



PROLOGUE FROM THE NINR DIRECTOR

The formulation of this new Strategic Plan occurs at a period of unprecedented opportunity for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR).

Our Nation is currently experiencing a convergence of factors that, while presenting many challenges for our health care system, offer nursing research the chance to expand the already substantial impact it has made on the health of the public. The population as a whole is aging, increasing the need for services to manage both the normal aging process and the long-term impact of chronic illnesses. At the same time, we are becoming a more diverse Nation, requiring us to have greater multi-cultural knowledge and sensitivities.

Other changes are occurring within public health that will affect our entire thinking about patient care. There has been a shift in emphasis from treatment to prevention and from acute illness to chronic conditions. There is an increasing reliance on technology in health care delivery, and a renewed call to translate successful research into clinical practice. In addition, our Nation currently faces a shortage of nurses and nursing faculty, an issue with serious implications for the quality of the health care we provide and for the development of future nurses and nurse scientists.

All of these factors are undoubtedly challenges, but confronting these issues plays to the inherent strengths of nursing research. In this Strategic Plan, NINR looks to take full advantage of these strengths in developing a forward-looking agenda that will position nursing research at the forefront of the health care sciences.

In the twenty years since its inception, NINR has built a dynamic, vital, and productive community of investigators true in their dedication to conducting rigorous research that establishes the scientific basis of patient care. We have trained a generation of new researchers who continue to advance nursing science while also serving as nursing faculty, expanding the capacity to bring new students into the profession. We have also created the infrastructure that will continue to expand new research opportunities well into the future.

Looking forward, we envision this new Plan as a blueprint for elevating nursing science's contribution within health care research to extraordinary heights. We believe we can accomplish this by furthering the integration of the biological and behavioral sciences, promoting the design and use of new patient care technologies, improving nursing science methods, and committing to the ongoing development of new nurse investigators. We propose to focus our research priorities on health promotion and disease prevention; improving quality of life through self-management, symptom management and caregiving; eliminating health disparities; and taking the lead in addressing end-of-life research. In doing so, we seek to apply the resources of NINR to the areas of public health which have the greatest needs and in which our science can have the greatest impact.

The Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has called for a new era of predictive, preemptive, and personalized health care. As we embark on this journey, I look ahead with great expectations at what we can accomplish. The time is right for NINR to become a leader in addressing some of the most important health care issues facing our society. For NINR, and for all of nursing science, the possibilities are endless.



Dr. Patricia A. Grady
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