

**The NIH Director's  
Council of *Public Representatives* (COPR)**

**Research, Condition, and Disease  
Categorization (RCDC)**

**Presentation by Timothy Hays, Ph.D.  
April 20, 2007**

Presented by James Wendorf and Christina Clark

# The COPR's Perspective on RCDC

Important project for both Congress and the public

- Provides consistent reporting
- Promotes transparency and accountability
- Expedites reporting process

# The COPR's Perspective on RCDC

The COPR recognizes that RCDC can result in two key outcomes:

1. Increase public access to federal investment in medical research
2. Provide NIH with a powerful tool to communicate with the public

# Challenges for RCDC

Dr. Hays clearly presented how difficult it will be to communicate this very different reporting approach to Congress, the public, and advocacy groups because:

- People are used to seeing the numbers in a certain way
- It can be confusing—complicated topic
- Need to assure constituencies that the research investments are the same

# RCDC Engagement and “Rollout” Schedule

## External NIH presentations (Congress/advocacy)

- COPR, April 2007
- Discussion with congressional staffers in spring/summer 2007
- Planning for delivery of RCDC  
“Introduction” to the public in early 2008

# COPR Role for RCDC

The COPR has been invited to participate and has agreed to do the following:

- Learn how the tool works
- Then provide advice
  - Identify areas that will be difficult to communicate
  - Discover issues that may cause concern
  - Ensure proper communication to various public audiences
    - Why the methodology changed
    - How the tool works
    - Benefits of the change
    - Problems caused by the change
    - Why NIH only reports some categories with the tool