to pay extra for open access and an *NAR* poll found that 70% of their authors choose this option.

The Wellcome Trust and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) of the Higher Education Councils of England and Wales plan to add a number of journals to PMC. They will identify new journals for participation and fund digitization of their back issues as part of an international collaboration.

Dr. Lipman reported that Japan, France, and the United Kingdom are discussing setting up internal archives of PMC data. PMC recognized the need for a basic starter kit system and has begun creating a Portable PMC system consisting of data and tools that will enable easier rendering and searching of the content. Collaboration in this effort is being discussed with Microsoft. Included in the kit will be a way to validate and input the data into a back end database, perform queries in the database, and render content on a user's browser.

A member asked if other agencies or societies are involved in similar archiving projects. Dr. Lipman responded that at this time, the focus is on national archives in other countries however, institutional repositories such as those at libraries may find Portable PMC to be useful. Another member inquired about content distribution. Dr. Lipman explained that open access content will be distributed. He expressed that it is important for other countries to maintain their own national archives.

V. Microsoft Word as an Authoring Tool

Dr. Lipman reported that NCBI has created a book authoring tool that will render literature to XML. He explained that a broad set of publishing tools are desirable in order to pull together many sources and types of information to facilitate community participation in publishing. The goal of the project is to allow authors to use a Word document with components for data entry, then save and send the document to NCBI. NCBI will then render it into the NLM DTD. In turn, the book could be sent back to the author in Word format for corrections. NCBI has been in discussion with MicroSoft regarding how to improve integration with the standard Word program. A version of this software is expected to be available for testing over the summer.

Lunch 12:15 to 12:45

Dr. Karanjit Siyan provided the Committee with a demo of the Book Authoring Tool and some of its features. The tool will provide structural elements in Word document format and the author will provide content, lists, and tables. Examples were shown of the actions that the author can perform and translation to XML and the DTD from a Word document format.

Committee members asked if users will be able to simply submit a Word document to which Dr. Siyan responded that an authoring plug-in is needed in order to convert submitted articles to XML and the DTD. A member asked if there are discussions with any other companies for authoring tools. Dr. Lipman responded that it was discussed with one other entity but the advantage to Microsoft is the wide availability and use of Word. It was noted that the tool will also be helpful for facilitating multi-authored books and articles.

VI. SPARC's Draft Model Form Author's Addendum

Mr. Richard Johnson and Ms. Debra Lappin informed the group of a draft Model Form Author's Addendum (MFAA) for open access publication developed by SPARC. The purpose of the MFAA is to provide a tool to empower individual authors to make their intellectual property openly accessible.

Legal ramifications for signature requirements and licensing were discussed among Committee members. Discussion also focused on ways in which publishers may be more willing to agree to author rights to open access as well as how to make open access agreements more widely available.

VII. Adjournment

The PubMed Central National Advisory Committee adjourned the public meeting at 2:25 p.m.

CERTIFICATION

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

(Date)
James Williams, Chair
PubMed Central National Advisory Committee

(Date)
David J. Lipman, M.D., Director,
National Center for Biotechnology
Information, NLM