
PEPFAR Publication and Attribution Policy – April 17, 2012

The new PEPFAR Publication and Attribution Policy is designed to enhance the ability of the USG to account for the use of federal development funds to sponsor research in support of global health. The policy establishes and requires standard attribution to appear on all published scholarly literature (including abstracts and posters) supported through PEPFAR funding. This policy has been cleared by the DPs and should be implemented immediately through each implementing agency and all implementing partners.

The PEPFAR Publication and Attribution Policy establishes standard text to appear on all published scholarly literature supported through PEPFAR funding. By using standard, mandated text in the acknowledgements area of the full-text article, PEPFAR can be indexed through PubMed. The text to be used is as follows:

“This research has been supported by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through [insert appropriate USG agency] under the terms of [insert grant/project number]. ”

The National Library of Medicine at the NIH will be ready to support adding PEPFAR as a legal “funding organization” as part of their citation data creation and indexing workflow by June 1, 2012. They will add PEPFAR to their MEDLINE citations when acknowledgement appears in the full text of articles indexed for MEDLINE.

Background

A search against PMC (PubMed Central) finds 100 articles that mention PEPFAR (acronym or spelled out version or both) in the Acknowledgement section of the full-text articles. A quick look at 20 of these reveals no pattern to how the PEPFAR funding is phrased, so having a standard text will be extremely helpful both to NLM and to PEPFAR. By using standard, mandated text in the acknowledgements area of the full-text article, PEPFAR can be indexed through PubMed with the support and assistance of the National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine. This will enable the USG to directly attribute research results to PEPFAR funding. The attribution language should be incorporated into all grants and contracts using PEPFAR funding. Acknowledgement on all articles, posters and abstracts of published scholarly literature supported through PEPFAR funding will enable PEPFAR to document its research investment.

Please note that we are researching a second policy that could require peer-reviewed scholarly literature supported through PEPFAR funding be made publically accessible, a policy similar to the NIH policy. PEPFAR believes that greater access to research publications, through public access, will promote the ability of researchers in the US and abroad to use and build on the knowledge needed to address significant health challenges. Complexity involved with the public access policy, however, means that it will be developed at a later date.