



## The Future State of Cardiovascular Disease: Today's Decisions...Tomorrow's Outcomes

*A National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Strategic Planning Conference  
to Create a Knowledge Network to Improve Cardiovascular Health*

September 20, 2006

Overview

### Background

As part of the NHLBI's strategic planning process, the Institute convened a major conference, "The Future of Cardiovascular Disease: Today's Decisions...Tomorrow's Outcomes," on September 20, 2006. Its purpose was to help the Institute identify priorities for a national heart disease prevention plan. Over 120 people were invited to the conference, representing national, state, and local government agencies; leading health and research organizations; and academia. They were asked to focus specifically on the compelling need to transform existing and future advances in scientific knowledge into tangible improvements in national and global cardiovascular health.

### Cardiovascular Knowledge Network – The Vision

The NHLBI asked conference participants to explore the development of a national Cardiovascular Knowledge Network (CKN) to enhance the return on research investments and accelerate the application of scientific advances in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular diseases. The CKN will link experts in *knowledge generation* (the scientific community), *knowledge translation and dissemination* (government agencies, national voluntary and professional organizations, credentialing entities, and foundations), *knowledge utilization* (clinical and community practitioners), and *knowledge technology* (information technology specialists). It is expected to provide opportunities to promote evidence-based, performance-focused, information-driven prevention strategies and collaborations and to narrow the gaps between research discovery and application.

### Recommendations & Next Steps

The conference participants identified five areas of research opportunities to explore.

*1– Build a 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Informatics Infrastructure*  
*2 – Use Community Systems Strategies to Achieve Prevention and Treatment Goals.*

- 3 – *Generate and Translate the Science of Community and Individual Behavior.*
- 4 – *Engage Individuals with Personalized Health-Care Strategies and Tools.*
- 5 — *Adopt Social Marketing and Bi-Directional Communication Strategies. e.*

The NHLBI is committed to establishing and maintaining a national CKN and these recommendations have been incorporated into the NHLBI's Strategic Plan. The Institute is using recommendations from the September 20 conference to develop an implementation plan that defines activities to be undertaken over the next 5 years to establish, build, and sustain the CKN within available resources.

The final Conference report and details of the CKN next steps will be made available on the Institute's Strategic Plan website in April 2007.

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