



# NAGPS

National Association of  
Graduate-Professional Students

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## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS COMMENDS WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON OPEN ACCESS TO FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH**

[Washington, D.C.] – Today, The National Association of Graduate-Professional students commended the Obama Administration for their historic open access directive issued on Friday. The directive will create open access to the crucial results of publicly funded research by directing all federal agencies with annual research and development budgets of \$100 million or more to provide the public with free and unlimited online access to the results of that research.

*“We applaud the Obama administration for taking the first steps necessary to provide federally-funded research to American taxpayers to ensure that the American people don’t have to pay for research twice. But there is still more to do; The American people shouldn’t have to wait for a year to see groundbreaking science,”* stated Meredith Niles, Director of Legislative Affairs for the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students.

The federal government funds tens of billions of dollars in scientific research each year—an investment by taxpayers that advances science, spurs the economy, accelerates innovation, and improves the lives of all Americans. This research is published in peer-reviewed scientific journals that require paid subscription to access. Most taxpayers—including academics, students, and patients—cannot access this publicly funded research because the publications are too expensive.

The administration’s decision directs that publicly funded research must be made available to the public to read and use for free. Articles resulting from publicly funded research will be made public after publishers use it exclusively for 12 months.

The directive comes at a time when other governments and research agencies throughout the world are moving towards models of open access including the European Union, the UK and the World Bank.

The directive is also complemented by the recent simultaneous, bipartisan introduction of open access bills in the House and Senate. The Fair Access to Science and Technology Research Act (FASTR) was introduced in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress by Senators John Cornyn (R-TX) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Representatives Mike Doyle (D-PA), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), and Kevin Yoder (R-KS).

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**The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) is an entirely volunteer, student-run organization representing more than half a million graduate and professional students across more than 80 institutions across the United States. NAGPS sustains a member network that connects graduate and professional students, shares resources, provides benefits and training, and advocates at the state, regional and national level to give a voice to all graduate and professional students.**