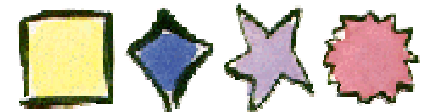


*National Institute on Aging
National Institutes of Health*

Behavioral and Social Research Program

*Presentation to the Gerontological Society of America
11/15/2001*



Behavioral and Social Research Program

Office of the Associate Director

Individual Behavioral Processes Branch

- Behavioral Medicine & Interventions
- Cognitive Aging
- Psychological Development
& Integrative Science

Population & Social Processes Branch

- Demography & Epidemiology
- Health & Retirement Economics
- Health & Social Institutions



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# Behavioral and Social Research Program

## Areas of Emphasis

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- *Health Disparities*
- *Aging Minds*
- *Increasing Health Expectancy*
- *Health, Work, and Retirement*
- *Interventions and Behavior Change*
- *Genetics, Behavior, and the Social Environment*



# **Behavioral and Social Research Program**

## **Cross-Cutting Principles**

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- **Aging from Birth to Death -- Life Course Perspectives**
- **Biobehavioral Linkages and Collaboration with Other NIA Programs**
- **Integration and Synthesis -- Multi-level Interactions Among Psychological, Physiological, Social and Cultural Levels**
- **Development of Improved Methodologies and Measurement**
- **Translation and Application of Findings**



# RESOURCE CENTER FOR MINORITY AGING RESEARCH (RCMAR)

Recompetition: RFA expected to be issued Winter 2001

## *Goals*

- Mentor Junior Investigators
- Increase Research Skills of Faculty at Traditionally Minority Based Institutions
- Enhance Cultural Awareness of Researchers Conducting Research in Minority Communities
- Fund Pilot Studies
- Recruiting and Retaining Older Minority Group Subjects
- Create Culturally Sensitive Measures of Health

*BSR Contact: Sidney Stahl (Sidney\_Stahl@nih.gov)*



# Roybal Centers for Research on Applied Gerontology

Potential Recompetition: 2003

**Purpose:** Application of existing basic behavioral and social science research to practical problems older people face in daily life



# Roybal Centers for Research on Applied Gerontology

## *Examples of Topics*

- Improving visual, attentional, and cognitive functions
- Effectiveness of social and behavioral interventions on impact of chronic diseases on disablement
- Social integration of older persons
- Human-technology interaction
- Age-related changes in cognition and memory on patient behaviors
- Long-term adherence to exercise programs and impact on physical functioning







# NIA-Funded Resources

- CD-Rom: Books on Aging and Health by the U.S. National ([NACDA](http://www.nationalacademies.org/publications/)*<http://www.nationalacademies.org/publications/>*)
- CD-Rom: Minority Aging and Health (*<http://icpsr.umich.edu/>*)
- Trends in Health and Aging (**<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/aging/trendsoverview.htm>**)
- Databases in the Behavioral and Social Sciences (*<http://www.nih.gov/nia/research/extramural/behavior/resources.htm>*)

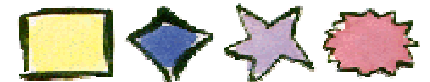
# Recent National Academy of Science Reports for NIA

- **Preparing for an Aging World: The Case for Cross-National Research**
- **Cells and Surveys: Should Biological Measures Be Included in Social Science Research?**
- **The Aging Mind: Opportunities in Cognitive Research**



# Ongoing NAS projects for NIA

- **Racial and Ethnic Differences in Health in Late Life in the United States**
- **Risk and Prevalence of Elder Abuse and Neglect**
- **Health and Safety Needs of Older Workers**
- **Assessments of Behavioral and Social Science Research Vitality Aging Frontiers in Social**



# **NAS studies for NIA starting soon**

- **Research Vitality Aging Frontiers in Social Psychology, Personality and Developmental Psychology**
- **Adaptive Aging from Technology to Gerontology (with the National Academy of Engineering)**



# Some Proposed Areas for Development

- Genetics, Behavior and Environments
- Quantitative Reasoning in the Elderly
- Social Relationships and Cognition
- Factors Affecting Diffusion of Health Care Technology and Innovation
- Improving the Measurement of Well-being
- Modeling the Retirement Process



# Genetics, Behavior, and the Social Environment

## *Topic Areas*

- **Behavioral genetics**
- **Genetic epidemiology**
- **Population genetics**
- **Ethical, Legal and Social Implications (ELSI) of human genetic and genomic research**
- **Evolution, Genetics, and Aging**

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