



## RCMI—Celebrating 20 Years of Achievement

**T**HIS ISSUE OF THE NCCR REPORTER commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program and the achievements of the RCMI scientists around the nation.

When Congress appropriated funds to create the RCMI program 20 years ago, it called attention to the disparities in the health status between minority and majority Americans. Today in the United States, infant mortality, diabetes, stroke, AIDS, heart disease, and a variety of cancers continue to claim a disproportionate toll on minority populations. However, as the articles that follow demonstrate, RCMI researchers have made critical contributions to addressing the health issues in minority populations. Examples of their efforts are seen in improved treatments for AIDS, heart failure, kidney disease, and many other areas of biomedical research.

In creating the program, the Congress also emphasized the important role that minority institutions have traditionally played in training professionals who provide health care to minority communities. Over the past two decades, RCMIs have maintained that tradition, training nearly 36 percent of the minority Ph.D.s in biomedical and behavioral sciences and more than 30 percent of the minority M.D.s in the United States, as reported in FY 2003.

Numerous NIH Institutes and Centers have provided cofunding to RCMI activities, and these contributions also are recognized in the articles that follow. As with all research endeavors, collaboration is essential. We at NIH, and especially at NCCR, congratulate the RCMI researchers and administrators, and we look forward to their future achievements.

*Barbara Alving, M.D.*

**Barbara Alving, M.D.**  
Acting Director, NCCR

### CRITICAL RESOURCES

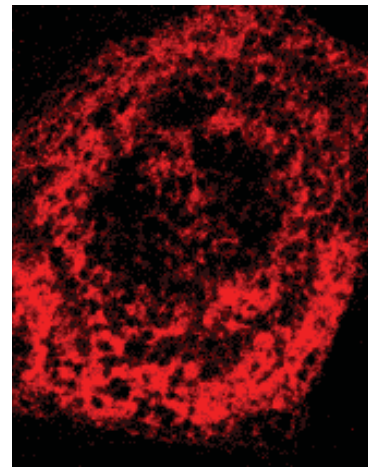
## 4 Minority Research Program Celebrates 20 Productive Years

*Collaborations enhance efforts to address health disparities.*

### SCIENCE ADVANCES

## 12 Estrogen in a New Kind of Bind

*Newly discovered estrogen receptor sheds light on cancer and its treatment.*



### Research to Reality

## 14 Birthing Twins— and Technologies

*An experimental surgery moves out of the laboratory and into medical practice.*

## 15 News from NCCR

