

NIH RIF response

Types of interim research products your or your organization create/and or host.

- Preprints
- Negative results
- Small, robust datasets that might never be published as part of a larger story
- Methods for the optimization of previously published methods (for different applications)

Feedback on what are considered to be interim research products, and how they are used in your field.

- Preprints – used to get the most up-to-date advances in your field
- Negative results – to help reduce time wasted on experiments that have already been shown to be statistically insignificant

Insight on how particular types of interim research products might impact the advancement of science.

- Prevent years worth of robust data, from projects that got left behind, from never being seen by the scientific community
- Make science less secretive and competitive, and more collaborative and progressive
- Make science more focused on finding the truth, rather than a race to publication in high impact journals, by publishing the preprint as a working progress and allow for feedback from the community to help shape your future experiments (like a worldwide Research In Progress)
- Improve communication of up-to-date research to the tax-paying public as media researchers would have access to the current state of research in a field

Feedback on potential citation standards.

- When interim products are cited, it should be marked clearly that these are not peer reviewed (maybe a footnote for in-text citations and then a statement in the bibliography)

Insight on the possible need and potential impact of citing interim products on peer review of NIH applications.

- Ability to report your most up-to-date data in more depth than the Preliminary Studies section of a grant application
- Allow smaller or newer labs to show current progress as they may have less publications to support their application

Advice on how NIH reviewers might evaluate citations of interim research products in applications

- Similar criteria for when reviewing a manuscripts during peer review: suitable number of replicates, suitable methodology, robust quantification and statistics

Any other relevant information.

The current publishing system has major flaws and has cultivated a generation of scientists that seem to focus more on where they will publish rather than helping science progress efficiently and effectively. Preprints (and other interim research products) can help to change that culture by promoting a more current, open, collaborative, and community-based analysis of research.

To promote awareness and acceptance of interim research products, large influential funding agencies like the NIH need to not only accept preprints on grant applications, but they need to encourage this practice.

To promote visibility and adoption of preprints, a central server is required. This will reduce the barrier to preprint usage, as scientists will only have to search in one place for the most up-to-date research.