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The Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR), with over 2200 members from academia, industry, and governmental agencies, joins FASEB and its other member societies in supporting the recently announced Office of Science and Technology Policy's (OSTP) goal of improving public access to federally funded research appearing in academic and scholarly journal articles. Indeed, the official journal of SSR, Biology of Reproduction, has taken significant steps, prior to the OSTP launch of a public consultation on Public Access Policy, to ensure that manuscripts published in the Journal are freely available to the public in manuscript form within two weeks of acceptance. Further, the final, fully redacted version of each article becomes freely available to the public after an embargo period of 12 months. SSR also causes articles reporting federally funded research to be deposited, coincident with final publication, in PubMed Central; these articles are released free to the public after an embargo of 12 months. Authors may also elect to pay an Authors' Choice Open Access fee to have their articles made freely available immediately upon final publication on the Journal's home site. We believe that these approaches meet the OSTP goal of ensuring that federally funded research papers in academic and scholarly journals are readily available to the general public. At the same time, our embargo period of 12 months ensures that SSR, through its publication business model, has the resources to guarantee a peer review process that provides an essential gateway for providing valuable criticism to authors, establishes standards that ensure that published manuscripts meet the highest standards of scientific research, and presents data that are reliable, repeatable, and withstand the test of time. The well being of society across the globe (physically, socially, and mentally) demands a systematic process that distinguishes between reliable and unreliable research. Scientific societies and their official organs of publication that adhere to the strictest standards of peer review provide this gateway; it is essential that any change to improving public access to federally funded research enhance rather than negate the ultimate value of peer review.

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